

EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Standards Committee held in the Coltman VC Room at the Town Hall, Burton upon Trent on Monday 9th March 2020.

Present:

Councillors Mrs J Killoran (Chairman), D F Fletcher, M Metcalfe and C Sylvester.

Officers Present:

Mrs A Wakefield (Solicitor and Monitoring Officer) and Mrs M Henchcliffe (Senior Democratic Services Officer).

Also Present:

Mrs A Trenergy and Mr W Qneibi (Parish Councillors).

Apologies:

Mr G Goodall (Independent Person)

10/20 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest at the commencement of the meeting.

11/20 **MINUTES**

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th January 2020 be approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

12/20 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business pursuant to Rule 12.

13/20 **MONITORING OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT**

(MO) Members considered the report of the Monitoring Officer on the annual review of the arrangements for the discharge of the Monitoring Officer's duties and proposals for amendments.

The Monitoring Officer informed Members that since the last annual report in February 2019 the Council had received the following member conduct complaint:

Two formal complaints about possible breaches of the Code of Conduct and the Social Media Code by one member of the Borough Council (now an ex-Councillor). The Councillor had declined the Monitoring Officer's offer of an informal resolution and the matter would have been dealt with by formal means;

One formal complaint about possible breaches of the Code of Conduct by a member of one Parish Council with the Borough. In that instance the Monitoring Officer had found that there had been no breach;

Two formal complaints about two members of another Parish Council. The complaints were set within a wider context of underlying problems affecting the operation of the Parish Council. The Monitoring Officer was giving support and advice to the Parish Council Clerk with the aim of addressing the wider issues.

14/20 **MONITORING OFFICER'S UPDATE REPORT**

(MO) Members received an update from the Monitoring Officer on issues that had been received following the drafting of the agenda.

She reported that a complaint had been received from a Borough Councillor regarding another Borough Councillor. The complaint had been dealt with by the Acting Deputy Monitoring Officer who assessed it and found there had been no breach, in consultation with the Independent Person.

Chairman