

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

6.00 P.M.

11TH JUNE 2015

PRESENT: Councillors Colin Hartley (Chairman), Dave Brookes (substitute for Jon Barry), Roger Mace, Elizabeth Scott, Roger Sherlock, David Whitaker and Peter Yates

Independent Person:
Tony James

Apologies for Absence:
Councillor Jon Barry

Officers in attendance:
Sarah Taylor Monitoring Officer / Chief Officer (Governance)
Peter Baines Senior Democratic Support Officer

1 **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman requested nominations for the position of Vice-Chairman of the Standards Committee for the 2015/16 municipal year.

It was proposed by Councillor Yates and seconded by Councillor Whitaker that Councillor Mace be appointed to the position and, there being no further nominations, the Chairman declared the proposal to be carried.

Resolved:

That Councillor Mace be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Standards Committee for the 2015/16 municipal year.

2 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a correct record.

3 **ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIRMAN**

There were no items of urgent business.

4 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Mace declared an interest in item 7 on the agenda, the nature of his interest being that he was a member of the same political group as the subject of the report.

5 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Resolved:

That, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the

grounds that it could involve the possible disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A of that Act.

6 COMPLAINT OF BREACH OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT

The Committee considered an exempt report from an investigating officer, about a code of conduct complaint that had been lodged against a former councillor. In the course of discussion, members indicated that they accepted the investigating officer's findings that the code of conduct had been breached, and considered a subsequent course of action.

Resolved:

- (1) That the investigating officer's findings be accepted, and that the report be made public subject to redactions to safeguard personal data.
- (2) That, in accordance with the Committee's role in assisting the Council to fulfil its duty under the Localism Act 2011 to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by members, the redacted report be referred to full Council, to remind members of the requirement in the Council's code of conduct for members to notify the Monitoring Officer within 28 days of any new disclosable pecuniary interest or any change to an existing disclosable pecuniary interest, and to remind members of the Committee's expectation that any member who is the subject of a code of conduct complaint will co-operate with the investigating officer's inquiries.
- (3) That the Monitoring Officer be requested send a copy of the report to the Monitoring Officer of the County Council for the information of the County Council's Standards Committee.

Chairman

(The meeting ended at 6:35pm)

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact
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