



Committee and date
Standards Committee

1 July 2010

Item No

5

Public

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE STANDARDS
COMMITTEE HELD ON 27 MAY 2010

Responsible Officer Richard Thomas

Email: richard.thomas@shropshire.gov.uk

Telephone: (01743) 252725

Present:

Unitary Councillors:

Mr M Bennett, Mr R A Evans and Mr V J Hunt

Parish/Town Councillors:

Professor Paulene Collins, OBE, Mrs E M Francis and Mrs R Griffiths

Independent Members:

Mrs J Clarke, Mr T Griffiths, Mr D S McLaren, Mr W Maddocks, Mr M Salt and Mr J Till

18. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs P A Dee, Dr J E Jones, Mr C J Mellings, Mrs B Carlyle, Mrs A Dugdale, Mr R P Bentley, Mr P Moore and Mr G Parry.

19. APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATIONS

Consideration was given to the Monitoring Officer's report concerning the request by six members of Hadnall Parish Council for a dispensation to enable them to participate in discussions about land within the parish identified within the consultation document relating to site allocation.

Commenting on the request, the Monitoring Officer explained that only if six of the Hadnall Parish Councillors all had a personal and prejudicial interest in all of the sites would a dispensation be appropriate. However, she considered that the Parish Council had misunderstood the purpose of the consultation. In her opinion, the councillors appeared to have no greater interest than anyone else living in the parish at this time, so dispensations were not needed.

To assist members the Head of Strategy and Policy explained the context in which the consultation process was being undertaken. It was noted that the Council was trying to replace the local and strategic plans for the County which had existed prior to Local Government Reorganisation on 1 April 2009. This process comprised a number of stages, and, at this point the parish/town councils were only being asked for a general view, rather than which was the best site for any particular type of development. Any competition between sites would come only after parishes/towns had declared whether they should act as a hub or form part of a cluster. Only then would it would be appropriate to consider the relative merits of individual sites. The Chairman thanked the Head of Strategy and Policy for his advice and invited comments.

Members concurred that, as the parish/town councils were only being asked for a general view, consideration of granting dispensations at this point would lead to a disjointed rather than a coherent, debate. Further, as the matter was not focused on individual sites members had no greater interest than other electors in the parish. Therefore, consideration of a dispensation was not appropriate and this should be pointed out to all parish/town councils.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the applications for dispensation received from Councillors Carter, Collins, Corn, Davies, Llewellyn-Bell and Thomas in respect of personal and prejudicial interests in Shropshire Council's proposed site allocation development proposals be refused as the proposals do not affect 50% or more of the membership of the Hadnall Parish Council on each individual site at this time.
- (b) That a Dispensation (Standards) Sub-Committee be established comprising six members of the Standards Committee to determine whether dispensations should be granted to members of Shropshire Council and the parish/town councils in Shropshire when applications regarding personal and prejudicial interests are received.

- (c) That all parish/town councils in Shropshire be informed of this decision so as to clarify the current position and avoid future difficulties.

The meeting closed at 5.40 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

DATE