

# STANDARDS COMMITTEE

## Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021

**PRESENT** – Councillors; Afzal (Chair) Casey, Connor, Davies, Khonat, Liddle, Rawat, Slater N and Whittle.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE** – Paul Fletcher (Independent Member), Miranda Carruthers Watt and Alan Eastwood (Independent Persons).

**OFFICERS** – David Fairclough, Asad Laher, and Phil Llewellyn.

### RESOLUTIONS

#### 20 **Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed all present to the meeting, and asked Phil Llewellyn to read out the statement explaining that this was a virtual meeting.

No apologies had been received.

#### 21 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

**RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021 be agreed as a correct record.

Under Matters Arising, the Monitoring Officer, David Fairclough, advised that not all Members had completed the Mandatory on-line training, but that recently there had been a changeover of IT equipment and once it was confirmed that there were no longer any technical issues for these members , anyone not completing the training would be pursued.

Members gave feedback on the number of courses in the Municipal Year, and also noted that there were only three Mandatory courses – Civil Contingencies, Safeguarding and Social Media.

#### 22 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest received.

#### 23 **Feedback from Member Presentation**

The Monitoring Officer, David Fairclough, reported back on the two part presentation on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021 which focussed on Safeguarding and Social Media.

David highlighted the key aspects of the presentation, and Members commented on how useful the session had been, although it was slightly too long as it had to cover two topics in one session.

Members had a wide ranging discussion on some of the issues arising, with the key points being:

- The need for Purdah guidance for the forthcoming Elections to reflect

correct use of Social Media.

- The need for a Protocol to be developed to cover the appropriate use of the Chat function in MS Teams for approval by the Committee.
- A message to be sent to all Members showing how chat notifications can be turned off in MS Teams.
- A Workshop to be organised in due course for Members to advise them on appropriate security settings when using Social Media such as Facebook and Whatsapp.

Members also discussed the potential for Hybrid meetings and training going forward, dependent on the necessary legislation being in place.

Reference was made to the fact that this would be the last meeting that Councillor Afzal would be chairing, as she would not be standing for Election. Members thanked the Chair for her contribution to the Standards Committee and the Chair returned thanks in kind to all Committee Members and Officers involved.

**RESOLVED** – That the update be noted and that Officers be requested to make the necessary arrangements discussed, relating to Purdah Guidance and correct use of Social media, correct use of the MS Teams Chat function, and on how to turn off notifications, and the Workshop on security settings for Social Media.

Signed: .....

Date: .....

Chair of the meeting  
at which the minutes were confirmed