

STANDARDS COMMITTEE
Wednesday 6th July 2016.

PRESENT – *Councillor M. Johnson, (in the Chair), S. Brookfield, Lee, Wild.*

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

RESOLUTIONS

1 Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting; apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor G. Carus and P. Fletcher and T. Hussain.

2 Minutes of the Meeting of this Committee held on 17th March 2016

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 17th March 2016 be received and signed as a correct record.

3 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4 Appointment of Vice Chair of the Committee.

Resolved –

That Councillor Lee be appointed vice chair of the Committee for the municipal year 2016/17.

5. Appointment of Independent Members and Independent Officer to the Standards Committee.

The Committee were informed that the Annual Council had agreed to the reappointment of the two current Independent members of the Standards Committee for a period of four years. The interviews for the position of Independent Officer had been held in May and the appointment would be reported to the meeting of the Council Forum on 21st July 2016.

Resolved- 1. That the reappointment of the existing Independent Members for a second term of four years, with two terms being the maximum for all independent members be noted.

2. That the appointment of Independent Officer be reported to the next meeting of the committee.

6. Work Programme for the Committee, 2016/17

The Committee received a report requesting Members to consider a work programme for the municipal year 2016/17. The Committee were invited to submit suggestions for consideration as part of the Committees work programme.

Resolved- 1. That the outline work programme be accepted, and that,

2. That the Monitoring Officer be requested to write to members of the Committee and the Clerks to the Parish Councils and Town Council seeking suggestions for topics to be included in the Committees work programme for the year and that these suggestions be reported to the next meeting of the Committee.

7. Register of Members Interests

The Committee were informed that to date only 10 Members of the Council had still to complete their register of interests and the remaining Members were being chased up. Further reminders would be sent out to members shortly informing them of the consequences of not completing their declarations. Town and Parish Councils had returned the majority of their forms and again the remainder would be pursued. The Committee would be kept informed of progress.

Resolved- That the Committee note the report and request that Monitoring Officer continue to reminding members of their duty to complete declaration of interest forms as a matter of urgency.

8. Members Training and Development.

The Committee received a report and presentation requesting Members to consider work that was on-going to develop an online portal that would address the needs of Members expressed at previous meetings in relation to information and advice and training. The link to the information pages would be forwarded to all Members of the Council and the Clerks to the Parish Council for use by members when seeking guidance on issues considered by the Standards Committee and given to Members of the Borough Council during training and development.

Members of the Committee were given an online tour of the sites relating to Members Declarations, complaints procedures, complaints processes and how to access information. The site would be developed further in line with the needs of Members and Members and Parish Council clerks would be asked for their views as to the future content of the web pages. Guidance and reviews carried out by this Committee would be updated when issued and the new Member's induction was delivered.

Resolved- 1. That the presentation be noted and the development of the new web based resource be noted.

2. That the link be forwarded to the Clerks to the Parish and Town Councils seeking their views on the content and future development and that responses be reported back to the Committee for consideration.

9. Annual Complaints Report.

The Committee received a report of the Monitoring Officer updating Members on the complaints received regarding Members conduct under the arrangements for dealing with complaints about the Code of Conduct for Members.

The Committee were reminded of their role in dealing with complaint and how complaints were processed and determined.

- Resolved-** 1. That the report be noted; and,
2. That the one complaint in progress at this time be noted

12 Dates for meetings of the Standards Committee

Resolved- It was noted that the Committee meet on the following dates in the municipal year 2016/17

20th October 2016, 5th January 2017 and 16th March 2017.

Signed.....

Chair of the meeting at which the Minutes were signed

Date.....