

**MINUTES OF THE STANDARDS SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON  
THURSDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2013**

2.00 pm – 2.15 pm

**Responsible Officer:** Shelley Davies

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**Present:**

Martin Bennett, David Evans and Jean E Jones.

**Officers Present:**

Graham White (Solicitor) and Shelley Davies (Committee Officer)

**1.0 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

**1.1 RESOLVED:**

That Martin Bennett be appointed Chairman of the Standards Sub-Committee for the duration of the meeting.

**2.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

2.1 None received.

**3.0 DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

3.1 Members of the Committee were reminded that they must not participate in the discussion or voting on any matter in which they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and should leave the room prior to the commencement of the debate.

**4.0 MINUTES**

**4.1 RESOLVED:**

That the Minutes of the Standards Sub Committee held on 5<sup>th</sup> June and 16<sup>th</sup> July 2013 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**5.0 APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION**

5.1 Consideration was given to a report by the Monitoring Officer on whether a dispensation should be granted to Councillor Chris Mellings who had disclosable pecuniary interests in matters relating to Meres and Mosses

Housing Association due to his position on the board of Directors as the Councils nominated representative.

4.2 The Solicitor explained that the dispensation was required to enable Councillor Mellings to report on the detail of matters relating to Meres and Mosses Housing Association at meetings of Shropshire Council on the grounds that it is in the interests of persons living in the Councils area. If granted the dispensation could run until 4 May 2017.

4.3 Members of the Sub-Committee were in agreement that the dispensation was appropriate and beneficial to the residents of Shropshire and that the suggested time span for the dispensations was appropriate.

4.4 **RESOLVED;**

(a) That, in accordance with section 33 (1) of the Localism Act (“the Act”), the Sub-Committee grants a dispensation from Section 31 (4) of the Act 2011 to Councillor Chris Mellings to participate in the discussion and vote on matters which relate to Meres and Mosses Housing Association at meetings of Shropshire Council (including cabinet and any other formal decision making committees) on the grounds that it is “in the interests of persons living in the Councils area.”

(b) That the dispensations granted in (a) above last until 4 May 2017 or such time as Councillor Mellings ceases to be a Director of Meres and Mosses Housing Association, whichever is sooner.

**5.0 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

5.1 **RESOLVED:**

That in accordance with the provisions of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972 and paragraph 10.4(1) of the Council’s Access to Information Procedure Rules, the public and press be excluded during consideration of the following agenda item.

**6.0 CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINT**

6.1 Consideration was given to an exempt report of the Monitoring Officer (Agenda Item 5) in relation to an allegation that a Parish Councillor had failed to comply with the Code of Conduct of the Parish Council.

6.2 The Solicitor presented the report to the Sub-Committee providing information in relation to the complaint and outlined the options available to the Sub-Committee. He added that there had been no representations received from the Parish Councillor in response to the allegation.

6.3 The Sub Committee Members felt that the evidence supplied by the complainant from witnesses in support of her allegation was so compelling that further action was in the public interest

6.4 **RESOLVED;**

That the complaint be referred to the Monitoring Officer for investigation.

Signed ..... (Chairman)

Date:.....