

STANDARDS COMMITTEE
Thursday, 2nd July 2015.

PRESENT – *Councillor A. Rehman (in the Chair), S. Brookfield, G. Carus, T Evans, J Gunn, J. Rigby, M. Lee, Mr Fletcher T. Hussain and Daniel Wild*

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE- *Sian Roxborough, Ben Greenwood, and Paul Conlon.*

RESOLUTIONS

1 Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting; apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Maxfield.

2 Minutes of the Meeting of this Committee held on 19th March 2015

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 19th March 2015 be received and signed as a correct record.

3 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Work Programme for the Committee, 2015/16

The Committee received a report of the Monitoring Officer seeking members views on a work programme for the year. The work programme would ensure that Members would maximum impact from their work and address issues that were relevant and timely. The Committee were informed that the Clerks to the Parish and Town Councils had been asked to highlight issues that they felt needed reviewing or were of concern to their body and would be fed into the work programme in March or sooner if felt urgent.

Resolved- that the proposed work programme for the year 2015/16 be adopted for the Committee and that the views of Clerks to the Parish and Town Councils be reported back to the Committee for consideration and prior to including in the programme in March 2016.

5. Member Development and Training.

The Committee received a report informing members of the training undertaken by Members. The training included Planning and Highways and Licencing training which was mandatory and induction of new Members. In answer to a question it was stated that new Members received specific training on the Code of Conduct and Standards issues.

The report also outlined the attendance at the training to raise awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation and the steps being taken to make training available for Members who had so far been unable to attend. The issues relating to the delivery of this specific training were outlined and the Department would be asked to ensure that this training takes place as a matter of urgency and that a further report be made to the Committee at its next meeting.

Resolved-

1. that the training carried out for members of the Council be noted
2. That the in the view of this Committee all Members be required to carry out on-line Data Protection training
3. that declarations of interest on outside bodies and be brought back to the Committee as a topic for the work programme to enable a coherent policy to be agreed for the authority.
4. It was noted that Councillor Whittle had attended the Planning and Highways Mandatory Training.

6. **Register of Members Interests**

The Committee were updated on the receipt of Members interest forms by Councillors. The Committee were reminded that the completion of a declaration was a requirement of the Localism act 2011 and this declaration had to be made annually. The process followed and the steps taken to seek completion by Members was outlined and the Committee were informed that to date 5 declarations remained outstanding from Borough Councillors and 15 Parish and Town Councils were still to be received. The Committee considered the steps that they could take to ensure completion and the timescales that they could require completion

Resolved-

1. that the current position be noted
2. That chase up letters be sent out to members of the Council informing them that the form should be completed within 7 working days and to Parish and Town Councils informing that the forms need to be completed with 14 days.

7. **Annual Complaints Report.**

The Committee were informed of the number of complaints received by the Council in the municipal year 2014/15.

The monitoring officer receives complaints in respect of Councillors under the terms of the Arrangements for Dealing with Complaints about the Code of Conduct for Members as set out in the Council's Constitution. Although 3 complaints were received in the year none led to formal action.

Resolved – that the report be noted.

8 Use of Social Media by Members.

The Committee received a report setting out guidance on the use of social media by members and the responsibilities incumbent on them. The guidance had been compiled following the presentation to the Committee at its meeting in March and addressed the issues that Members should consider and the possible pitfalls from the use of Social Media.

Resolved

That the Guidance on the use of social media by elected members be noted
That the Monitoring Officer be recommended to request that the Council should adopt the guidance and the Code of Conduct for Members be amended to reflect the link between the Code and Guidance.

9 Dates for meetings of the Standards Committee

Resolved-

It was noted that the Committee would meet on the following dates in the municipal year 2015/16

22nd October 2015

7th January 2016

17th March 2016

Issue	Action	When
Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness training	Update on members attendance.	Update in new municipal year.
Register of Members Interests	Progress on new register to be kept under review in the next year.	October Meeting.
Partnership Working and the code of conduct	New item from work programme	October Meeting
Elections and elected Members	New Item from work programme	January meeting
Disclosure of interests	New Item from work programme	January Meeting
Parish council issues	New item from work programme	March meeting
Review of the year	New Items from the work programme	March meeting.

Signed.....

Chair of the meeting at which the Minutes were signed

Date.....