



Minutes

Name of meeting	HEARING SUB COMMITTEE
Date and time	MONDAY, 4 OCTOBER 2010 COMMENCING AT 10.00 AM
Venue	COMMITTEE ROOM ONE, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Richard Day (Town and Parish Councillor) Mark Southwell (Independent Member) David Williams (Isle of Wight Councillor)
Officers Present	Julie Martin, Helen Miles, Vanda Niemiec, April Ross, Justin Thorne, Simon Wiggins

1. **Election of Chairman**

RESOLVED :

THAT Mr Mark Southwell be elected chairman for the day.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations received at this stage.

3. **Exclusion of Public and Press**

To consider passing a resolution that, under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business, namely Minute number 4, on the grounds that there was likely to be disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act and in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

RESOLVED :

THAT the public and press not be excluded.

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

The Chairman welcomed those present and introduced Members of the Committee. He confirmed that all members had read the papers and outlined the procedure that was to be followed.

To consider the outcome of an investigation into Councillor Eileen Turner-Palmerton of Northwood Parish Council, ESC.60.10

Following representations from the Investigating Officer, members of the Sub Committee asked questions.

Former Councillor Turner-Palmerton was not in attendance.

All parties withdrew, whilst the Sub Committee adjourned to consider the Findings of Fact and whether there had been a breach of the Code of Conduct.

Upon reconvening it was

RESOLVED :

- (i) THAT former Councillor Eileen Turner-Palmerton had breached the Code of Conduct by failing to treat others with respect, in that by questioning an action of the clerk, she muttered loudly, complaining about the Clerk and was disrespectful to the Clerk, bringing her office or authority into disrepute.
- (ii) THAT the appropriate sanction in all the circumstances was Censure.

5. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Richard Day declared a personal interest in Minute 7 – outcome of an investigation into Councillor Robert Blezzard – as he sat on a committee that Councillor Blezzard was on.

Councillor David Williams declared a personal interest in Minute 7 - outcome of an investigation into Councillor Robert Blezzard – as he and Councillor Ward were members of the same political party, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Bay Regeneration Zone Committee. He also knew Councillors Cowley, Patel and Teasdale.

Councillor Blezzard asked that it be recorded he believed those interests should be recorded as prejudicial and strongly objected to Councillors Richard Day and David Williams being on the committee.

The Deputy Monitoring Officer gave advice with regard to declarations of interest.

6. Exclusion of Public and Press

To consider passing a resolution that, under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business, namely Minute number 7, on the grounds that there was likely to be disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act and in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

RESOLVED :

THAT the public and press not be excluded.

7. To consider the outcome of an investigation into Councillor Robert Blezzard of Sandown Town Council, ESC.45.09 and ESC.47.09

It was noted that Councillor Blezzard had brought a witness although there was no mention of this in his pre-hearing paperwork.

As Councillor Ward was not able to attend the hearing it was decided that the Hearing Sub Committee be adjourned to a date to be agreed.

The Sub Committee asked that Councillor Blezzard's witness, Councillor Beasley, prepare a statement to be circulated prior to the re-convened hearing.

RESOLVED :

THAT the Hearing Sub Committee be adjourned to a date to be agreed.

8. **Confirmation of the Decision Notice**

RESOLVED :

THAT the Chairman sign as a true record a copy of the Decision Notice in relation to ESC.40.09, former Councillor Eileen Turner-Palmerston.

The meeting then adjourned and reconvened on Thursday, 4 November 2010 in the Committee Room Two, County Hall, Newport, Isle of Wight, commencing at 10.00 am.

Present Richard Day (Town and Parish Councillor)
 Susan Scoccia (Isle of Wight Councillor)
 Mark Southwell (Independent Member)

Officers Present Helen Miles, Vanda Niemiec, Justin Thorne

9. **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Richard Day declared a personal interest in Minute 7 – outcome of an investigation into Councillor Robert Blezzard – as he sat on a committee that Councillor Blezzard was on.

10. To consider the outcome of an investigation into Councillor Robert Blezzard of Sandown Town Council, ESC.45.09 and ESC.47.09

Following representations from the Investigating Officer she called upon Councillors Ian Ward and Constance Cowley as witnesses. Members of the Sub Committee and Councillor Blezzard asked questions.

Councillor Blezzard presented his case and called upon Councillor Beasley as a witness. Members of the Sub Committee and the Investigating Officer asked questions of both Councillor Blezzard and Councillor Beasley.

All parties withdrew, whilst the Sub Committee adjourned to consider the Findings of Fact and whether there had been a breach of the Code of Conduct.

Upon reconvening it was

RESOLVED :

·
THAT Councillor Blezzard be suspended as a Councillor on Sandown Town Council for a period of 1 week, such week to be notified to Councillor Blezzard and to include the next full meeting after November 2010 of the Sandown Town Council, unless Councillor Blezzard submits a written apology in a form specified by the Ethical Standards Committee to Councillor Ward and the Sandown Town Council by 30 November 2010.

11. Confirmation of the Minutes and Decision Notice

RESOLVED :

THAT the Chairman sign as a true record a copy of the Minutes and the Decision Notice in relation to ESC.45.09 and ESC.47.09, Councillor Robert Blezzard.

CHAIRMAN