

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Standards Committee held in the Council Chamber,
Council Offices, Gernon Road, Letchworth Garden City
on Tuesday, 22nd October, 2019 at 7.30 pm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from:

- District Councillor Gerald Morris;
- Town Councillor Amy Bourke-Waite;
- Reserve Independent Person Peter Chapman.

2 MINUTES - 19 FEBRUARY 2019

RESOLVED: That, subject to the amendment of Minute 14 that Councillor Lee Gregory be amended to read Councillor Helena Gregory, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 19 February 2019 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.

3 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business notified.

4 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (1) The Chairman welcomed Parish Councillor Julia Magill MBE and Town Councillor Amy Bourke-Waite to the Committee, although noted that Town Councillor Amy Bourke-Waite was unable to attend the meeting;
- (2) The Chairman advised that, in accordance with Council Policy, the meeting would be audio recorded;
- (3) The Chairman drew attention to the item on the agenda front pages regarding Declarations of Interest and reminded Members that, in line with the Code of Conduct, any Declarations of Interest needed to be declared immediately prior to the item in question.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no presentations by members of the public.

6 STANDARDS MATTERS

RESOLVED: That the contents of the report entitled Standards Matters be noted.

REASON FOR DECISION: To ensure good governance within the Council.

7 **PLANNING CODE OF GOOD PRACTICE**

RESOLVED:

- (1) That Members of the Committee be requested to email any suggested amendments to the Legal Regulatory Team Manager;
- (2) That, prior to consideration by Council, the Legal Regulatory Team Manager be requested to make amendments as suggested in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Standards Committee and the Independent Person;
- (3) That, prior to consideration by Council, the Legal Regulatory Team Manager be requested to amend the first Paragraph on page 23 to read words to the effect:

“Don’t agree to any formal meeting with applicants, developers or groups of objectors if you can avoid it. You may act as a Ward advocate, however where you have acted as such, then you must not sit on, or be a substitute for that item at the Committee meeting. Where you feel that a formal meeting would be useful to clarify issues, you only arrange that meeting through the Development and Conservation Manager if she/ he is able to organise one. If the meeting can be arranged, the Officer(s) will then ensure that those present at the meeting are advised from the start that the discussions will not bind the authority to any particular course of action, that the meeting is properly recorded on the application file and the record of the meeting is disclosed when the application is considered by the Committee.”

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL: That, subject to any amendment resulting from the resolutions above, the Planning Code of Good Practice as amended and contained at Appendix A be adopted.

REASON FOR DECISIONS: To ensure good governance within the Council and that the Council’s Planning Code of Good Practice remains fit for purpose and is consistent with best practice.