

# AGENDA

**NOTE: In the case of non-members, this agenda is for information only**

- Committee** - **STANDARDS COMMITTEE**
- Date & Time** - Tuesday, 17th May, 2011 at 2.15 pm
- Venue** - Anglia Room, Conference Suite, Elizabeth House, Walpole Loke, Dereham

**Members of the Committee requiring further information, or with specific questions, are asked to raise these with the appropriate officer at least two working days before the meeting. If the information requested is available, this will be provided, and reported to Committee.**

## Committee Members

Mr. M. Eveling JP (*Independent*)  
Mrs. S.M. Matthews (*Breckland*)  
Mr. B. Rayner (*Parish*)

Mr. G. Ridgway (*Independent*)  
Mr. F. Sharpe (*Breckland*)  
Mr. D. Williams JP (*Breckland*)

**Persons attending the meeting are requested to turn off mobile telephones**

Member Services  
Elizabeth House, Walpole Loke,  
Dereham Norfolk, NR19 1EE

Date: Tuesday, 10 May 2011

**PART A**  
**ITEMS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

	<u>Page(s)</u> <u>herewith</u>
<p>1. <b><u>CHAIRMAN</u></b> To appoint a Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing year.</p>	
<p>2. <b><u>MINUTES</u></b> To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 29 March 2011.</p>	1 - 4
<p>3. <b><u>APOLOGIES</u></b> To receive apologies for absence.</p>	
<p>4. <b><u>URGENT BUSINESS</u></b> To note whether the Chairman proposes to accept any item as urgent business pursuant to Section 100(B)(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972.</p>	
<p>5. <b><u>DECLARATION OF INTEREST</u></b> Members are asked at this stage to declare any interests that they may have in any of the following items on the agenda. The Members' Code of Conduct requires that declarations include the nature of the interest and whether it is a personal or prejudicial interest.</p>	
<p>6. <b><u>NON-MEMBERS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE MEETING</u></b> To note the names of any non-members wishing to address the meeting.</p>	
<p>7. <b><u>TO CONSIDER ANY APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON THIS COMMITTEE</u></b> Any applications received for the Parish Council representatives will be put before the Committee, in order for a short list (if possible) to be drawn up. There will be at least two representatives needed.  It is suggested that a sub-Committee is then appointed to interview those on the short list and to make a recommendation direct to full Council on 23 June for their appointment, since the next meeting of this Committee is not scheduled until 5 July.</p>	
<p>8. <b><u>DISPENSATIONS GRANTED TO MAY 2011</u></b> All of the dispensations granted by the Committee to Parish Councillors expire at this year's elections. It is recommended that authority is given to the Monitoring Officer to grant the same dispensations (ie for the same reasons and purposes) on formal application by the newly elected parish councillors from the same authorities. Most of the dispensations relate to charities where the parish councillors are all trustees of the charity.</p>	

**9. SCHEDULE OF MEETING DATES**

To note the proposed dates for future Sub-Committee meetings.

**10. LOCALISM BILL**

A verbal update will be given on any new developments and on the progress of the Bill, from the Standards point of view.

**11. TO CONSIDER WHAT THE LEADER SHOULD BE ASKED ON THE FUTURE OF THE STANDARDS REGIME**

At the last meeting of this Committee, a report from the Norfolk Monitoring Officers meeting was made (Minute No 26/11), and the Committee asked to consider at this meeting what questions to put before the Leader relating to the future of Standards.

Possible questions include:

- (1) whether the Leader/Executive would be in favour in principle to a voluntary Code of Conduct for Breckland when the existing national Code is withdrawn;
- (2) to note that the Committee strongly believes that Independent Members can have a beneficial impact and role to play, particularly from the perspective of the public, and whether it is contemplated that they will be retained in a future Standards Committee;
- (3) whether there is any support for a County wide voluntary Code of Conduct and/or joint Standards Committee.

The Committee's instructions are requested.

**12. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS (STANDING ITEM)**

To note items for inclusion on future agendas.

**13. NEXT MEETING**

To note the date of the next meeting on 5 July 2011.

**14. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

To consider passing the following resolution:

"That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act."

**15. SCHEDULE OF OUTSTANDING COMPLAINTS AND INVESTIGATIONS**

For information, to let Members know which matters are in progress at present.