

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

12th July 2017

Present: Councillor Jo Hodges in the Chair

Councillors Jones (Vice-Chairman), Lamb,
Mackay, G. Squires and Stanley

Also in Attendance:

Mrs P. Clayton, St. Peter's Parish Council
Mrs V.A. Barrall, Warndon Parish Council
Mrs D. Merriman, Warndon Parish Council
Mr Raymond Needham JP, Co-opted
Member

Officers: Tim O'Gara, Deputy Director – Governance
and Monitoring Officer

Apologies: Mr R. Knight, St. Peter's Parish Council

1 Appointment of Substitutes

None.

2 Declarations of Interest

None.

3 Public Participation

None.

4 Minutes

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 13th March 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

5 Terms of Reference and Work Programme

The Committee noted its roles and responsibilities and considered an indicative work programme for the forthcoming year.

The Chairman made reference to guidance for Members on issues relating to outside bodies, which had been raised at the last meeting. This was scheduled for the November meeting. She also raised receiving and handling confidential information, which was another matter that she felt would merit some guidance. It was hoped that this could be considered either in November or at the March 2018 meeting.

Other Committee Members supported the Chairman's proposals.

RESOLVED: That the Committee note the report.

6 Annual Report of the Standards Committee 2016/17

The Committee considered the draft Annual Report of the Standards Committee for the Municipal Year 2016/17. The Committee welcomed the Report, which would be referred to the Council meeting on 27th July 2017.

Reference was made to the guidance on the use of social media in meetings by Members, which had been prepared last year. A question was raised about the position with regard to filming and recording of meetings. The Monitoring Officer advised that members of the public and press are permitted to film, photograph or make an audio recording. Information about this was provided on the agenda front pages. The Council did not webcast or record meetings. This issue did not fall within this Committee's remit, but could be raised with Group Leaders as part of a wider piece of work on the use of new technology by Members.

RESOLVED: That the Committee approve the draft Annual Report for the Municipal Year 2016/17.

7 Complaints Made Under the Members' Code of Conduct

The Committee were advised that, since the last meeting, 2 complaints have been considered. The Monitoring Officer and the Independent Person found that there was no further action to take in respect of one of the complaints. The second complaint was resolved informally through mediation facilitated by the Monitoring Officer.

RESOLVED: That the Committee note the report.

8 Reports of the Local Government Ombudsman

The Committee were advised that, to date for the year commencing 1st April 2017, there had been no reports or upheld decision received or incidents of maladministration identified by the Ombudsman to report to the Committee. The Ombudsman's Annual Review Letter would be reported to the next meeting of the Committee in November 2017.

RESOLVED: That the Committee note the report.

9 Registers of Members' and Officers' Gifts and Hospitality and Register of Interests

The Committee were given the opportunity to review the registers of Members' and Officers' gifts and hospitality and register of interests.

10 Any Other Business

None.

Duration of the meeting: 7.00p.m. – 7.35p.m.

Chairman at the meeting on
1st November 2017