

BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THURSDAY, 26TH JUNE, 2014

PRESENT:-

Independent Members: Susan Toland (Chair), Dr Cyril Davies (Independent Member)

Parish Representatives: Tony Crouch, Veronica Packham and Axel Palmer

Bath and North East Somerset Councillors: Sally Davis, Nigel Roberts and Malcolm Lees

Officers: Vernon Hitchman (Divisional Director, Legal and Democratic Services), Amanda Brookes (Corporate and Community Law) and Sean O'Neill (Democratic Services Officer)

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Democratic Services Officer read out the procedure.

3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTION

Apologies were received from Councillors Eleanor Jackson and Sarah Bevan and from Deborah Russell.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

5 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

There was none.

6 ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC - TO RECEIVE DEPUTATIONS, STATEMENTS, PETITIONS OR QUESTIONS

There were none.

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

There were none.

8 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF: 6 FEBRUARY 2014

The public and exempt minutes of the meeting of 6 February 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

The Monitoring Officer said that the revised Policy on Indemnities for Members and Officers (Minute 96) and the summary report on complaint cases would be presented to the next meeting of the Committee.

9 INVESTIGATION INTO COMPLAINTS 21-13 & 22-13

RESOLVED that having been satisfied that the public interest would be better served by not disclosing relevant information, the Committee resolves, in accordance with the provisions of section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, that the public be excluded from the meeting for this item of 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.

The Investigating Officer presented her report.

The complainants and the subject member made statements to the Committee. Following an adjournment, the Committee **RESOLVED** as follows:

The Standards Committee has carefully considered the complaints, the Investigating Officer's report, the evidence presented and the statements made at this meeting. The Committee accepts that the discussion at the Parish Council meeting was robust, but does not find that this was sufficient to amount to a breach of the Code. The Committee reminds parish councillors that training on the Code of Conduct is readily available.

The Chair thanked the Investigating Officer for her report.

The meeting ended at 7.09 pm

Chair(person)

Date Confirmed and Signed

Prepared by Democratic Services