

## **STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**18th July 2016**

**Present:** Councillor Jo Hodges in the Chair

Councillors Biggs (for Councillor P. Denham), Mrs L. Hodgson (Vice-Chairman), Lamb, Mackay and Stanley

**Also in Attendance:**

Mrs P. Clayton, St. Peter's Parish Council  
Mrs V.A. Barrall, Warndon Parish Council  
Mrs Christine Davenport MBE, Co-opted Member  
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 P. Thorlby, St. Peter's Parish Council

### **1 Declarations of Interest**

None.

### **2 Public Participation**

None.

### **3 Minutes**

**RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

### **4 Annual Report of the Standards Committee 2015/16**

The Committee considered the draft Annual Report of the Standards Committee for the Municipal Year 2015/16.

The Committee welcomed the Report and the Chairman thanked Councillor Mackay for his work in that capacity over the previous 12 months.

Reference was made to the Committee's role in advising and training. It was agreed that it was timely to arrange training on standards matters for all City Councillors and Parish Council representatives. The Monitoring Officer stated that he would take this forward and look to arrange for training to be provided prior to the Committee's next meeting in November.

The Annual Report would be reported to the full Council meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2016 for information.

**RESOLVED: That the Committee approve the draft Annual Report for the Municipal Year 2015/16.**

## **5 Guidance on the Use of Electronic and Social Media in Meetings**

Following the discussion at the meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2016, the Committee considered guidance prepared by the Monitoring Officer on the use of social media by Members in meetings.

The Monitoring Officer explained that the purpose of the guidance was to highlight the relevant provisions in the Council's Constitution and to provide some practical guidance on the use of social media and other electronic devices.

Members of the Committee welcomed the guidance. In the ensuing discussion, reference was made to the taking of photographs in meetings, both by Members and the public. The Monitoring Officer explained that the Council supported filming, recording and taking photographs at meetings that were open to the public and he could amend the document to include some guidance on this issue.

It was noted that the inappropriate use of electronic and social media was potentially a breach of the Members' Code of Conduct and the Committee agreed that the guidance should be circulated to all Members of the Council, co-opted members and parish councillors.

**RESOLVED: That the Committee approve the guidance on the use of electronic and social media in meetings as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, subject to amendment by the Monitoring Officer to include guidance on taking photographs.**

## **6 Reports of the Local Government Ombudsman**

The Monitoring officer reported that, to date for the year commencing 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016, there had been no reports or upheld decision received or incidents of maladministration identified by the Ombudsman to report to the Committee.

**RESOLVED: That the Committee note the report.**

## **7 Complaints Made Under the Members' Code of Conduct**

The Committee were advised that, since the last meeting, no complaints had been received.

**RESOLVED: That the Committee note the report.**

## **8 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.

**9 Any Other Business**

Mrs Davenport informed the Committee that she was tendering her resignation from her role as an Independent Co-opted member of the Committee. The Chairman expressed her sadness at the decision and on behalf of all Committee Members thanked Mrs Davenport for her valuable work over the years, many of which had been spent as Chairman.

**10 Item Involving the Disclosure of Exempt Information**

**RESOLVED: That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of information as defined in Schedule 12A of the said Act.**

**11 Minutes (Exempt Items)**

**RESOLVED: That the minutes (Exempt items) of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

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

Chairman at the meeting on  
14th November 2016

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