

Standards Committee – 28 June 2022

Minutes of the meeting of the **Standards Committee** held on **28 June 2022** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr Mrs J E McPherson
Vice Chairman: Cllr M G Wilkinson

Cllr Mrs T L Carter
Cllr D S Efde

Cllr G W Myers
Cllr Mrs D P Squires-Coleman

INDEPENDENT PERSONS (INVITEES NON-VOTING)

Mr P Scott
Mr S Shadbolt

PARISH MEMBERS (CO-OPTED NON-VOTING)

Cllr Mrs D A Constable
Cllr Miss A Marriott

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs M Cohen.

OFFICERS PRESENT

S Summers	- Strategic Director
A Law	- Assistant Director, Legal & Democratic
W Szyszka	- Democratic Services Officer
H Lock	- Democratic Services Officer

121 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 29 March 2022 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

122 THE NEW LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT

Members received the report of the Monitoring Officer which highlighted areas covered by the new Local Government Association Model Code of Conduct.

In response to a Member question, the Monitoring Officer advised that the Council could not bring its own sanctions against Members who are in breach of the Code of Conduct, as this would require a change in the Localism Act 2011.

A Member asked whether the new code would cover an incident if a Member were to “like” a post on social media which was derogatory about another Member. The Monitoring Officer advised that retweets/liking posts bringing the

Council or a group into disrepute could constitute a breach. However, each case would be taken on its own merits.

The Chairman drew attention to the new definition of respect and the addition of bullying contained in the new LGA Model Code of Conduct. Although Members hold differing political views, this does not preclude working together more collaboratively through mutual politeness, respect and kindness to better serve the residents of the District. The Chairman proposed an additional recommendation that all Group Leaders should also pledge that all Members within their Groups should uphold the new model Code, seconded by Cllr M G Wilkinson.

Resolved

(1) That Group Leaders collectively pledge that all Members within their Groups should uphold the new Code of Conduct and that any potential local candidates and campaigners be encouraged to embrace the Nolan Principles.

(4 Members voted for and 2 abstained)

It was further:-

Resolved

(2) That Council adopts the LGA Model Code of Conduct with effect from 1 August 2022.

(4 Members voted for and 2 abstained)

Chairman

Date

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