

WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE STANDARDS PANEL - 11 JUNE 2018

SUBMITTED TO THE COUNCIL MEETING – 17 JULY 2018

(To be read in conjunction with the Agenda for the Meeting)

Present

Cllr Mike Band
Cllr Carole Cockburn
Cllr Kevin Deanus
Cllr David Else
Cllr Michael Goodridge

Cllr John Gray
Cllr David Hunter
Cllr Robert Knowles
Cllr John Ward

Apologies

Joan Holroyd, Elstead Parish Council

STD 1/18 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN FOR 2018/19 (Agenda item 1.)

Councillor Michael Goodridge was confirmed as Chairman of the Standards Panel for the Council Year 2018/19.

STD 2/18 MINUTES (Agenda item 2.)

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 29 January 2018 were agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

STD 3/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda item 3.)

There were no apologies for absence.

STD 4/18 DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS (Agenda item 4.)

There were no disclosures of interests.

STD 5/18 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (Agenda item 5.)

There were no questions from members of the public.

STD 6/18 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS (Agenda item 6.)

There were no questions from Members.

PART I - RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COUNCIL

Background Papers

Unless specified under an individual item, there are no background papers (as defined by Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) relating to the reports in Part I of these minutes.

STD 7/18 MEMBERSHIP OF THE STANDARDS PANEL (Agenda item 7.)

The Standards Panel noted that there had been an enquiry from a Member of the Council why the Standards Panel fell outside of the 'principal committees' to which political proportionality regulations applied. The suggestion had been that, given the remit of the Panel, it would be more equitable for the membership to be allocated in proportion to the political balance of the Council.

The Panel noted that the remit of the Panel had changed in 2017/18 with the addition to the terms of reference the responsibility to keep the Council's Constitution and Scheme of Delegation under review. The Panel was now meeting on a regular basis and had evolved into a more traditional Standards Committee, rather than just a standing group of members from which a panel would be drawn to determine the outcome of an investigation into a Member Code of Conduct complaint.

The Panel noted that the immediate effect of making the membership of the Panel politically proportional would be that the Farnham Residents Group would be allocated a seat by entitlement rather than the *ex officio* Leader of the Waverley Opposition Group.

Having considered the proposal, the Standards Panel agreed that it would be more equitable to all Members of the Council if the Panel was re-designated as Waverley's Standards Committee, with the membership falling within the scope of political proportionality regulations.

Therefore, the Standards Panel

RESOLVED to recommend to Council that Article 9 of Waverley's Constitution be amended to designate the Standards Panel as the Standards Committee, and the membership of 9 Waverley members be allocated on a politically proportional basis.

STD 8/18 CONSTITUTION - RESPONSIBILITY OF FUNCTIONS - JOINT PLANNING COMMITTEE (Agenda item 9.)

The Standards Panel noted that at a recent meeting of the Joint Planning Committee, Members had been concerned that the application being considered (WA/2017/1362, Amlets, Amlets Lane, Cranleigh) had fallen outside of the criteria for automatic referral to the Joint Planning Committee despite it being a significant amendment to the original Amlets Lane planning application that would increase the total number of dwellings on the site from 125 to 133.

The more recent planning application had been described only in relation to the sub-plot within the overall scheme, and therefore only referred to a net increase of 8 in dwelling numbers from 22 to 33 dwellings. As a result, Members had had to call the application into Joint Planning Committee, and had requested that this situation was addressed within the specification of the remit of the Joint Planning Committee.

The Standards Panel reviewed a form of words suggested by the Planning Development Manager, and

RESOLVED to recommend to Council that the wording shown below in bold be added to the Joint Planning Committee Responsibility for Functions in Part 3 of Waverley's Constitution:

The proposed role of the Joint Planning Committee as distinct from the Area Planning Committees would be to consider applications or issues referred to it for the following reasons:

- a. *To make decisions on the administrative and procedural matters affecting the processing of applications. E.g. report formats, information specifications etc.*
- b. *To review all housing schemes which propose a net increase of more than 25 dwellings, where the recommendation is for permission to be granted*
- c. *To consider applications defined as major, as defined by the Government (10 or more units of residential accommodation, more than 1,000 sqm commercial floorspace and site area of more than 1 hectare) and which, in the judgement of the Chief Executive, after consultation with the Head of Planning and the appropriate Area Planning Committee Chairman, meet the following criteria*
 - i. *have a significant planning impact beyond the Area in which they are situated, and/or*
 - ii. *are of strategic importance, and/or*
 - iii. *involve new planning issues for the borough; and/or*
 - iv. ***is a revised application for parcel of land within a development with an extant planning permission previously determined by Joint Planning Committee that increases the total number of dwellings on the total site; and/or***
 - v. ***where a revision to an extant planning permission brings the total number of dwellings on a site to 25 or more; or***
- d. *Where within three weeks of the application appearing on the Waverley weekly list of planning applications, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the relevant Area Planning Committee and the ward member request that it be referred to the Joint Planning Committee and put forward relevant grounds as set out in c (i) to (iii) above, the Chief Executive and Head of Planning will normally submit the application to the Joint Planning Committee.*

PART II - MATTERS OF REPORT

STD 9/18 SCHEME OF DELEGATION UPDATE (Agenda item 8.)

Scheme of Delegation for Planning

The Panel noted that, further to their discussion at the meeting on 29 January 2018, the wording of paragraph 43 of the Scheme of Delegation for Planning had been clarified and was shown on the attached schedule (Item 8, Annexe1).

The Panel RESOLVED to note the revised wording.

Scheme of Delegation for Licensing and Closure of Streets

The Standards Panel RESOLVED to note that in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation to the Monitoring Officer, the Scheme of Delegation for Licensing and Closure of Streets had been transferred from the Head of Policy and Governance to the Head of Environmental Services, reflecting the same organisational transfer of these responsibilities.

STD 10/18 WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL CONSTITUTION (FEBRUARY 2018) (Agenda item 10.)

Following previous criticisms of the format of the Waverley Constitution, the Panel had received a formatted and branded version for comments.

Whilst noting that this was a work in progress, the Panel agreed that it was a great improvement, and improved navigation through the document. Members had noticed some missing cross-references within the text, and had some specific suggestions for further improvements, including adding a Glossary of technical terms.

The Panel agreed that any specific comments should be passed to the Democratic Services Manager by email so that work could continue on improving the appearance and usability of the document.

The Constitution was an important document, and the Panel felt that its appearance should reflect that, and that in May 2019 all new Councillors should be provided with a hard copy.

STD 11/18 MONITORING OFFICER UPDATE (Agenda item 11.)

The Monitoring Officer advised that following a query raised by Cllrs Stephen Mulliner and John Gray, he was drafting a guidance document on the Access to Information Rules which he would bring to the next meeting of the Panel for consideration.

The meeting commenced at 5.00 pm and concluded at 6.00 pm

Chairman