

Minutes of a meeting of the Standards Committee on Wednesday 23 November 2022

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Committee members present:

Councillor Djafari-Marbini (remote attendance)	Councillor Humberstone (Vice-Chair) (remote attendance)
Councillor Muddiman	Councillor Pressel (Chair)
Councillor Snowton	Councillor Diggins
Councillor Fry (for Councillor Thomas)	

Officers present for all or part of the meeting:

Emma Griffiths, Legal Adviser
Lucy Brown, Committee & Member Services Officer

Apologies:

Councillors Thomas sent apologies.

Substitutes are shown above.

9. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

10. Code of Conduct: summary of complaints and individual dispensations - 1 June 2022 until 1 October 2022

The Standards Committee noted the contents of the report and made the following comments:

- Rewording of paragraph 9 to read 'The Monitoring Officer considered that the complaints were minor allegations, which had been resolved between the Councillors via the social media site, and there would not be sufficient public interest to justify the time and costs involved in an investigation into this matter.'
- In regards to Complaint #0018644, requested confirmation that social media training had taken place – to be reported to the next Committee. **(ACTION)**
- In regards to Complaint #0017352, the Committee requested confirmation that the first three recommendations have been acted upon by the Littlemore Parish Council – to be reported at the next Committee meeting. **(ACTION)**
- Following consideration of the sanctions applied to Complaint #0017352, the Committee questioned whether it would be appropriate in future cases to include an additional sanction - requesting that Parish Councils also publish decision notices

about this Parish Councillors on their websites. Emma Griffiths, Legal Adviser, advised that this would be considered by the Monitoring Officer for future cases.

- The report table in Paragraph 4 include an additional column to report on the status of each complaint for clarity. **(ACTION)**

Emma Griffiths, informed the Committee that whilst paragraph 14 of the report stated that the general dispensation granted to individual members under Section 33 of the Localism Act 2011 had expired on 30 September 2022, an extension had been agreed at Council on 21 March 2022 as part of the annual Constitution Review for 2021/22. The Committee noted the Council resolution to extend the dispensations in Part 22.5(e) of the Constitution granted under section 33 of the Localism Act 2011 for a further four years from 1 October 2022.

11. Minutes of the previous meeting

The Committee agreed to **approve** the minutes of the meeting held on 11 July 2022 as a true and accurate record.

The Committee agreed to **approve** the minutes of the Local Panel Hearing held on 13 October 2022 as a true and accurate record.

12. Dates of future meetings

The Committee noted the dates and times of future meetings.

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 6.20 pm

Chair

Date: 22 March 2023

When decisions take effect:

Cabinet: after the call-in and review period has expired

Planning Committees: after the call-in and review period has expired and the formal decision notice is issued

All other committees: immediately.

Details are in the Council's Constitution.