

BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THURSDAY, 18TH JANUARY, 2018

PRESENT:-

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

Parish Representatives: Tony Crouch and Veronica Packham

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

Officers: Maria Lucas (Monitoring Officer), Simon Barnes (Investigating Officer), Jo Morrison (Democratic Services Manager)

Independent Person: Tony Drew

57 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

58 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Chair drew attention to the emergency evacuation procedure as set out on the agenda.

59 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTION

Apologies were received from Deborah Russell and Keith Betton.

60 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

61 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

There were no items of urgent business.

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

There were none.

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

There were none.

64 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 21ST SEPTEMBER 2017

These were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

65 REPORT ON THE ASSESSMENT OF COMPLAINTS

The Committee considered the Monitoring Officer's report. The Monitoring Officer updated the Committee on the latest position and responded to a couple of queries from Members.

It was then **RESOLVED** to note the report on the assessment of complaints.

66 WORKPLAN FOR THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Monitoring Officer introduced the workplan. The Committee noted the amendment needed to the November 2018 date*, and the addition of the Annual report on LGO complaints for September 2018.

It was then **RESOLVED** to note the report.

*[*Following the Committee, the date was checked and confirmed to be 22nd November 2018.]*

67 COMMISSION FOR LOCAL ADMINISTRATION IN ENGLAND (LOCAL GOVERNMENT & SOCIAL CARE OMBUDSMAN) ANNUAL REPORT & UPDATE ON DETERMINATIONS

The Monitoring Officer introduced the LGO Annual report and annual review letter. She explained the slight difference in figures arising from cases being carried over from the previous year. She commented that although there were no obvious trends or areas of particular concern, the Council was taking steps to increase the number of local resolutions. She suggested that, next year, the Committee should consider as well the total number of complaints received by the Council, most of which were resolved successfully. She concluded by reassuring the Committee that all of the actions agreed to be done by the Council with the LGO had been carried out.

It was then **RESOLVED** to note the Local Government Ombudsman Annual Review and the determinations made by the Ombudsman.

68 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

The Committee **RESOLVED** that 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 be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business and the reporting of the meeting be prevented under Section 100A(5A) 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.

69 HEARING OF COMPLAINT 9.17 BANES

Following careful consideration of all the facts in the Investigating Officer's report, and the representations from relevant parties made at the meeting, the Committee

RESOLVED that there had been a breach of the previous and the current Bath & North East Somerset Codes of Conduct on 2 counts, as set out below;

1. Councillor Pritchard did not disclose to the Development Management Committee (“DMC”) when he made representations to it in 2011, that he had a prejudicial interest in the planning application under consideration; namely, that he owned the property which was the subject of the planning application;
2. Between 30 April 2010 and 25 May 2015, Councillor Pritchard failed to list his ownership of the property on his Register of Member’s Interests.

The Committee then decided on an appropriate sanction and, following careful consideration, further

RESOLVED that Councillor Pritchard be required to make an apology to full Council at the next appropriate meeting.

In bringing the meeting to a close, the Chair thanked the Investigating Officer, Simon Barnes, for his clear report, and the Committee for their careful consideration.

The meeting ended at 7.35 pm

Chair(person)

Date Confirmed and Signed

Prepared by Democratic Services