

AGENDA

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

- Committee** - **STANDARDS COMMITTEE**
- Date & Time** - TUESDAY, 4 MARCH, 2008 AT 2.15 pm
- Venue** - NORFOLK 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 (<i>Independent</i>)	Mr. B. Rayner (<i>Parish</i>)
Mrs. J. Jenkins (<i>Independent</i>)	Mr. F. Sharpe (<i>Breckland</i>)
Mr. D. Myers (<i>Breckland</i>)	Mr. M. Whittley (<i>Parish</i>)
Mrs. M. Oechsle JP (<i>Parish</i>)	Mr. D. Williams JP (<i>Breckland</i>)(<i>Chairman</i>)

Persons attending the meeting are requested to turn off mobile telephones

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

Date: Friday, 22 February 2008

PART A
ITEMS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

	<u>Page(s)</u> <u>herewith</u>
<p>1. <u>MINUTES</u></p> <p>To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 22 January 2008.</p>	1 - 3
<p>2. <u>APOLOGIES</u></p> <p>To receive apologies for absence.</p>	
<p>3. <u>URGENT BUSINESS</u></p> <p>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>4. <u>DECLARATION OF INTEREST</u></p> <p>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>5. <u>NON-MEMBERS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE MEETING</u></p> <p>To note the names of any non-members wishing to address the meeting.</p>	
<p>6. <u>CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY)</u></p>	
<p>7. <u>APPLICATION FOR DISPENSATION - BAWDESWELL PARISH COUNCIL</u></p> <p>Report of the Deputy Chief Executive.</p>	4 - 9
<p>8. <u>STANDARDS COMPLAINTS: LOCAL FILTER: TERMS OF REFERENCE OF COMMITTEE</u></p> <p>The new draft Regulations are not, at the time of writing, available, but it is expected that they will grant the new powers and duties directly to the Standards Committee or to Sub Committees of that Committee. Whether or not this proves to be the case, it is recommended that a new provision should be inserted into the Committee's Terms of Reference to cover the situation in the words below:</p> <p>13. (Minor amended wording)</p> <p>"To hear any formal complaints against members (including parish</p>	

councillors) which are not within the scope of the Code of Conduct and to make recommendations to full Council or to the relevant Town/Parish Council where appropriate.

14. To deal with any assessments, reviews, hearings or other matters relating to complaints under the Member's Code of Conduct in accordance with legislation."

If approved, this will be a recommendation to Council.

9. ORDERS AND REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE CONDUCT OF LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS IN ENGLAND - UPDATE

Details are awaited on the Regulations and Guidance on the new standards committee powers as provided for under Part 10 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. An update will be given at the meeting.

10. STANDARDS BOARD FOR ENGLAND: INVESTIGATION REPORT - COUNCILLOR B. WYKES: WATTON TOWN COUNCIL

10 - 11

To note the attached summary report from the Standards Board for England.

11. APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL INDEPENDENT MEMBER

On 17 January 2008, Council increased the Standards Committee membership, with effect from 21 February, to nine members, being 3 Breckland members, 3 Parish members and 3 independent lay members. There is one remaining independent lay member appointment to be made.

When prospective lay members were interviewed by this Committee on 17 April, 2007, one applicant was noted as a possible reserve: Mr George Ridgway of Attleborough. Mr Ridgway has recently indicated that he is still interested in the position, and his Application Form is appended as an Exempt item in Part B (agenda item 13 refers).

After discussion with the Chairman of this Committee, it is recommended that this Committee recommends to Council that Mr G Ridgway is appointed as the third independent lay member of the Committee.

12. NEXT MEETING

To note the date of the next meeting on 15 April 2008 at 2.15pm in the Norfolk Room, Conference Suite, Elizabeth House, Dereham.

13. 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 item of business on

the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.”

Page(s)
herewith

PART B -
ITEMS FROM WHICH THE PRESS AND PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED

14. **APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL INDEPENDENT MEMBER**

12 - 13

Appendix to agenda item 10 above.