

## **INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL HELD ON 14 MAY 2003**

**Present:**     **Mr A Murdoch**     -     **Chairman**  
                  **Mr D Higgs**       -     **Vice Chairman**  
                  **Rev M Cooper**  
                  **Mr A Thrussell**

#### **16.    APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None received.

#### **17.    DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None received.

#### **18.    CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4 APRIL        2003**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be confirmed as a true record.

#### **19.    A REVIEW OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES**

The Panel considered the draft report on the Review of Members' Allowances and made some minor amendments.

The Panel noted that provision had been made for the submission of the report to the Annual Meeting of the Council scheduled for 21 May 2003.

A copy of the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) England Regulations 2003 was supplied to Members of the Panel and it was noted that, in order to comply with the timescale required by the new regulations it would be likely that further meetings of the Panel would be required. Additionally, it was noted that whilst the deliberations of the Panel were the subject of recommendations to Council, the recommendations in respect of pensions under the new regulations would be binding. In view of its increased role, the Panel felt that pension expertise should be sought, probably from Kent County Council, at the appropriate time.

The possibility of dealing with requests from parishes to review parish councillor allowances was discussed and it was considered that no preparatory action was required in advance of receipt of any requests.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the draft report, as amended, be agreed and referred to the General Assembly of Council for consideration.
- (2) A further meeting of the Panel be held on Monday 16 June 2003 at 11.00am to consider the outcome of the submission of the above mentioned review of members' allowances.

The meeting ended at 10.40 am

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**A Murdoch  
Chairman**