

Standards Assessment Sub-Committee

**MINUTES OF THE STANDARDS ASSESSMENT SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON 25 NOVEMBER 2021 AT WEST WILTSHIRE ROOM - COUNTY HALL,
BYTHESEA ROAD, TROWBRIDGE, BA14 8JN.**

Present:

Cllr Ernie Clark (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Ruth Hopkinson (Chairman), Cllr Sam Pearce-Kearney and Cllr Trevor Carbin (Substitute), Kathy Barnes (non-voting), Julie Philips (non-voting)

Also Present:

Tony Drew (Independent Person, Frank Cain (Head of Legal Services), Lisa Alexander (Acting Senior Democratic Services Officer), Llew De Souza (Complainant)

31 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from:

- Cllr Richard Britton
- Cllr Gordon King – who was substituted by Cllr Trevor Carbin

32 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 October 2021 were presented for consideration, and it was,

Resolved:

To approve and sign the minutes as a true and correct record.

33 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations.

34 **Meeting Procedure and Assessment Criteria**

The meeting procedure and assessment criteria for the meeting were noted.

35 **Exclusion of the Public**

It was,

Resolved:

To agree that in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the public from the meeting for the business specified in Minute Numbers 41-46, because it is likely that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act and the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information to the public.

36 **Assessment of Complaint: COC136344**

In considering complaint COC136344 the Sub-Committee were satisfied that the initial tests of the assessment criteria had been met, including that the Subject Member was a member for the period of allegations and remains a member of Brinkworth Parish Council, that a copy of the relevant Code of Conduct was provided for the assessment, and that they were acting in their capacity as a Member during some aspects of the various alleged actions.

The Sub-Committee therefore had to decide whether the alleged behaviour would, if proven, amount to a breach of that Code of Conduct. Further, if it was felt it would be a breach, whether it was still appropriate under the assessment criteria to refer the matter for investigation.

In reaching its decision, the Sub-Committee took into account the original complaint and supporting information, the response of the Subject Member, and the report of the Monitoring Officer.

The Sub-Committee also considered a written statement from the Subject Member and a verbal statement from the Complainant provided at the Assessment Sub-Committee meeting.

After discussion, it was:

Resolved:

In accordance with the approved arrangements for resolving standards complaints adopted by Council on 9 July 2019, which came into effect on 1 January 2020 and after hearing from the Independent Person, the Assessment Sub-Committee determined to refer the complaint for investigation.

(Duration of meeting: 10.30 - 11.07 am)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Lisa Alexander of Democratic Services, direct line 01722 434560, e-mail lisa.alexander@wiltshire.gov.uk

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