

## **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 27<sup>th</sup> June 2016.

### **Present:**

Councillors M J Bowering (Chairman), R J Clarke, M T Fitzpatrick, Mrs J Jones and D C Leese.

### **Independent Member:**

Mrs J Parkin.

### **Parish Council Member:**

Councillor C Keen.

### **Officers Present:**

The Monitoring Officer and the Senior Democratic Services Officer.

### **Also Present:**

Mrs R Melbourne (Reserve Independent Person).

Andy O'Brien (Chief Executive), Councillor C Wileman and Mr D Pattison (Investigating Officer)

Apologies for absence were received from Mr G Goodall (Independent Person), Mrs A Johnson (Independent Member) and Mr P Cooper (Parish Council Member).

### **22/16 DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

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

### **23/16 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

#### **Resolved:**

That Councillor D C Leese be appointed vice-chairman for the ensuing year.

24/16 **MINUTES**

**Resolved:**

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2016 be approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

25/16 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business pursuant to Rule 12.

26/16 **HEARING OF COMPLAINT REGARDING A MEMBER'S CONDUCT**

(MO) Members considered the report of the Monitoring Officer on the hearing of complaint regarding Member conduct. The following appendix had been circulated with the report:

- Appendix 13.2 Investigator's Report

The Chairman introduced the Members of the Committee and explained the purpose of the meeting. The Monitoring Officer outlined the procedure to be adopted.

Councillor C. Wileman attended the meeting.

The Monitoring Officer advised that there were no preliminary issues raised by Councillor Wileman.

The Investigating Officer described the complaint and called Andy O'Brien (Chief Executive) as a witness.

Councillor Wileman stated his case.

The Reserved Independent Person expressed her views.

The Investigating Officer summed up the case and Councillor Wileman summed up his case.

The Reserved Independent Person expressed her views.

**Resolved:**

- (1) That Councillor Wileman had breached paragraphs 3.7 and 3.9 of the Council's Code of Conduct;
- (2) That the Committee's findings in respect of Councillor C Wileman be published on the Council's website;
- (3) That the Committee report its findings in respect of Councillor C Wileman to Council for information;

- (4) That Councillor C Wileman would be required to receive additional training on the subject of confidentiality;
- (5) That Councillor C Wileman was required to sign an undertaking that he would comply with the code of conduct on confidential information and if he would not (or would not attend the training proposed) the Council should instruct officers (and other Councillors) not to provide exempt, confidential or legally privileged information to him for the remainder of his term of office (other than those items which he would be legally entitled to under the Local Government Act 1972 and related legislation).

27/16 **MONITORING OFFICER'S UPDATE REPORT**

(MO) Councillors received an oral update on local and national issues relating to ethical standards and any complaints or other problems within East Staffordshire from the Monitoring Officer.

The Monitoring Officer informed Members that she had been dealing with 9 complaints against Borough Councillors and 2 complaints against parish councillors. Three of the 9 complaints against Borough Councillors concerned one Councillor, and decision notices have been served to those relevant.

An opportunity for questions followed.

NOTED

28/16 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**Resolved:**

That, in accordance with Section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the Press and Public be excluded from the Meeting during discussion of the following items it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings that there would be disclosed exempt information as defined in the paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act indicated in brackets before each item number on the Agenda:

**MONITORING OFFICER'S UPDATE REPORT**