

# 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 Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017.

## **Present:**

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

## **Independent Member:**

Mrs A Johnson.

## **Parish Council Member:**

Councillor C Keen.

## **Officers Present:**

Mrs L Durham (Solicitor) and the Senior Democratic Services Officer.

## **Also Present:**

Mr G Goodall (Independent Person) and Mrs R Melbourne (Reserve Independent Person).

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs J Parkin (Independent Member) and Mr P Cooper (Parish Council member).

### 42/17 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

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

### 43/17 **MINUTES**

#### **Resolved:**

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2016 be approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

### 44/17 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business pursuant to Rule 12.

### 45/17 **HEARING OF COMPLAINT REGARDING A MEMBER'S CONDUCT**

(Sol) 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 13.4 Investigator's Report and Appendices HL1 to HL12

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

Councillor G Allen attended the meeting and was accompanied by Councillor D Goodfellow.

The Solicitor advised that there were no preliminary issues raised by Councillor Allen.

The Investigating Officer described the complaint and called Angela Wakefield (Monitoring Officer) as a witness.

Councillor Allen asked questions of the Monitoring Officer.

Councillor Allen stated his case.

The Independent Person expressed his views.

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

The Independent Person expressed his views.

**Resolved:**

- (1) That Councillor Allen did not breach paragraph 3.7 of the Council's Code of Conduct.
- (2) That Councillor G Allen had breached paragraphs 3.7, 3.9 and 3.12 of the Council's Code of Conduct;
- (3) That Councillor G Allen had breached 8.1 of the Council's Social Media Policy.
- (4) That the Committee's findings in respect of Councillor G Allen be published on the Council's website;
- (5) That the Committee report its findings in respect of Councillor G Allen to Council for information;
- (6) That Councillor G Allen would be required to receive training within 30 days on the subject of Members Conduct and the Council's Social Media Policy.

**Chairman**