

STANDARDS COMMITTEE
Thursday, 4th July 2013

PRESENT – *Councillor Jacqueline Slater (Vice-Chair) Councillors Brookfield Hardman, P Riley, Solkar, J. Pearson, D. Pearson and D Walsh (for Oldfield)*

INDEPENDENT MEMBERS OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE –*Mr Tassadaq Hussain*

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE- *Alan Eastwood,(Independent Person) David Fairclough, (Monitoring Officer) and Paul Conlon (Democratic Services)*

RESOLUTIONS

1 Welcome and Apologies

The Vice-Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting; apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Mr Paul Fletcher, Councillor Oldfield, Rehman and Maxfield.

2 Minutes of the Meeting of this Committee held on 4th April 2013

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 4th April 2013 be approved and signed as a correct record.

3 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5 Complaints Update

The Committee considered a report seeking members' approval to a system for reporting complaints to the Standards Committee. The Committee would receive reports on a meeting by meeting basis on complaints in progress and outcomes where applicable. Where no complaints were received, in progress or concluded no item would appear on the agenda. The Committee were also informed that no complaints had been received since the last meeting in February.

RESOLVED – That the system for reporting complaints to the Committee be adopted.

6 Website for Standards Committee

Members were informed that the Standards/code of conduct web site was now up and running and members were given a demonstration of how a

person using the internet would access the information they may need to understand the standards system in place in this authority and if necessary how to complain about the conduct of a Councillor, Parish Councillor or Town Councillor. Members were invited to access the web pages following the meeting and submit any views/ comments on how the site could be improved.

RESOLVED – That the introduction of the Standards/Code of Conduct website be welcomed and members be requested to test drive the site and feedback any comments within two weeks of this meeting.

7 Register of Members Interests

The Committee was updated on the current return of Members Declaration of interest forms. The Committee were informed that a letter would now be sent to all those who had failed to return their declarations form informing them of the legal necessity of completing this and warning them of the possible consequences of not completing the form. The Committee was informed that the completed forms would now be scanned on to the council internet pages for individual pages. Steps were also being taken to compile lists of parish council returns.

RESOLVED –

1. That the progress be noted; and
2. That the Committee be kept informed of progress at the next meeting of the Committee.

9 Work Programme for the Committee

The Committee considered a report of the Monitoring Officer setting out a proposed work programme for the current Municipal year. The work programme set out a skeleton structure which could be enhanced with suggestions submitted from members together with issues that arose during the Year.

RESOLVED-

1. That the Draft Work Programme be adopted and
2. That suggestions from members be forwarded to the next meeting of the Committee for inclusion in the work programme.

9. Dates for meetings of the Standards Committee

The Committee was advised of the dates of meetings of the Standards Committee for 2013/2014 as follows:

3rd October 2013, 9th January 2014 and 20th March 2014.

Signed.....

Chair of the meeting at which the Minutes were signed

Date.....