

# Minutes



To: All Members of the Standards Committee, Chief Executive, Chief Officers

From: Legal, Democratic & Statutory Services  
Ask for: Elaine Shell  
Ext: 25565

---

## **STANDARDS COMMITTEE 15 FEBRUARY 2018**

### **ATTENDANCE**

### **MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE**

D Andrews (*substituting for W J Wyatt-Lowe*), D J Hewitt (Chairman), A K Khan (*substituting for N Bell*), R G Parker, A Plancey,

### **OTHERS PRESENT**

None.

Upon consideration of the agenda for the Standards Committee meeting on 15 February 2018 as circulated, copy annexed, conclusions were reached and are recorded below:

*Note: No conflicts of interest were declared by any member of the Committee in relation to the matters on which decisions were reached at this meeting.*

## **PART I ('OPEN') BUSINESS**

### **1. MINUTES**

- 1.1 The Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 16 November 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

### **2. MEMBER APPLICATION FOR DISPENSATION UNDER S33 LOCALISM ACT 2011**

[Officer Contact: Kathryn Pettitt, Chief Legal Officer (Tel: 01992 555527)]

- 2.1 The Committee was reminded that the Localism Act 2011 Act introduced the concept of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPIs) and that the Disclosable Pecuniary Interest Regulations 2012 defined the categories of interest which comprised DPIs; a member must disclose any matter which falls within the categories of disclosable pecuniary interest if it applies to themselves or their partner (which means a spouse or civil partner, a person with whom the member is living as husband or wife, or a person with whom they are living as if

### **CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS**

.....

they are civil partners). It is a criminal offence if a member who is present at a meeting where he/she has a DPI in any matter to be considered or is being considered participates in any discussion of that matter or votes on the matter unless the member has applied for and has been granted a dispensation.

One of the categories of disclosable pecuniary interests is *'Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the relevant authority'*.

Members noted that Dr. Susie Gordon had included in the register of Member's interests as a disclosable pecuniary interest land lying south of Tilekiln Farm, Standon Road, Little Hadham (HD394474). This interest arises by virtue of her beneficial freehold interest in premises known as the A120 Veterinary Centre and comprising land lying south of Tilekiln Farm, Standon Road, Little Hadham (title number HD394474). The land is in the vicinity of the A120 Little Hadham by-pass which is referred to in the Council's capital programme.

Given the uncertainty around when a DPI may be engaged, Dr. Susie Gordon had requested that a dispensation be granted to allow her to participate in meetings and business of the Council where the DPI referred to above might be engaged, provided that the business did not directly affect her DPI.

The Committee noted that the 2011 Act provided that, following a written request made to the proper officer, dispensations can be granted to enable members to participate in meetings where they have a DPI provided that certain grounds are satisfied. The Committee considered these grounds and agreed that, having regard to all the relevant circumstances, it was appropriate to grant a dispensation. The Committee further agreed that the dispensation should apply for a 4 year period.

### **RESOLVED**

1. That a dispensation is granted pursuant to sections 31(4)(a) and (b) of the Localism Act 2011 to allow Dr. Susie Gordon to participate, debate and vote in business in which she has a disclosable pecuniary interest by virtue of having a beneficial freehold interest in the premises known as the A120 Veterinary Centre and comprising land lying south of Tilekiln Farm, Standon Road, Little Hadham (title number HD394474) provided that the dispensation does not apply in instances where the business to be considered directly affects the financial position of Dr. Susie Gordon
2. That the dispensation mentioned in 1 above applies for 4 years from the date hereof.

### **3. OTHER PART I BUSINESS**

- 4.1 There was no other Part I Business.

**KATHRYN PETTITT  
CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER**

**CHAIRMAN** \_\_\_\_\_

**CHAIRMAN'S  
INITIALS**

.....