



Civic Centre,
Arnot Hill Park,
Arnold,
Nottinghamshire,
NG5 6LU

Agenda

Standards Committee

Date: **Thursday 27 August 2015**

Time: **4.30 pm**

Place: **Committee Room**

For any further information please contact:

Helen Barrington

Council Solicitor and Monitoring Officer

0115 901 3901

Standards Committee

Membership

Chair Councillor Emily Bailey

Vice-Chair Councillor Michael Payne

Councillor Alan Bexon
Councillor Andrew Ellwood
Councillor Colin Powell
Mr. G. Wallis

AGENDA

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- 2 To approve, as a correct record, the minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2015.** 5 - 6
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Report of the Council Solicitor and Monitoring Officer
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MINUTES STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Wednesday 29 July 2015

Councillor Emily Bailey (Chair)

Councillor Andrew Ellwood

Councillor Boyd Elliott

Apologies for absence: Councillor Michael Payne, Councillor Alan Bexon,
Councillor Colin Powell and Mr. G. Wallis

Independent Person: Mr. J. Baggaley

Officers in Attendance: H Barrington

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Payne and Powell and Mr Wallis.

Councillor Elliott attended as a substitute for Councillor Bexon, who gave his apologies.

2 TO APPROVE, AS A CORRECT RECORD, THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26 FEBRUARY 2015.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the above meeting, having been circulated, be approved as a correct record subject to the following amendment:

1. That John Baggaley, Independent Person, be noted as present.

3 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.

None.

4 CODE OF CONDUCT TRAINING FOLLOWING THE MAY 2015 ELECTIONS.

Consideration was given to a report of the Council Solicitor and Monitoring Officer, which had been circulated prior to the meeting, informing members of the Standards Committee about the code of conduct training delivered to Borough Councillors following the elections in May 2015 and seeking comments on training to be offered to Parish Councils.

RESOLVED:

1. To note the report;
2. Agree that the Council Solicitor and Monitoring Officer should write to the Parish Council Clerks on behalf of the Standards Committee expressing disappointment at the lack of response to the training offered; and
3. Agree that code of conduct training should be offered to Parish Councils again.

5 GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY 2014/15.

Consideration was given to a report of the Council Solicitor and Monitoring Officer, which had been circulated prior to the meeting, informing members of the Standards Committee of gifts and hospitality received between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2015.

RESOLVED:

To note the report.

6 RECRUITMENT OF CO-OPTED PARISH REPRESENTATIVES.

Consideration was given to a report of the Council Solicitor and Monitoring Officer, which had been circulated prior to the meeting, seeking approval to set up an interview panel to interview candidates for the 2 vacant posts of co-opted parish representatives.

RESOLVED :

1. To agree to set up an interview panel, consisting of Councillors Payne, Powell and Ellwood and Mr Wallis (if he is available) to interview candidates for the vacant posts of co-opted parish representatives and make recommendations about appointments to the Standards Committee; and
2. That the interview panel shall be able to interview candidates and make recommendations to appoint to any future vacancies for co-opted members or independent persons.

7 ANY OTHER ITEM WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT.

None.

The meeting finished at 7.00 pm
Signed by Chair:
Date:



Report to Standards Committee

Subject: Recruitment of co-opted parish representatives

Date: 27 August 2015

Author: Council Solicitor and Monitoring Officer

1. Purpose of the Report

To recommend to Council that Pat Woodfield, Councillor for Woodborough Parish Council and John Bailey, Councillor for Calverton Parish Council should be co-opted on to the Standards Committee to fill the 2 vacant posts of co-opted parish representatives.

2. Background

2.1 Members will recall that at the Standards Committee meeting on 29 July 2015 it was agreed that an interview panel comprising Councillors Payne, Powell and Ellwood and Gordon Wallis (if available) be set up to interview candidates for the vacant posts of co-opted parish representatives.

2.2 The 4 applicants were interviewed by the interview panel on 18 August 2015.

2.3 The interview panel recommends that Pat Woodfield, Councillor for Woodborough Parish Council and John Bailey, Councillor for Calverton Parish Council should be co-opted on to the Standards Committee to fill the 2 vacant posts of co-opted parish representatives. In view of the fact that these are new appointments, the interview panel also recommends that they are co-opted until the next annual meeting and that the panel should review whether the co-option should continue.

3. Proposal

3.1 It is proposed that the Standards Committee recommends to Council that Pat Woodfield, Councillor for Woodborough Parish Council and John Bailey, Councillor for Calverton Parish Council should be co-opted on to the Standards Committee to fill the 2 vacant posts of co-opted parish representatives until the next annual meeting.

- 3.2 It is also proposed that the Standards Committee delegates authority to the interview panel to review the appointments prior to the next annual council. The panel can then recommend to Council whether the co-option should continue.

4. Financial Implications

On appointment, the co-opted members will be entitled to receive the co-opted members' allowance agreed as part of the Members' Allowances Scheme, which is currently set at £628.89 per annum.

5. Appendices

None.

6. Background papers

None identified.

7. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee:

7.1 recommends to Council that Pat Woodfield, Councillor for Woodborough Parish Council and John Bailey, Councillor for Calverton Parish Council should be co-opted on to the Standards Committee to fill the 2 vacant posts of co-opted parish representatives until the next annual meeting; and

7.2 delegates authority to the interview panel to review the appointments prior to the next annual meeting and recommend to Council whether the co-option should continue.



Report to Standards Committee

Subject: Code of Conduct Complaints

Date: 27 August 2015

Author: Council Solicitor and Monitoring Officer

1. Purpose of the Report

To inform members of the Standards Committee of complaints received between 1 February 2015 and 31 July 2015.

2. Background

Members of the Standards Committee are aware the Council approved a Code of Conduct and arrangements for dealing with allegations of a breach of the Code of Conduct in July 2012. Since 1 February 2015, the Monitoring Officer has received one complaint alleging a breach of the Code of Conduct by a Borough Councillor. A brief summary of the details of the complaint is attached at Appendix 1. In view of the fact that the identity of the Councillor and complainant could be ascertained from the details of the complaint, a fuller account of the complaint for the benefit of the members of the Committee is contained within an exempt appendix. There are no complaints pending.

3. Proposal

It is proposed that the Committee notes the report.

4. Financial Implications

None.

5. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Brief Summary of the Code of Conduct complaint.

Exempt Appendix – NOT FOR PUBLICATION - Summary of the Code of Conduct complaint.

6. Background papers

None identified.

7. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee notes the report.

Reference: S589/15/01

The complaint was made about a Borough Councillor by a member of the public. The complainant complains that:

In approximately August/September 2013, Councillor Y:

- *verbally attacked the complainant's wife and was very aggressive although the exact words used are not clear as nearly 19 months ago.*
- *shouted and waved his arms around when questioning the complainant's wife about a garden fire.*
- *when asked to vacate the complainant's land replied with a "Do you know who I am" type statement.*

In April 2015, Councillor Y persistently questioned the complainant's wife about an empty 45 gallon drum implying from its position, near to trees, that the complainant was in some way trying to do something untoward, with regards to the wellbeing of the trees.

Councillor Y has driven past the complainant's house on several occasions from Mid 2014 to April 2015 and has knowingly breaking the law by accessing a private right of way.

Councillor Y's account of the incidents differs to that of the complainant. Councillor Y states that he has only ever met the complainant twice and only spoken to him on one of those occasions. He has never met or spoken to the complainant's wife. Councillor Y denies that the incidents in the complaint have occurred and instead has provided a detailed account of the two occasions he met the complainant. Councillor Y confirms that he has driven passed the complainant's property on several occasions at different times of the day, often in response to concerns raised by residents. Councillor Y confirms that he understands that the roads mentioned in the complaint are unadopted, but that there are no signs saying they are private roads.

After consultation with the Independent Person, the Monitoring Officer has decided to take no further action in relation to the complaint on the basis that:

- 3 alleged incidents occurred 18 months before the complaint was made. A significant period of time has elapsed since these events and if they were that serious, it is reasonable to expect the complainant to have made a complaint promptly.
- Where there are no witnesses, it is unlikely that an investigation will be able to come to a firm conclusion on the matters.
- The complaint has not met the threshold to demonstrate a potential breach of the Code.

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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