

Minutes

Name of meeting	ETHICAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE
Date and time	MONDAY, 16 MARCH 2009 COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM
Venue	COMMITTEE ROOM ONE, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	<u>Independent Members:</u> Mr Mark Southwell (Chairman), Mr Anthony Brindle, Mr Bruce Claxton <u>Representative of Town and Parish Councils:</u> Mr Richard Day, Mr Ron Mew, Mr Denis Russell <u>Isle of Wight Council Members :</u> Cllrs Mike Cunningham, Heather Humby, Erica Oulton
Officers Present	Davina Fiore, Julie Martin, Chris Mathews
Apologies	Mr Keith Fagan, Mr George Hibberd, Muriel Miller

31. **Minutes**

RESOLVED :

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on [19 January 2009](#) be confirmed.

32. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations received at this stage.

33. **Update from the Chairman**

The Chairman was present during a training session held for prospective candidates on the Code of Conduct.

The Chairman had attended the Full Council budget meeting held in February 2009.

34. **Reports of the Director of Corporate Services**

(a) Annual Report

Members were advised that the final version of the Annual Report would need to go to the April 2009 meeting of the Full Council.

The Committee believed there was a lack of understanding that the initial assessment of a complaint was not a finding of fact of a breach. The perception appeared to be that a decision had been made when it had not, more clarity was needed.

There was some discussion relating to the recent Ombudsman decision.

RESOLVED :

THAT the Chairman be authorised to sign off the final version of the Annual Report.

(b) Initial Assessment Review and Report Back

The Monitoring Officer reported on the latest statistics following the assessment of complaints against members.

RESOLVED :

THAT the report be noted.

(c) Standards Bulletin 42

Members noted that the Deputy Monitoring Officer, Chris Mathews was a speaker at the 'Stepping Stones' conference.

The dates of the Annual Assembly were also noted.

RESOLVED :

THAT the content of the Bulletin be noted.

35. Updates from Monitoring Officer

The Committee was advised that the Isle of Wight Council had taken part in a pilot study for annual returns relating to complaints. The Standards Board for England had been impressed as to how quickly the Council dealt with assessments and reviews and had indicated that we were one of the fastest in the country.

36. Workplan

It was suggested that meetings should be held on a quarterly basis, with the possibility of the May 2009 meeting being cancelled if there was insufficient business to discuss.

CHAIRMAN