### STANDARDS COMMITTEE

**PRESENT:-** Councillors Mandy King (Chair), Paul Anderton, Richard Austen-Baker, Tricia Heath, Jack O'Dwyer-Henry, Joanna Young and Robert Redfern (substitute for Councillor Black)

> Apologies for Absence Councillor Phillip Black

Officers in attendance:-Rephael Walmsley

Liz Bateson

Acting Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer Principal Democratic Support Officer, Democratic Services

# 1 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

The Chairman requested nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Standards Committee for the 2019/20 municipal year.

It was proposed by Councillor Heath and seconded by Councillor Young that Councillor Anderton be appointed to the position, and there being no further nominations, the Chair declared the proposal to be carried.

### Resolved:

(1) That Councillor Anderton be appointed Vice-Chair of the Standards Committee for the 2019/20 municipal year.

# 2 MINUTES

The Chairman welcomed newly elected Councillors to the Committee.

Membership of the Committee had changed since the last meetings held on 5 December 2018. Since none of the new Committee members had been members of the Committee in 2018/19, the minutes could not be agreed as a correct record.

#### Resolved:

(1) That the minutes from the meeting held on 5 December 2019 be noted.

## 3 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIR

There were no items of urgent business.

## 4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

### 6.10 P.M.

#### 5 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

That, in accordance with Section 110A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it could involve the possible disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Schedule 12 A of that Act.

#### 6 SUMMARY OF COMPLAINTS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT

The Monitoring Officer presented a report, which advised the Committee about the progress of current complaints and any other code of conduct complaints received since the last report in December 2018. The Monitoring Officer responded to a number of questions.

#### Resolved:

(1) That the report be noted.

### 7 APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS

The Monitoring Officer presented a report, which outlined the proposed steps for the recruitment of an additional Independent Person in view of one of the current appointees having indicated that he did not wish to continue in the role. It was noted that a report would be presented to full Council seeking approval to commence a recruitment process and the Standards Committee would be requested to establish an interview panel in due course. The Monitoring Officer responded to a number of questions.

#### Resolved:

- (1) That it be noted that the Monitoring Officer would seek approval of Council to recruit a further Independent Person.
- (2) That the Standards Committee be provided with further information with regard to the current Independent Persons.
- (3) That the Standards Committee be provided with further information in relation to parish and town councils.

Chair

(The meeting ended at 6.35 p.m.)

Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact Liz Bateson, Democratic Services - telephone 01524 582047, or email ebateson@lancaster.gov.uk