

HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ETHICAL GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

held in the Sports Pavilion and Community Centre,
Coventry Rd, Lutterworth

20th March 2013

commencing at 6.30p.m.

Present:

Cllr Everett (Chairman)

Councillors: Beesley-Reynolds, Callis, Dunton, and Tomlin.
Mr. J. Turner

Officers: V. Wenham and G. Keeping.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs King and Liquorish, and Mr A. Palmer

518 MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting of the Ethical Governance Committee, held on 27th September 2012, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

519 SUMMARY OF DECISION PROCESS

The Chairman reminded Committee Members of the process for decision making: recommendations from this committee are passed to the Constitutional Review Committee and from there to the Council for adoption.

520 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT – A COMMON APPROACH

The Monitoring Officer reported on progress regarding the possibility of adopting a Leicestershire-wide Code of Conduct. The Council had decided at its meeting in June 2012 to adopt the Code which was included as Appendix A to the report; this code has subsequently been adopted by the parish councils within the District. However, a joint County-wide code has been developed, based upon Leicestershire County Council's code (with some Melton Borough Council amendments). Members had the choice of adopting the county-wide version (with or without amendments) or of retaining the Council's existing code. Similarly, it would be up to individual parish councils to decide which code they wished to adopt. No consultations have taken place to establish whether parish councils are likely to wish to change the existing arrangement regarding the Code.

After discussing the relative benefits of the two codes, the Committee decided that the revised Code was clearer and contained greater detail, which it was felt would provide more practical advice.

RECOMMENDED to Constitutional Review Committee:

That it consider the adoption of the draft revised Code of Conduct (Appendix B), with the following amendments and corrections:

- (i) Page 11: add to the end of note 2 “These regulations are clearly defined in the Register of Interest Forms that every Member must sign”;
- (ii) Page 12: alter 4.2 to read “... is not a ‘sensitive interest’ (as defined in 4.18), ...”;
- (iii) Page 12: the reference in the note to ‘Standing Order 30’ is to a Leicestershire County Council Standing Order, and therefore needs to be changed to refer to the appropriate provision for Harborough District Council;
- (iv) Page 13: 4.6.1.2 (iii), alter ‘principle’ to ‘principal’; and
- (v) Page 14: 4.14, delete ‘Prejudicial’ and substitute ‘Interest’, to read ‘Personal Interest’.

521 CHAIRMAN’S QUESTION - COMPLAINTS

The Chairman asked whether the Monitoring Officer had been notified of any complaints. The Monitoring Officer replied that two complaints had been received recently and that the Committee may need to meet to consider these.

The Meeting ended at 7.15p.m.