

Minutes of the meeting of the STANDARDS COMMITTEE held on TUESDAY 19 JUNE 2012 at 6.00 pm

Present: Mr C Fogden (Chair)
Councillors Jury, P Geary and Morris, Parish Councillor Livingstone and Mr D Anderton

Officers: P McCourt (Assistant Director [Law and Governance]), K Hulatt (Solicitor) and T Milner (Committee Manager)

Apologies: Councillors Marland and Miles, Parish Councillors Geddes and Wilkes, Mr R Moore and Mr C Rose

ST01 ELECTION OF CHAIR

Mr C Fogden was proposed as Chair by Councillor Livingstone. There being no further nominations, he was duly elected as Chair for the year of 2012/13 for the current Standards Committee.

ST02 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

Mr D Anderton was proposed as Vice-Chair by Mr C Fogden. There being no further nominations, he was duly appointed as Vice-Chair for the year of 2012/13 for the current Standards Committee.

ST03 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Committee heard from the Assistant Director, Law and Governance on the implementation dates for the sections of the Localism Act 2011 relating to governance and standards, and further that transitional arrangements had been put into place to allow independent members to apply for the new independent person positions under the new law.

The Committee was informed that a Standards Working Group and Member briefing was arranged for 20 June 2012, that included Councillor C Williams, Morris and Miles to discuss and put proposals forward to Council on 11 July 2012:

1. How the Council will put in place arrangements for dealing with complaints about Members and Parish Councillors from 1 July 2012.
2. That the Council must adopt a new Code of Conduct, including what interests to register and any arrangements to disclose a conflict of interest at meetings for that date for the Council to view options at its meeting on 11 July 2012.

ST04 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of Standards Committee held on 5 April 2012, be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record, subject to including Mr R Moore and Mr C Rose as present.

ST05 CASE UPDATE

The Committee considered the current Case update including the cost of any investigations.

RESOLVED -

1. That the complaints status table be noted.
2. That Case SC/03/12 be closed.
3. That Case SC/02/12 be considered by the Assessment Sub-Committee on 27 June 2012.
4. That the estimated cost of £4814.94 for Case SC/02/11 be noted.

ST06 RECENT CASES

The Committee considered the recent cases, status of referrals and investigations.

RESOLVED –

1. That the outcome of recent Cases, SC/05/11, SC/07/11, SC/06/11, SC/09/11 and SC/10/11 be noted.
2. That the recommendation made by the Hearing Sub-Committee be unanimously endorsed, including the recommendation to Council that Mr P Bartlett's 'Alderman' status be removed due to the severity of the matters and use of title in regard to a complaint.
3. That a report be made to the Council, when addressing the recommendation regarding the removal of the Alderman title for Alderman Bartlett setting out:
 - (a) details of the process to be adhered to; and
 - (b) comprehensive details including history, case details and a clear definition with regard to the title and description of 'Alderman' status.

ST07**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LOCALISM ACT AND STANDARDS**

The Committee considered the progress against the provisions of Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011, in preparation for implementation by the Council for 1 July 2012.

RESOLVED -

1. That subject to Regulations providing for a differing implementation date for Part 7 of the Localism Act 2011, the Committee be dissolved with effect from 30 June 2012.
2. That the Committee noted the information on progress of implementation of Chapter 7 (Standards) of the Localism Act 2011.

ST08**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Committee will be dissolved on 30 June 2012 or on the eve of the coming into force of the relevant provisions of Chapter 7 of the Localism Act, whichever is the later.

Although there may be a requirement for Sub-Committee meetings prior to that date, this would be the final meeting of the Committee.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 7.08PM