



# Minutes

Name of meeting	<b>ETHICAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE</b>
Date and time	<b>MONDAY, 4 APRIL 2011 COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM</b>
Venue	<b>COMMITTEE ROOM ONE, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT</b>
Present	<u>Independent Members:</u>  Mr Mark Southwell (Chairman), Mr George Hibberd, Ms Liz Mackenzie, Mr Ray Smith  <u>Representative of Town and Parish Councils:</u>  Mr Richard Day, Mr Ron Mew, Mr John Ward  <u>Isle of Wight Council Members :</u>  Cllrs Heather Humby, Susan Scoccia, David Williams
Officers Present	Julie Martin, Chris Mathews, Helen Miles
Apologies	Mr Anthony Brindle, Mr Keith Fagan, Cllr John Howe, Mr Denis Russell, Mr Peter Tautz

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21. [Minutes](#)

RESOLVED :

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on [17 January 2011](#) be confirmed.

22. [Declarations of Interest](#)

There were no declarations received at this stage.

23. [Public Questions Time](#)

Mr Bob Blezzard of Sandown asked questions relating to complaints against both Isle of Wight Councillors and Town/Parish Councillors. A written response would be provided.

24. **Update from the Chairman**

The Chairman advised that the Chief Executive had invited Standards for England to look into the process relating to the handling of a complaint against the Leader. However the Standards Board now had a policy of not becoming involved with any Local Authority complaint process.

With regard to a replacement Code of Conduct, as yet the Government had not published details. Once any details were published the Committee would discuss the issue.

25. **Reports of the Director of Corporate Governance**

(a) [Annual Report](#)

Members were advised of a couple of changes to the document before them. Newport were a Parish Council not a Town Council and there was an updated biography from Keith Fagan.

Several councillors asked if they were able to update their biographies and were advised to send any changes to Committee Services. There were also several minor amendments to the text.

RESOLVED :

- (i) THAT the finalisation of the report be delegated to the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Chairman.

(b) [Initial Assessment Review and Report Back](#)

The Monitoring Officer indicated that only one complaint had been received since the last meeting which related to an Isle of Wight Councillor.

RESOLVED :

THAT the report be noted.

26. [Updates from Monitoring Officer](#)

The Monitoring Officer indicated there had been 30 investigations of which 23 had been completed with 7 still outstanding. It was noted that hearings were scheduled for April and May with the other investigations at the draft report stage.

The Chairman expressed his thanks to everyone involved.

RESOLVED :

THAT the report be noted.

27. [Workplan](#)

Members asked if the Committee had unfinished business once the Government proposals took effect, would the Committee be able to conclude that business? It was anticipated there would be a transitional phase which would enable the Committee to take any business through to finalisation under the existing process.

RESOLVED :

THAT the workplan be noted.

CHAIRMAN