

MEMBER CONDUCT COMMITTEE
5TH JUNE 2023

PRESENT: The Chair (Councillor Goode)

Councillors Brookes, Dent, B. Gray, Matthews,
Roberts and Woodward
Councillors Ellingworth and Jones (Parish
Members)

Head of Governance and Human Resources
Democratic Services Officer (NC)

APOLOGIES: Councillor Bradshaw and Ball (Parish Member)

The Chair stated that the meeting would be recorded and the sound recording subsequently made available via the Council's website. She also advised that, under the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014, other people may film, record, tweet or blog from this meeting, and the use of any such images or sound recordings was not under the Council's control.

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 28th November 2022 were confirmed as a true record on the basis that current members had no reason to believe otherwise.

2. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS, AND OTHER REGISTRABLE AND NON-REGISTRABLE INTERESTS

No disclosures were made.

3. QUESTIONS UNDER COMMITTEE PROCEDURE 12.8

No questions had been received.

4. UPDATE ON COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

Considered a report of the Monitoring Officer providing an updated on complaints received about breaches of the Members' Code of Conduct and any issues arising from those complaints (item 5 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

The Monitoring Officer presented the report and provided a brief overview. With reference to Appendix B he noted that at a previous meeting the Committee had resolved to publish fact finding summaries on the Council's website including the name of the Council but not the councillors involved.

RESOLVED that the current position in respect of complaint about breaches of the Code of Conduct that have been received be noted.

Reason

To keep the Committee informed about complaints.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Considered a report of the Monitoring Officer enabling the Committee to agree a work programme to plan its future business (item 6 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

The Monitoring Officer suggested the Committee may wish to consider receiving a Member Briefing after its meeting in September regarding Member Conduct Panels.

He also provided an update regarding the two items on the work programme that were yet to be scheduled, noting that the recommendations made by the Committee on Standards in Public Life had been made to the Government several years ago and to date the Government had provided a holding response indicating it did not consider any requirement for amendment in the near future. The Committee could continue to include the items on the programme as a reminder or remove from the programme and ask the Monitoring Officer to bring future updates as appropriate to the Committee.

RESOLVED

1. that a Member Briefing regarding Member Conduct Panels be arranged after the Committee's meeting scheduled to be held on 18th September 2023;
2. that the two items on the work programme yet to be scheduled be removed;
3. that the Committee's current work programme be noted and updated in accordance with the decisions taken during the consideration of this item and other items on the agenda.

Reasons

1. As the membership of the Committee had changed it was considered beneficial for the Committee to receive a briefing in this matter.
2. The Committee considered it would be acceptable to remove from the work programme and ask the Monitoring Officer to provide future updates.
3. To enable the Committee to fulfil its role in promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by councillors and co-opted members.

NOTES:

1. No reference may be made to these minutes at the next ordinary Council meeting unless notice to that effect is given to the Democratic Services Manager by five members of the Council by noon on the fifth working day following publication of these minutes.

2. Councillor Jones (non-voting Parish Member) attended the meeting virtually.
3. These minutes are subject to confirmation as a correct record at the next meeting of the Member Conduct Committee.