



# Minutes

Name of meeting	<b>ETHICAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE</b>
Date and time	<b>MONDAY, 19 OCTOBER 2009 COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM</b>
Venue	<b>COMMITTEE ROOM ONE, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT</b>
Present	<u>Independent Members:</u>  Mr Mark Southwell (Chairman), Mr Anthony Brindle, Mr Bruce Claxton, Mr Keith Fagan, Mr George Hibberd  <u>Representative of Town and Parish Councils:</u>  Mr Ron Mew, Mr Denis Russell  <u>Isle of Wight Council Members :</u>  Cllrs John Howe, Susan Scoccia, David Williams
Officers Present	Julie Martin, Chris Mathews, Helen Miles
Apologies	Mr Richard Day, Cllr Heather Humby, Mrs Susan Tudor Smith

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The Chairman wished to formally thank Erica Oulton, a former member, for all the work she had undertaken during her time on the Committee. He also welcomed Cllrs John Howe, Susan Scoccia and David Williams, as the new Isle of Wight Council members.

Congratulations were extended to George Hibberd who had recently been awarded an MBE in the Queen's honours list and John Howe who had been given the Freedom of the Parish of Totland.

The Chairman reported that the Panel who had considered the applications for the positions as Independent members on this Committee would be recommending to the Full Council two new independent members. As a consequence, they would not therefore be recommending the continued membership of Bruce Claxton and Susie Tudor-Smith. In anticipation of that decision the Chairman thanked both Bruce Claxton for his work with the Committee over the last 10 years and Susie Tudor-Smith for her contribution over the last 2 years.

1. **Minutes**

RESOLVED :

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on [18 May 2009](#) be confirmed.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations received at this stage.

3. **Update from the Chairman**

The Chairman reported on the highlights of the Standards for England Annual Conference that he had recently attended in Birmingham.

4. **Reports of the Director of Corporate Services**

(a) Guidance to Parish/Town Councils on notifications following complaints

The Committee discussed the draft guidance notes for parish/town councils in relation to what should be done following the receipt of a complaint against one of their members.

Members were reminded that the issue had been raised by a parish council in conjunction with an independent member of the committee. Various points from the guidance were highlighted and members believed it was a comprehensive response.

RESOLVED :

THAT the guidance, as attached to the report, be approved and circulated to all parish/town councils on the Isle of Wight.

(b) Initial Assessment Review and Report Back

The Monitoring Officer reported on the latest statistics following assessment of complaints against members.

Members asked for a breakdown of the numbers referred to in the Code which had been referred to the Monitoring Officer for other action. The information would be included in the next update report.

RESOLVED :

(i) THAT the report be noted.

(ii) THAT the information relating to the breakdown of the complaints that had been referred to the Monitoring Officer for other action be included in the next committee report.

(c) Standards Board Bulletins 44 and 45

Members noted the latest issues of the Bulletin. A new training DVD on Local Assessment was now available and could be used at the training session scheduled for the 3 December 2009.

RESOLVED :

THAT the content of the Bulletins be noted.

5. **Updates from Monitoring Officer**

The Craven Court hearing had now been set for five days commencing on the 16 November 2009. Chris Mathews would be attending and it was anticipated that a special meeting of the Committee would be set to consider the outcomes.

6. **Workplan**

The outcome from the Craven Court hearing to be added to the workplan once the final outcome was known, this may require a special meeting.

CHAIRMAN