

HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
STANDARDS SUB-COMMITTEE

Held at the Council Chamber
The Symington Building, Adam & Eve Street,
Market Harborough, LE16 7AG

On Wednesday 8th September 2021

Commencing at 6.30pm.

Present:

Cllr Dr Bremner (Chairman)

Councillors: Burrell, Hollick, Johnson and Nunn.

Officers: S. Green, N. Kwasa, S. Patel and V. Wenham.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE YEAR 2021/22

RESOLVED: that Councillor Dr Bremner be elected as Chairman of the Sub-Committee for the year 2021/22.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR THE YEAR 2020/21

RESOLVED: that Councillor Nunn be appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Sub-Committee for the year 2021/22.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Dunton who was substituted by Cllr Burrell.

DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Verina Wenham, Director Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer, declared an interest in Complaints SC/60 and SC/61. She noted that, having presented SC/63 she would then leave the meeting for the remaining items and that any further advising would be undertaken by the Deputy Monitoring Officer who would be presenting the complaints.

SECTION 100A (4) LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

It was RESOLVED: That the public and press be excluded from the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that the matters yet to be discussed involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1 & 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER – COMPLAINT SC/63

The Sub-Committee considered the report and its appendices which related to a complaint about the conduct of a District Councillor. The Chairman drew the Sub-Committee's attention to the exempt appendices attached to the report.

The Monitoring Officer introduced the report and explained that she had received a complaint, had contacted the Subject Member and had decided to appoint an Independent Person to review material relating to the complaints, as well as taking independent legal advice regarding the complaint.

The Monitoring Officer outlined the three courses of action that were open to the Sub-Committee regarding each of the complaints:

- No action
- Informal resolution
- Refer for investigation

The Sub-Committee considered the details of the Council's Code of Conduct, the complaint and supporting documentation, the Subject Member's responses to the complaints and the comments of the Independent Person and independent legal advice.

The Sub-Committee, having considered the complaints and assessment criteria;

RESOLVED that no further action regarding Complaint SC/63 be taken.

Verina Wenham, Director Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer, left the meeting.

REPORT OF THE DEPUTY MONITORING OFFICER – COMPLAINT SC/60

The Sub-Committee considered the report and its appendices which related to a complaint about the conduct of a District Councillor. The Chairman drew the Sub-Committee's attention to the exempt appendices attached to the report.

The Deputy Monitoring Officer introduced the report and explained that he had received a complaint, had contacted the Subject Member and had decided to appoint an Independent Person to review material relating to the complaints, as well as taking independent legal advice regarding the complaint.

The Deputy Monitoring Officer outlined the three courses of action that were open to the Sub-Committee regarding each of the complaints:

- No action
- Informal resolution
- Refer for investigation

The Sub-Committee considered the details of the Council's Code of Conduct, the complaint and supporting documentation, including the Protocol on Member and Officer Relations (on the advice of the Independent Person), the Subject Member's responses to the complaints and the comments of the Independent Person and independent legal advice. During the discussion the Deputy Monitoring Officer confirmed the rules of procedure regarding points of order requests and their priority within a council meeting, along with the position of the Chairman, and AGREED to circulate a briefing to all Members in relation to this.

The Sub-Committee, having considered the complaints and assessment criteria;

RESOLVED that no further action regarding Complaint SC/60 be taken.

REPORT OF THE DEPUTY MONITORING OFFICER – COMPLAINT SC/61

The Sub-Committee considered the report and its appendices which related to a complaint about the conduct of a District Councillor. The Chairman drew the Sub-Committee's attention to the exempt appendices attached to the report.

The Deputy Monitoring Officer introduced the report and explained that he had received a complaint, had contacted the Subject Member and had decided to appoint an Independent Person to review material relating to the complaints.

The Deputy Monitoring Officer outlined the three courses of action that were open to the Sub-Committee regarding each of the complaints:

- No action
- Informal resolution
- Refer for investigation

The Sub-Committee considered the details of the Council's Code of Conduct, the complaint and supporting documentation, the Subject Member's responses to the complaints and the comments of the Independent Person.

The Sub-Committee, having considered the complaints and assessment criteria;

RESOLVED that no further action regarding Complaint SC/61 be taken.

The Meeting finished at 7.20pm.