

## Minutes of Standards Committee

Meeting Date: Wednesday, 15 June 2011 starting at 6.30pm  
Present: B Dearing (Chairman)

Councillors:

M Robinson  
D Smith  
D Taylor

Parish Councillors:

E Law-Riding  
D Moon

Independent Members:

B Dearing  
G Wilkinson

In attendance: Head of Legal and Democratic Services.

### 109 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillor S Hirst and Independent Member P Walsh.

The Chairman also commented upon the sad passing of Cyril Law who had died in May. He remarked upon his many years of service to Ribble Valley Borough Council, Read Parish Council and Read Village.

RESOLVED: That a letter be sent to Mrs Law acknowledging Cyril's many years of service.

### 110 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 June 2010 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### 111 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest at the meeting.

### 112 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

### 113 REFERENCES FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

There were no references from Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

114 BRIEFING ON THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

This item was not required as there were no new Members on this Committee.

115 RECRUITMENT OF ADDITIONAL MEMBERS

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a report informing Committee that since the elections, there were two Parish Council vacancies and one Independent vacancy on this Committee.

She reminded Committee that in the Localism Bill, the current coalition government had indicated their intention to abolish the standards regime and the work of the Committee was therefore subject to some uncertainty. However, the requirement to have a functioning Standards Committee had not yet been removed. As such, it was felt that the filling of the vacancies should be considered. A report had been submitted to the Parish Councils' Liaison Committee inviting any Parish Councillor that had an interest in joining the Standards Committee to come forward. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services also reminded Committee of the formal selection process that would need to be followed in order to fill the Independent member position.

Committee discussed the filling of the vacant posts and were mindful of the requirement to have an effective Committee, but also current financial constraints.

RESOLVED: That

1. Committee authorise the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to recruit Parish Council Members by writing to all Parish Council Clerks, with short listing delegated to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services in consultation with the Chairman of Committee; and
2. a report should be submitted to the next Full Council in order to confirm the Parish Council appointments and suggest that the Independent Member position be left vacant.

The meeting closed at 6.55pm.

If you have any queries on these minutes please contact Diane Rice (414418).