



**STANDARDS COMMITTEE -
CONSIDERATION AND
HEARING SUB-COMMITTEE**

YOU ARE REQUESTED TO ATTEND A MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE - CONSIDERATION AND HEARING SUB-COMMITTEE TO BE HELD IN THE MEMBERS ROOM, THE DEANE HOUSE, BELVEDERE ROAD, TAUNTON ON WEDNESDAY 14TH OCTOBER 2009 AT 14:00.

AGENDA

1. Appointment of Chairman for the duration of the meeting.
2. Apologies.
3. Minutes of the meeting of the Consideration and Hearings Sub-Committee held on 8 September 2009 (attached).
4. Declaration of Interests. To receive declarations of personal or prejudicial interests, in accordance with the Code of Conduct

The following item is likely to be considered after the exclusion of the press and public because of the likelihood that exempt information would otherwise be disclosed relating to the Clause set out below of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

5. Hearing of Complaint against a Councillor - Reference Standards 2009/01. The papers required for this hearing will follow shortly.
Clause 12 - Legal Advice.

Tonya Meers
Legal and Democratic Services Manager
07 October 2009

Standards Committee - Consideration and Hearing Sub-Committee Members:-

Mr Maurice Stanbury (Independent Member)

Mr Robert Symons (Independent Member)

Councillor Steve Brooks



Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting and listen to the discussion. Lift access to the main committee room on the first floor of the building is available from the main ground floor entrance. Toilet facilities, with wheelchair access, are also available. There is a time set aside at the beginning of the meeting to allow the public to ask questions



An induction loop operates to enhance sound for anyone wearing a hearing aid or using a transmitter. If you require any further information, please contact Greg Dyke on:



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Website: www.tauntondeane.gov.uk (Council, Executive, Review Board & Review Panel Agenda, Reports and Minutes are available on the Website)

**Standards Committee – Consideration and Hearings Sub-Committee
28 July 2009**

Present: Councillor Steve Brooks, Mr Maurice Stanbury (Independent Member) and Mr Robert Symons (Independent Member)

Officers: Tonya Meers (Monitoring Officer), Nicola Cooper (Assistant Solicitor) and Richard Bryant (Democratic Services Manager)

(The meeting commenced at 11.00 am.)

1. Appointment of Chairman

Resolved that Mr Maurice Stanbury be appointed Chairman of the Sub-Committee for the duration of the meeting.

2. Exclusion of the press and public

Resolved that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item because of the likelihood that exempt information would otherwise be disclosed relating to Clause 12 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972 and the public interest in withholding the information outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information to the public.

3. Consideration of Complaint against a Councillor – Reference Standards 2009/01

Considered report previously circulated, which detailed the investigation undertaken into a complaint received in May 2009 against one of Taunton Deane Borough's Councillors.

The report by the Investigating Officer, Nicola Cooper, had concluded that there had been a breach of the Code of Conduct in respect of the following paragraph:-

- Paragraph 5 – you must not conduct yourself in a manner which could reasonably be regarded as bringing your office or authority into disrepute.

The Monitoring Officer, Tonya Meers, confirmed that she fully endorsed the thorough way in which the investigation had been undertaken and supported the conclusion reached.

Resolved that:-

- (1) The findings of the Investigating Officer that there had been a breach of the Code of Conduct, be agreed; and

(2) a hearing into the complaint be arranged as soon as possible.

(The meeting ended at 11.28 am)