

Minutes of a meeting of the Strategic Review Committee, Misterton Parish Council held on the 10th August 2010 in the Church Room, Misterton, Nottinghamshire.

Present: Cllr. B. Cooper, Cllr. P. Potter, Cllr. A. Stead, Cllr. I. Trossell, Cllr. M. Trossell, Cllr. R. Simpson, Cllr. A. Wilkinson and Cllr. J. Wilkinson.

Also present 6 members of the public.

Cllr. A. Stead, Committee Chairman in the chair.

10/11/157 Apologies

All committee members being present, no apologies for absence were made.

10/11/158 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made by Councillors at this meeting.

10/11/159 Code of Conduct for members of the Public attending Council Meetings

Cllr. A. Stead, Committee Chairman raised the question as to whether the Code of Conduct is beneficial and whether it should be continued. The current code was adopted by the Council in May 2009, but neither the NALC nor the SLCC had a policy at the present time of commending such a policy to Local Councils. Neither the Chairman nor the acting Clerk was aware of another Local Council applying a similar policy. The acting Clerk added that many Councils use their own Standing Orders to control proceedings, combined with action by the Chairman of the meeting.

After discussion, it was resolved to discontinue this Code of Conduct.

10/11/160 Code of Practice for Complaints. Procedure Review.

Cllr. A. Stead reminded the meeting that the Council's existing code (approved by the Council in 2008) was not based upon the recommended model from NALC, but that the 2003 version was. (The 2008 version was an adaptation of the 2003 Code, drawn up with the assistance of the then District Council Solicitor, to deal with a particular complaint).

After discussion, it was agreed that the 2003 version and the 2008 version be circulated to Councillors and that this matter be reviewed at the next meeting of the Committee. The Chairman would forward a draft complaints procedure to Members for review at the next meeting

10/11/161 Public Discussion Period.

The following matters were raised under this item of business.

- Expression of support for the decision taken not to continue with the Councils Code of Conduct for members of the public attending Council meetings.
- The use of the Fire Station, or other locations for holding Council meetings was suggested. (This will feature on the agenda for a future meeting of the Committee)

10/11/162 Rebuilding Relations with the District Council

Cllr. A. Stead, Committee Chairman, reported that, accompanied by the Vice Chairman of the Parish Council (Cllr. I. Trossell was not able to attend owing to existing commitments), he had met the Chief Executive (David Hunter) of the Bassetlaw D.C. and Ros Threakstone (Monitoring Officer) to consider ways of improving relations between the D.C. and the Parish Council. It was a positive meeting and both Councillors were satisfied that a greater level of understanding, cooperation and mutual support was quite possible in the future.

Cllr. Stead stated that it would not be in the public interest to discuss items which referred to a previous employee and an applicant for a vacancy and a more detailed report would be given to Councillors in confidence.

It was, therefore, resolved that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the public/press be excluded from the remaining part of the meeting and they are accordingly requested to withdraw.

Following the departure of the public, Cllr. Stead then gave his explanations upon reasons for a past decline in relations with the District Council.

After discussion, all reports were noted and the offers of future advice and support from District Council Officers were gratefully received and noted.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for their contributions and closed the meeting.