

# **EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of the Standards (Parish Council) Sub Committee hearing held at Knowle, Sidmouth on 24 July 2007**

**Present:** Cllr Mrs A E Liverton East Devon District Council  
Cllr S P Pollentine Parish Council representative  
Dr J A Rees Independent member

**Also Present:** Denise Lyon Corporate Director-Central Services &  
Monitoring Officer  
Janet Wilson Democratic Services Officer

The meeting commenced at 2.00pm and terminated at 3.00pm

\*1 **Election of Chairman**

Dr J A Rees was elected Chairman of the meeting.

\*2 **Election of Vice Chairman**

Councillor S P Pollentine was elected Vice Chairman of the meeting.

\*3 **Exempt Information**

**RESOLVED** that the classification given to the documents to be submitted to the Committee be confirmed and that the reports relating to exempt information be dealt with under Part B of the agenda.

\*4 **Exclusion of the Public**

**RESOLVED** that under Section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public (including the press) be excluded from the meeting as exempt information, of the description set out on the agenda, is likely to be disclosed and on balance the public interest is in discussing these items in private session (Part B).

\*5 **Consideration of the final report of the Investigating Officer with regard to case SBE 16749.06**

Members considered the report and background papers of the Investigating Officer with regard to case SBE 16749.06.

The report set out the three occasions referred to in the complaint against the Councillor concerned. After careful consideration, Members reached the conclusion that they agreed with the findings of the Investigating Officer that there had not been a breach of the Code of Conduct. Members were of the view that although each complaint was serious, the behaviour fell just outside being a breach of the Code of Conduct. Nevertheless, they felt the conduct overall fell short of what could be hoped for from somebody holding public office, especially given the apparent pattern of behaviour.

Each complaint was discussed in detail. Members noted that the Councillor had issued a number of apologies which had been accepted and that the Town Council appeared keen to move on. The Councillor had been requested by the Town Council not to attend any Council meetings until this hearing had taken place and had complied with this request.

\*5 **Consideration of the final report of the Investigating Officer with regard to case SBE 16749.06 (Cont.)**

- RESOLVED**
1. that the Investigating Officer's finding that the Councillor had not failed to comply with the Code of Conduct for Members as set out in the allegation, be accepted.
  2. that the Councillor be advised that although the Sub Committee agreed with the Investigating Officer's finding, they felt that his conduct overall fell short of what could be hoped for from somebody holding public office.
  3. that the Monitoring Officer be asked to convene a meeting to discuss the Sub Committee's concerns with Councillor Gaughan.

Chairman ..... Date.....