

COUNCIL – 24TH JUNE 2019

Report of the Monitoring Officer

Part A

ITEM 6.1 APPOINTMENTS OF CO-OPTED PARISH MEMBERS OF THE MEMBER CONDUCT COMMITTEE

Purpose of Report

To enable the Council to make appointments of co-opted parish members of the Member Conduct Committee following the parish and town council elections in May 2019.

Recommendations

1. That Councillor Victoria (Vicky) Ball, a member of Anstey Parish Council, and Councillor Dennis Marchant, a member of Quorn Parish Council, be re-appointed as non-voting co-opted parish members of the Member Conduct Committee for a period of four years or until they cease to be a parish councillor, whichever is the sooner.
2. That the appointment of a further non-voting co-opted parish member of the Member Conduct Committee for a period of four years or until they cease to be a parish councillor, whichever is the sooner, be considered once interviews have taken place.

Reasons

1. To fill two of the three vacancies for co-opted parish members of the Committee, who provide the opportunity for parish and town councillors to contribute to the work of the Committee, which have arisen at the end of the term of office of Councillor Ball's and Councillor Marchant's previous appointments.
2. To fill the third of the three vacancies for co-opted parish members of the Committee, who provide the opportunity for parish and town councillors to contribute to the work of the Committee, which has arisen following the retirement of the previous appointee.

Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

The Localism Act 2011 introduced a new system for dealing with the conduct of elected and co-opted members of local authorities. As a result, the Council adopted its own new arrangements on 25th June 2012 which came into force on 1st July 2012. In order to address the concerns of parish and town councils about the loss of representation under the system set out in the Localism Act, the Council resolved to co-opt three non-voting parish members to the new Member Conduct Committee which was established (minute 17.3 refers). The

term of office of the previously appointed members ran until 28th June 2019, creating three vacancies.

Implementation Timetable including Future Decisions and Scrutiny

Previous appointments of parish members of the Member Conduct Committee have been made for a period until just after the next parish and town council elections. This follows the pattern established for the previous Standards Committee of four-year terms running in parallel with the election cycle for parish and town councils. It is recommended that the new appointments are made to come to an end shortly after the next parish and town council elections in May 2023.

Report Implications

Financial Implications

There is an allowance of £258 per annum payable to co-opted parish members. The cost will be met from the existing members' allowances budget.

Risk Management

No specific risks have been identified in connection with this report.

Background Papers: None

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Part B

Process for Making Recommendations for Appointment

1. Two of the previous three parish members of the Member Conduct Committee remain as parish councillors and both have expressed an interest in continuing to be parish members of the Member Conduct Committee. In consultation with the Chair and Vice-chair of the Committee, the Monitoring Officer has concluded that further interviews were not required and that both Councillor Ball and Councillor Marchant should be recommended for re-appointment.
2. In order to fill the third vacancy, information about the role of parish member of the Member Conduct Committee was circulated to all parish and town councils in the Borough. Three expressions of interest were received as a result of advertising the role in this way.
3. A panel comprising the Chair and Vice-chair of the Member Conduct Committee will undertake interviews on the afternoon of 14th June 2019 with the parish councillors who had expressed an interest in the role, and the recommended appointment will be set out in a supplementary report.

Information about Parish/Town Councillors Recommended for Appointment

4. The following parish/town councillors are recommended for appointment as parish members of the Member Conduct Committee:

Councillor Victoria (Vicky) Ball

Councillor Ball is a current parish member of the Member Conduct Committee, having been appointed in February 2018. Vicky Ball was elected as a parish councillor for Anstey Parish Council in May 1999. In her time as a councillor she has served on many committees, and is currently a member of the Finance and Projects Committee and the Staffing and Events Committee.

She was previously the Chair of the Events Committee and focused on community engagement initiatives that would benefit the people of Anstey. This included organising yearly litter picking with the Scouts and other groups, the Christmas lights in the village, hanging baskets, a party for nonagenarians to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday and family Picnics in the Park, as well as many other events.

She has always been involved in village life beginning with organising coffee mornings on behalf of the National Childbirth Trust for new mothers, the Scouts Committee, events secretary of the PTA at Woolden Hill School, secretary of Anstey Community Action and lately a member of the Anstey Christmas Gala Committee. She is also a trustee and Secretary of Anstey Town Charity, a local charity that supports Anstey groups by giving out grants.

She is a retired teacher, having worked for over 20 years at a large, inner city primary school, Catherine Junior School in Belgrave, Leicester, where she was responsible for Information Technology across the school. She was also a teacher-governor for 10 years.

Councillor Dennis Marchant

Councillor Marchant is a current parish member of the Member Conduct Committee having been appointed in November 2017. Councillor Marchant became a member of Quorn Parish Council in May 2016 and has undertaken a range of training since then. He was elected Chair of the Parish Council in May 2019. Through his work in the aircraft industry, and in particular ensuring the airworthiness of aircraft, Councillor Marchant had experience of the auditing and monitoring of aircraft, aircraft operators, maintenance and production organisations. In addition, while employed by the Civil Aviation Authority he carried out the training of new employees, including on the CAA Code of Conduct, and participated in maintenance related investigations of Mandatory Occurrence Reports and for the UK Confidential Reporting Programme for Aviation.

5. Details of the third recommendation for appointment will be set out in a supplementary report to be issued once interviews have taken place.