

**MEMBER CONDUCT COMMITTEE  
4TH DECEMBER 2023**

PRESENT: The Chair (Councillor Goode)  
Councillors Jackson, Matthews and Roberts  
Councillors Ball and Ellingworth (Parish Member)

Head of Planning and Growth  
Democratic Services Manager  
Democratic Services Officer (NC)

APOLOGIES: Councillor Bradshaw, Brookes, Dent and  
Woodward

Cllr Woodward's apologies were sent before the meeting but not seen until after the meeting.

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.

11. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th September 2023 were confirmed as a true record and signed.

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

No disclosures were made.

13. QUESTIONS UNDER COMMITTEE PROCEDURE 12.8

No questions had been received.

14. MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT AND PLANNING CODE OF GOOD PRACTICE

Considered a report of the Deputy Monitoring Officer providing the Committee with a briefing about the annual review of the Council's Constitution.

The Head of Planning and Regrowth attended the meeting virtually to assist in its consideration.

The Deputy Monitoring Officer, in referencing the role of the Committee, noted that councillors had been consulted on any changes they may have wished to propose but that she had not received any proposals. The Planning Service Review 2023 had put forward several suggestions and these amendments had been agreed by Cabinet and Full Council and came into effect on 1st December 2023.

**RESOLVED** that the Committee noted the report.

Reason

To enable the Committee's views to form part of the annual review of the Council's Constitution.

15. UPDATE ON COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

Considered a report of the Deputy Monitoring Officer providing an update on complaints received about breaches of the members' Code of Conduct and any issues arising from those complaints (item 6 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

The Deputy Monitoring Officer noted that since the last meeting there had been one Parish Council complaint that was still in the fact finding stage.

**RESOLVED** that the current position in respect of complaints about breaches of the Members' Code of Conduct that have been received be noted.

Reason

To keep the Committee informed about complaints.

16. MCC WORK PROGRAMME

Considered a report of the Deputy Monitoring Officer enabling the Committee to agree a work programme to plan its future business (item 7 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

The Deputy Monitoring Officer proposed that the Regular Review of Members Code of Conduct and Planning Code item on the work programme be updated to include a list of the protocols that were under the remit of the Committee and that the Review of the Constitution item be removed.

**RESOLVED**

1. that the Regular Review of the Members Code of Conduct and Planning Code be updated from two yearly to an annual review;
2. that the Committee's current work programme be noted and updated in accordance with decisions taken during the consideration of this item and other items on the agenda.

Reasons

1. Members considered it would be beneficial to review these protocols and others under its remit on a more frequent basis.

2. To enable the Committee to identify future items of business and enable planning for future meetings to be undertaken.

NOTES:

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