

# EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE STANDARDS BOARD

Date: 7 April 2010

Venue: East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

Time: 7.00 pm

Present: Graham Blagden (Chairman)

East Northamptonshire Councillors: Glenvil Greenwood- Smith Barbara Jenney

Town and Parish Councillors: Don Campbell Sue North  
Prudence Goss Arthur Whittaker

Independent Members: Hilary Daniels Lance Quantrill  
Graham Matthews

## 436. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 February 2010 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

## 437. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors Brian Northall and Roger Powell sent apologies.

## 438. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Don Campbell declared a personal interest in agenda item 4 as he was a member of Oundle Town Council.

Mr Lance Quantrill declared a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda item 4 as he was a close acquaintance of Councillor Mark Ormrod. He left the meeting for this item and took no part in the discussion or voting.

## 439. THE RELEVANT AUTHORITIES (STANDARDS COMMITTEES) (DISPENSATIONS) REGULATIONS 2002

Secondary legislation made under the Local Government Act 2000 empowered the Board to consider and, in certain specified circumstances grant, dispensations in respect of Members of East Northamptonshire Council and the Town and Parish Councils in East Northamptonshire.

The Board considered a formal request for dispensations from two Oundle Town Councillors in respect of their role as trustees of the Queen Victoria Hall Charitable Trust, in accordance with the Relevant Authorities (Standards Committee) (Dispensation) Regulations 2002.

Following the Standards Committee (Further Provisions) (England) Regulations 2009 the grounds on which standards committees could grant dispensations to local authority members had changed. Unlike previously, the fact that dispensations had been granted to other members of the Council could now be ignored for the purposes of the 50% rule. As a consequence the Board was able to consider granting requests such as this which resulted from the appointment of new Councillors where the remainder of the Council had existing dispensations.

**RESOLVED:**

That the request for a dispensation in respect of Councillors Susan Oakes and Mark Ormrod, of Oundle Town Council in matters relating to the Queen Victoria Hall Charitable Trust, be granted for a period of four years or their term of office, whichever is less.

**440. ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER**

The Board received a report on the ethical matters dealt with by the Monitoring Officer and training given since the last meeting. The Monitoring Officer reported that the turnover of Town and Parish Councillors remained fairly constant and with a high vacancy rate there was an ongoing need for training. It was noted that the next training session would be held in the north of the district, probably in June, and that induction training of new District Councillors was being drawn up for after the election in 2011.

Standards for England had confirmed that there would be no change to the Code of Conduct until after the General Election. The Board endorsed the proposal to not book the Standards for England Conference until after the General Election. Mr Graham Matthews and Councillor Arthur Whittaker expressed an interest in attending should the conference go ahead.

**441. ANNUAL RETURN TO STANDARDS FOR ENGLAND 2010**

Standards for England had had introduced its Annual Return in 2009 to supplement the quarterly returns on casework and local Board membership information. It sought to provide greater understanding of the work of the local Standards Boards and identify good practice.

The Board considered the draft responses suggested by the Monitoring Officer and made a number of additions and amendments.

**Chairman**