

**MINUTES  
STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**Thursday 12 March 2020**

Councillor Michael Boyle (Chair)

Councillor Andrew Ellwood  
Councillor Mike Hope  
Councillor Simon Murray

Councillor Martin Smith  
Rosalie Hawks

Absent: Councillor Michael Payne, Councillor Pat Bosworth  
and Patricia Woodfield

Officers in Attendance: H Barrington

Independent Person: John Baggaley and Susan Dewey (Reserve)

**15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS.**

Apologies were received from Councillors Bosworth and Payne and Patricia Woodfield.

**16 TO APPROVE, AS A CORRECT RECORD, THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26 SEPTEMBER 2019.**

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the above meeting, having been circulated, be approved as a correct record.

**17 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.**

None.

**18 UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BEST PRACTICE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE REPORT - REVIEW OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ETHICAL STANDARDS.**

*Rosalie Hawks joined the meeting*

The Director of Organisational Development and Democratic Services introduced a report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, updating members in relation to progress against the agreed action plan to implement the best practice recommendations set out in the Committee on Standards in Public Life report

**RESOLVED THAT:**

- 1) The progress made to implement the best practice recommendations set out in the Committee on Standards in Public Life report at Appendix 1 be noted;
- 2) A working group be set up comprising Councillors Boyle, Towsey-Hinton, Hope, Smith or Murray depending on availability, Rosalie Hawks and John Baggaley to give views on an appropriate response to the consultation being carried out by the Local Government Association on a model Code of Conduct; and
- 3) The Monitoring Officer in consultation with the working group be authorised to prepare the consultation response to the Local Government Association in relation to the model Code of Conduct on behalf of the Standards Committee.

## **19 BULLYING AND INTIMIDATION OF ELECTED MEMBERS**

The Director of Organisational Development and Democratic Services introduced a report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, updating members in relation to responses received from councillors about bullying and intimidation experienced and the actions the Government, the Committee on Standards in Public Life and the Local Government Association have taken to tackle intimidation in public life.

### **RESOLVED THAT:**

- 1) The actions by the Government, the Committee on Standards in Public Life and the Local government Association to tackle intimidation in public life is noted; and
- 2) The Local Government Association Councillors' guide to handling intimidation is circulated to all Members, shared with Parish Clerks for circulation to Parish Councillors, included in induction training for Members following future borough elections and saved in a location where Members can readily access it.

## **20 MEMBERSHIP OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE AND REVIEW OF INDEPENDENT PERSON REMUNERATION**

*John Baggaley and Susan Dewey left the meeting for consideration of this item as it relates to their remuneration.*

The Director of Organisational Development and Democratic Services introduced a report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, proposing a review of the membership of the Standards Committee and remuneration payable to the Independent Person and reserve.

**RESOLVED THAT:**

- 1) Standards Committee recommends to Council that the vacant co-opted parish representative post be removed from the Committee; and
- 2) Standards Committee recommends to Council that with effect from 1 April 2020 the remuneration paid to the Independent Person and the reserve Independent Person shall increase to £860 per annum and £400 per annum respectively.

**21 ANY OTHER ITEM WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT.**

None.

**22 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED:**

That, Members being satisfied that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information that under Section 100(a)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the ensuing report on the grounds that the confidential appendix would involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1 and 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972.

**23 CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS UPDATE**

The Director of Organisational Development and Democratic Services introduced a report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, providing information about code of conduct complaints received between 17 September 2019 and 2 March 2020.

**RESOLVED THAT:**

- 1) The report be noted; and
- 2) The Chair of the Standards Committee to write to all group leaders to remind Members not to use the code of conduct complaints process for politically motivated complaints.

The meeting finished at 7.10 pm

Signed by Chair:  
Date: