



City of Westminster

Minutes

Meeting:

Standards Committee

Date of meeting:

**6.30pm on Wednesday 11 February 2009,
Westminster City Hall, 64 Victoria Street, London,
SW1E 6QP**

Attendees:

Councillors:
Ruth Bush
Rupert D'Cruz
Angela Hooper, DL, CBE
Tim Mitchell

Independent Members:
Lord Richard Best, OBE
The Very Rev John Hall
Elizabeth Peace, CBE

Apologies:

Councillor: Michael Brahams, DL
Lord Dennis Stevenson, CBE
Robert Davis, DL
Alastair Moss
Steve Summers

Contact:

Mick Steward

Details:

Telephone: 020 7641 3134
Email: msteward@westminster.gov.uk

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

2. MINUTES

The Chairman, with the approval of the Members present, signed the minutes of the meeting held on 2 December 200~~9~~⁸ as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

3. APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION FROM THE CODE OF CONDUCT (see report of the Head of Legal Services – agenda item 3)

- 3.1 Rhian Davies introduced the report on behalf of the Head of Legal Services.
- 3.2 The Committee gave full and very careful consideration to the applications for dispensation from the Code of Conduct. It explored the options available and were conscious that it did not have a protocol to cover such application.
- 3.3 In granting the applications the Committee asked that it be made clear that it had given very full and careful consideration to the applications.
- 3.4 The Committee asked that a report be submitted to a future meeting setting out the various options available in these circumstances, including the implications for the consideration of planning applications should applications for dispensation be refused. The further report to include a protocol for the processing and consideration of applications for dispensation from the Code.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the Committee decide whether to grant a dispensation in the following form:
 - (a) That Councillors Christabel Flight, Carolyn Keen and Steve Summers be granted a dispensation to speak and vote on the planning application in respect of 92 Ebury Street, SW1 at the Planning Applications Sub-Committee on 12 February 2009 and at any other meeting(s) at which the application is considered, notwithstanding that the premises are situated next door to the offices of the local Conservative Party Association and the home of the local agent who may be regarded as a “close associate” for the purposes of the Members’ Code of Conduct, subject to them making the statement at the meeting of the Planning Applications Sub-Committee on 12 February 2009 set out in paragraph 1.5 of the main report amended to make clear that it was only granted after full and careful consideration.
 - (b) That this dispensation shall expire on 12 May 2009.

2. That a further report, as outlined in paragraph 3.4 above be submitted.

4. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting ended at 7.01pm.

CHAIRMAN

DATE