

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

ETHICS AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

**STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN ROOM/BEWDLEY ROOM, WYRE FOREST HOUSE,
FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER**

22ND SEPTEMBER 2016 (5.30PM)

Present:

Councillors: N Gale (Chairman), I Hardiman, S Miah, R J Vale and S J Williams.

Co-opted Member: Mr R Reynolds

Parish Council Representatives: L Green and C Edginton-White.

Observers:

There were no members present as observers.

ES.1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J R Desmond (Vice-Chairman), R Hobson (Parish Council representative) and Rev J Cox (Co-opted Member).

ES.2 Appointment of Substitutes

Councillor S J Williams was appointed as a substitute for Councillor J R Desmond.

ES.3 Declarations of Interests by Members

No declarations of interest were made.

ES.4 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the meetings held on the 21st January 2016 and the 24th February 2016 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

ES.5 The Localism Act 2011 – Dispensations

The Committee received a report from the Monitoring Officer which asked Members to consider having appropriate dispensations in respect of issues relating to the Council's decision making process and recommended appropriate generic dispensations.

The Monitoring Officer led Members through the report and gave an explanation about each of the proposed generic dispensations. Members

were reminded that the provisions relating to dispensations changed significantly with the introduction of the Localism Act 2011 which came into force in 2012.

Agreed: Generic dispensations are given to all Members for a period of 4 years in respect of the matters detailed below:

1. Membership of outside bodies

A general dispensation under s33(2) (c) and (e) of the Localism Act and under the Code of Conduct to allow the full participation in Council, Committee and other meetings where members of the Council or their spouse or partner are members of or employed by one or more of the following bodies, and who because of this would or could be prevented from participating in such meetings unless a decision relates directly to their own (or spouse or partner) financial circumstances:

(a) any parish or town council.

(b) Worcestershire County Council.

(c) any other body of a public nature to which the member has been appointed as the Council's nominee or representative.

2. Addressing committees considering matters in which a member has an interest.

**A general dispensation under s33(2)(c) and (e) of the Localism Act and under the Code of Conduct to allow members who would otherwise be prevented from doing so to address Council and committees in the same way as a member of the public may
[NB Such a member must still then withdraw from the meeting once they have addressed it.]**

3. A general dispensation for members whose spouses are employed by a body of a public nature, unless a decision relates directly to their own financial circumstances.

ES.6 Complaints to the Local Government Ombudsman 2015/16

The Committee received a statutory report from the Chief Executive which informed Members of the outcome of complaints to the Local Government Ombudsman in accordance with Council policy for the period of 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016.

The Monitoring Officer presented the report and was pleased to advise Members that the authority had a nil return for complaints upheld by the Ombudsman.

Agreed: The report be noted.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 5.40pm.