

Standards Assessment Sub-Committee

MINUTES OF THE STANDARDS ASSESSMENT SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 23 JUNE 2020 AT ONLINE MEETING.

Present:

Cllr Ruth Hopkinson (Chairman), Cllr Ernie Clark (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Richard Britton, Cllr Fred Westmoreland, Cllr Stuart Wheeler, Mr Richard Baxter (non-voting), Mr Michael Lockhart (non-voting) and Mr Tony Drew (Non-voting - Independent Person, Sub-Committee)

Also Present:

Subject Member (COC128184 and COC128187), Mr Stuart Middleton (Independent Person, Subject Member)

1 **Election of Chairman**

Resolved:

To elect Councillor Ruth Hopkinson as Chairman for the forthcoming year.

2 **Election of Vice-Chairman**

Resolved:

To elect Councillor Ernie Clark as Vice-Chairman for the forthcoming year.

3 **Apologies**

There were no apologies.

4 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations.

5 **Meeting Procedure and Assessment Criteria**

The procedure and assessment criteria were noted.

6 **Exclusion of the Public**

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 Item Numbers 7 onwards, 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.

Paragraph 1 - information relating to an individual

7 Assessment of Complaint: COC128184

In considering complaint COC128184 the Sub-Committee were satisfied that the initial tests of the assessment criteria had been met, including that the member was and remains a member of the relevant Parish Council, and that a copy of the relevant Code of Conduct was provided for the assessment.

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 received a verbal statement from the Subject Member and a written statement from the Complainant, who was not in attendance.

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.

8 Assessment of Complaint: COC128187

In considering complaint COC128187 the Sub-Committee were satisfied that the initial tests of the assessment criteria had been met, including that the member was and remains a member of the relevant Parish Council, and that a copy of the relevant Code of Conduct was provided for the assessment.

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 received a verbal statement from the Subject Member and a written statement from the Complainant, who was not in attendance.

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: 14.35 – 15.40)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Kieran Elliott of Democratic Services, direct line 01225 718504, e-mail kieran.elliott@wiltshire.gov.uk

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