

# **BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET**

## **STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THURSDAY, 24TH MARCH, 2011**

PRESENT:-

**Independent Members:** Susan Toland (Chair), Deborah Russell and Dr Cyril Davies

**Parish Representatives:** Councillor Robert Butt and Councillor Veronica Packham

**Bath and North East Somerset Councillors:** Eleanor Jackson and Brian Simmons

**Officers:** Vernon Hitchman ( Council Solicitor and Monitoring Officer), Debbie Incedon (Investigating Officer), Ann Swabey (Democratic Services Officer)

#### **30 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### **31 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE**

The Clerk read out the Emergency Evacuation Procedure.

#### **32 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS**

Also in attendance: Vernon Hitchman (Monitoring Officer and Council Solicitor), Debbie Incedon (Investigating Officer), Ann Swabey (Democratic Services Officer).

Apologies were received from Alun Morgan and Councillor Axel Palmer.

#### **33 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

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

The Monitoring Officer informed the meeting that, in accordance with the directions of the Referrals Sub-Committee, he had met with Councillor Brian Huggett of Englishcombe Parish Council to remind him of his obligations under the Code of Conduct. The Monitoring Officer declared he was satisfied that Councillor Huggett had understood his obligations under the Code.

#### **35 ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC - TO RECEIVE DEPUTATIONS, STATEMENTS, PETITIONS OR QUESTIONS**

There were none.

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

There were none.

**37 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 16TH DECEMBER 2010**

The public minutes were approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

**38 REFERENCE TO COMMITTEE OF INVESTIGATING OFFICER'S REPORT CONCERNING ALLEGATIONS OF BREACHES OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT BY A COUNCILLOR - CASE NO. 19-10 B&NES**

The Committee considered the factors for and against disclosure as contained in Appendix 1 to the report in order to determine whether the information contained in Appendix 2 should be exempt. Following discussions, it was decided that the session be held in private and so the decision was taken to exclude the public.

The Committee therefore **RESOLVED** that, having been satisfied that the public interest would be better served by not disclosing relevant information and 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 because of the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 2 of Part 1 of schedule 12A of Act as amended

After submissions from the Investigating Officer and questions from the Members, the Committee **RESOLVED** unanimously to accept the Investigating Officer's finding that there had not been a breach of the Code of Conduct by the subject councillor, therefore the case would not proceed to a hearing.

The meeting closed at 7.05pm.

The meeting ended at 7.05 pm

Chair(person) .....

Date Confirmed and Signed .....

**Prepared by Democratic Services**