

**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)