

BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THURSDAY, 17TH JANUARY, 2013

PRESENT:-

Independent Members: , Deborah Russell (Independent Member) and Dr Cyril Davies (Independent Member)

Parish Representatives: Axel Palmer and Tony Crouch

Bath and North East Somerset Councillors: Sally Davis, Sarah Bevan and Malcolm Lees

Officers:

59 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair, Ms Deborah Russell, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

60 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The clerk drew attention to the emergency evacuation procedure.

61 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTION

Apologies had been received from Sue Toland, B&NES councillors Eleanor Jackson and Nigel Roberts and Parish Councillors Veronica Packham, Nick Stevens, Reg Williams.

62 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

63 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

There was none.

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

There were none.

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

There were none.

66 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 13TH DECEMBER 2012

Consideration of these minutes was deferred to the next meeting of the Committee.

67 COMPLAINT AGAINST A COUNCILLOR - 10-12 B&NES

The Monitoring Officer introduced the report which detailed a complaint that alleged that Councillor X had breached the Code of Conduct.

The Chair asked the Committee Members, with reference to Appendix 1 of the report (Exclusion of access by the public to Council meetings), whether they wished the complaint to be heard in private session. On a proposal by Councillor Palmer, seconded by Councillor Bevan, it was agreed that the hearing would be heard in private.

The Committee agreed that the hearing process would follow the Local Hearings Procedure.

Following the hearing, the Committee adjourned to make its decision. The Committee then re-convened and the Chair announced the decision in the presence of the complainant and Councillor X.

Decision

- 1) With regard to the issue of Councillor X's ownership of a parcel of land, the Committee decided that he had not breached the Code of Conduct and that he should be exonerated in respect of that part of the complaint.
- 2) With regard to the issue of the house which is owned by a relative of Councillor X, the Committee found that Councillor X had failed to comply with the Code of Conduct. At the Development Control Committee on 26th September 2012, at which a planning application relating to the house was considered, Councillor X should have declared a non-disclosable pecuniary or other interest in the light of his family connection and should not have spoken or voted on the application.

The Committee therefore recommends to Council that Councillor X be censured.

The meeting ended at 6.45 pm

Chair(person)

Date Confirmed and Signed

Prepared by Democratic Services