

HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
STANDARDS SUB-COMMITTEE

held remotely

15th October 2020

commencing at 7.22p.m.

Present:

Cllr Dr Bremner (Chairman)(until 7.53pm).

Councillors: Dunton, Graves, Hollick and Nunn.

Officers: V. Wenham (until 7.53pm), S. Patel and P. Storey.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE YEAR 2020/21

RESOLVED: that Councillor Dr Bremner be elected as Chairman of the Sub-Committee for the year 2020/21.

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 2020/21.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mrs Butcher, Mr Gair and Mrs McDonagh (Parish members)..

DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Councillor Dr Bremner declared an interest in the report of the Monitoring Officer – Complaint SC/58. He stated that he would leave the meeting for this item and that the Vice-chairman would take the Chair.

Councillor Nunn declared an interest in the report of the Monitoring Officer – Complaint SC/57. She stated that she would leave the meeting for this item.

Verina Wenham, Monitoring Officer, stated for reasons of transparency that she had not dealt with Complaint SC/58, which had been dealt with by the Deputy Monitoring Officer, and that she would leave the meeting for this item.

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.

Councillor Nunn left the meeting at 7.27pm.

REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER – COMPLAINT SC/57

Note: Councillor Nunn, having declared an interest, left the meeting and took no part in the consideration of, or voting on, Complaint SC/57.

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.

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

- No action
- Other action such as training, support, mediation
- 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 with reference to the views of the Independent Person and assessment criteria,

RESOLVED that:

1. Further information be requested from the complainant and that the County Archaeologist be contacted, within a two week deadline;
2. Subject to that information, authority be delegated to the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Chairman of the Sub-Committee, regarding further action.

Councillor Dr Bremner and Verina Wenham, Monitoring Officer, left the meeting at 7.53pm.

Councillor Nunn returned to the meeting at 7.55pm.

REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER – COMPLAINT SC/58

Notes:

1. Councillor Dr Bremner, having declared an interest, left the meeting and took no part in the consideration of, or voting on, Complaint SC/58. The chair was taken by the Vice-Chairman for this item.
2. Verina Wenham, Monitoring Officer, having declared that she had taken no part in the report on this item left the meeting for this item.

The Sub-Committee considered the report and its appendices which related to a complaint about the conduct of a District Councillor. The Vice-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

- Other action such as training, support, mediation
- 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 with reference to the views of the Independent Person and assessment criteria,

RESOLVED that: Complaint SC/58 be referred for Investigation.

The Meeting ended at 8.08 p.m.