

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

11th February 2009 at 6.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Stewart (Chair), Pedersen, Saleem and Simmons.

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor Rutstein

5 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (REF: 2)

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received on behalf of Councillors Akbar, Chapman and R. Davies.

6 MINUTES (REF: 3.1)

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meeting held on the 12th January 2009 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and the Chair be authorised to sign them.

7 LOCAL GOVERNMENT OMBUDSMAN RECOMMENDATION – ‘MR AND MRS NORTON’ (REF: 8)

The Head of Street Services presented a report on an investigation by the Local Government Ombudsman into the complaint of Mr and Mrs Norton.. The Ombudsman had found that maladministration had occurred and recommended that the Council apologise to Mr and Mrs Norton and pay them compensation of £30,320.

The Head of Street Services advised that additional steps had also been taken and there was a continuing investigation into the circumstances that led to the maladministration occurring.

Mr Norton addressed the Committee and read out the report that he had written and had previously submitted to the Council. He informed the Committee that his wife and he had suffered 19 months of stress because of the matter. He requested that the Council accept the Ombudsman's recommendations.

Resolved: (i) That the report (Ref: 8) be noted.

(ii) That an apology should be issued and the sum of £30,320 should be paid to the complainants, Mr and Mrs Norton, as recommended by the Local Government Ombudsman.

(Notes: (i) The names of the complainants in Minute 7 are the pseudonyms used in the Ombudsman's report.

(ii) The meeting ended at 6.25 pm)