

Time Commenced – 10.30am

Time Finished – 12.03pm

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

6 OCTOBER 2009

Present: Reverend Canon R B Blowers – Chair
Mrs C McDowall, Ms D Reid, Mr P Sunderland
Councillors Holmes and Jackson

Officers in Attendance: Stuart Leslie – Chief Legal Officer

21/09 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies.

22/09 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

23/09 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

24/09 Determination of a Complaint Against a Councillor

The Chair welcomed Councillor Naitta to the meeting, introduced Committee Members and advisors and informed Councillor Naitta of the procedure that would be adopted by the Committee. Councillor Naitta confirmed that he did not wish to be represented.

The Committee considered a report from the Monitoring Officer setting out the outcome of the investigation into the complaint against Councillor Naitta. The report stated that on 24 April 2009 Councillor Naitta stated in an e mail which was copied to other Councillors and two Officers of Derby City Council 'Cllr Redfern have you been drinking again'. The report concluded that Councillor Naitta had failed to treat Councillor Redfern with respect. The report also concluded that Councillor Naitta did not bully Councillor Redfern and did not bring his office into disrepute. The report concluded that under Regulation 14 of the Standards Committee England Regulations 2008 as amended was that there had been a failure to comply with the Code of Conduct.

Councillor Naitta was asked questions by the Committee members and also made representations to them. He said he did not dispute any of the findings of the Investigation Report.

It was decided that Councillor Naitta had breached the Local Government Code of Conduct because he had failed to treat Councillor Redfern with respect.

The Committee decided that this was a serious matter because the statement made by Councillor Naitta about Councillor Redfern was unfounded and damaging.

In reaching a view as to an appropriate sanction the Committee took into account that Councillor Naitta had apologised to Councillor Redfern but also that the apology was less than full and had much more restricted distribution than the original statement.

Resolved

- 1. To censure Councillor Naitta.**
- 2. To require Councillor Naitta to draft a full and unqualified apology to Councillor Redfern for the statement in his e mail and to submit that draft to the Monitoring Officer for approval by the Chair of the Standards Committee.**
- 3. To require Councillor Naitta to send the approved draft letter of apology to persons considered appropriate by the Chair of the Standards Committee as notified to Councillor Naitta by the Monitoring Officer.**
- 4. To require Councillor Naitta to undertake further training on the Code of Conduct arranged in consultation with the Monitoring Officer.**
- 5. To recommend that IT practice be reviewed and emphasised in Code of Conduct training.**

Chair of the next ensuing meeting
at which these minutes were signed