

## **BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET**

### **STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

#### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THURSDAY, 10TH DECEMBER, 2015**

PRESENT:-

**Independent Members:** Susan Toland (Chair), Deborah Russell (Independent Member)

**Parish Representatives:** Tony Crouch, Veronica Packham and Dr Axel Palmer

**Bath and North East Somerset Councillors:** Sally Davis, Sarah Bevan, Geoff Ward and Brian Simmons

**Officers:** Maria Lucas (Head of Legal and Democratic Services) and Enfys Hughes

#### **14 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the Committee.

#### **15 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE**

The Democratic Services Officer read out the emergency evacuation procedure as set out on the agenda.

#### **16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTION**

Cyril Davies sent his apologies for the meeting.

#### **17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Sarah Bevan declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 12, in that her ward was next to Dunkerton.

#### **18 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR**

There was none.

#### **19 ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC - TO RECEIVE DEPUTATIONS, STATEMENTS, PETITIONS OR QUESTIONS (COMPLAINTS MUST GO THROUGH THE STANDARDS COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE)**

There were none.

#### **20 ITEMS FROM COUNCILLORS AND CO-OPTED AND ADDED MEMBERS RELATING TO THE GENERAL BUSINESS OF THE COMMITTEE**

There were none.

**21 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 17TH SEPTEMBER 2015**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and be signed by the Chair(person).

**22 STANDARDS COMMITTEE - SCHEDULE OF DATES 2015-19**

**RESOLVED**

- 1) that the schedule of dates for the Standards Committee be noted;
- 2) that the 28<sup>th</sup> January 2016 meeting be cancelled; and
- 3) that a further date be sought between the January and March meetings.

**23 WORKPLAN FOR THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED** that the Workplan for Standards Committee be noted.

**24 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** that, the Committee having been satisfied that the public interest would be better served by not disclosing relevant information in accordance with the provisions of Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public shall be excluded from the remainder of meeting business because of the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, as amended.

**25 INVESTIGATION INTO COMPLAINT 04-15, 05A-15, 05B-15, 05C-15  
DUNKERTON PARISH COUNCIL**

The Chair followed the procedure where an investigating officer has been appointed (appendix 2 open).

Simon Barnes, the Investigating Officer, presented the report and outlined the complaints.

One of the subject members/complainant was present and made a statement to the Committee.

Following an adjournment where the officers and the subject member/complainant left the meeting to allow members of the Committee to consider their decision, it was

**RESOLVED** that

The Standards Committee carefully considered the complaints listed 1-12 in the report, the Investigating Officer's report, the evidence presented and the statements made at the meeting. It concluded that there was one breach of the Code of Conduct (complaint 3).

The Committee concluded that there were no breaches of the Code of Conduct in respect of all the other complaints.

As the Councillor in question was no longer a Councillor, the Committee had no power to issue any sanction.

The Committee recommended that the Parish Council and Clerk review their Standing Orders and undertake training in the Code of Conduct.

The meeting ended at 7.38 pm

Chair(person) .....

Date Confirmed and Signed .....

**Prepared by Democratic Services**