

SOUTH RIBBLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Standards Committee

Meeting held at 4.30pm on Monday, 4th February, 2013 in Paddock Room, Civic Centre, West Paddock, Leyland PR25 1DH

Present:-

Councillors Mr M A Green, Mr D J Harrison, Mrs S Jones, Mrs J A Mort, Mr J W M Otter, Miss F A Walker

Independent Person Mr B Parsonage

In Attendance:-

Maureen Wood (Director of Corporate Governance), David Whelan (Legal Services Manager), Kay Lovelady (Principal Solicitor) and Andy Houlker (Senior Democratic Services Officer)

Minute No.	Description/Resolution
1	<p>Appointment of Chairman RESOLVED (Yes: 5, No: 0, Abstention: 1): Councillor Otter be appointed Chairman for the municipal year 2012/13.</p> <p>(Councillor Otter took the chair)</p>
2	<p>Apologies for Absence An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor F Heyworth.</p>
3	<p>Declarations of Interest There were no declarations of interest.</p>
4	<p>Minutes of the Last Meeting UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 1 May 2012 be signed as a correct record.</p>
5	<p>Requests for Dispensations The committee considered a report regarding the possible granting of a dispensation to relevant members of this council. This related to members being able to discuss and vote on setting council tax; allowance, payment or indemnity given to members and; any ceremonial honour given to members. It was suggested that should such a dispensation be granted this be for a period up to the next local authority elections in 2015.</p> <p>The council had initially thought it had sufficiently dealt with this matter through its Code of Conduct for Elected Members. However, it had become aware that some organisations, such as the Society of Local Council Clerks, felt the general dispensations provisions were not sufficient. This might not only open the validity of a decision to challenge but also a member might be found in breach of the legislation. The committee was advised that all 55 members of this council had subsequently signed requesting such a dispensation.</p> <p>In response to an enquiry, it was confirmed that any member of the council who had council tax arrears of more than two months would not be able to take part in that part of a meeting of the council when it was setting council tax. This was a separate consideration to the present request for dispensations.</p>

	<p>UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: That all members of the council be granted a dispensation for the period up from this meeting to the next local authority elections in 2015, to enable them to take part and vote on any decisions relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. setting council tax under the Local Government Finance Act 1992;b. any allowance, payment or indemnity given to members; andc. any ceremonial honour given to members.
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..... Chairman

The meeting finished at 4.44pm