

Standards Committee – 27 September 2018

Minutes of the meeting of the **Standards Committee** held on **27 September 2018** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr Mrs C A Weston
Vice-Chairman: Cllr R R Dray

Cllr Mrs J R Gooding
Cllr Mrs J R Lumley

Cllr Mrs C M Mason
Cllr C M Stanley

INDEPENDENT PERSONS (INVITEES NON-VOTING)

Mr P Scott
Mr S Shadbolt
Mrs L Walker

PARISH MEMBERS (CO-OPTED NON-VOTING)

Cllr Mrs M Cohen
Cllr Mrs D A Constable

VISITING MEMBER

Cllr M J Steptoe

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs N J Hookway and R Milne.

SUBSTITUTES

Cllr D S Efde - for Cllr R Milne

OFFICERS PRESENT

R Hurst - Senior Solicitor
M Power - Democratic Services Officer

180 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2018 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

181 LOCAL INVESTIGATIONS AND DETERMINATIONS – APRIL TO SEPTEMBER 2018

The Committee received the report of the Monitoring Officer with a summary of complaints and queries received in relation to Members' behaviour under the Code of Conduct.

In response to questions, the following was noted:-

- Item 8 should be item 7.
- On some occasions we may receive an initial telephone call without providing details and, as a signposting exercise, advise callers where to find a complaint form. Anything additional to that is in the report.
- The general nature of the complaint is provided to establish where it falls within the Code. Specific detail is not provided in the report.
- The Monitoring Officer only deals with formal complaints. Where no complaint form is received but advice is given, the Monitoring Officer would not, as a matter of course, be aware of the outcome.
- The Member Training Working Group could include this report in its deliberations when determining Code of Conduct training to see if anything can be formulated within the training in terms of education and prevention.
- Future reports should not distinguish between a Town Councillor and a Parish Councillor as this could potentially identify a Councillor as a Rayleigh Town Councillor. Future reports would refer to Parish/Town Councillor.
- A specific query as to whether the Committee could be informed of the general area/locality of complaints would be referred back to the Monitoring Officer outside the meeting.

Resolved

That the summary of complaints and determinations for the period April to September 2018 be received. (ADLS)

The meeting closed at 7.41 pm.

Chairman

Date

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