

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

14th March 2018

Present: Councillor Jo Hodges in the Chair

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

Also in Attendance:

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

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

20 Appointment of Substitutes

None.

21 Declarations of Interest

None.

22 Public Participation

None.

23 Minutes

With reference to Minute 14, (Guidance for Members on Issues Relating to Outside Bodies), consideration should be given for how and in what format Outside Bodies should report back to this Committee. To be discussed at a future meeting.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 1st November 2017 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

24 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.

25 LGO Complaints Information Items

The Committee were advised that to date for the year commencing 1st April 2017 there have 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.

26 Complaints Under Members Code of Conduct

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

RESOLVED: That the Committee note the Report.

27 Confidential Information Guidance for Members

The Monitoring Officer presented his report. He explained that following the move from the Cabinet to Committee model, more Councillors were likely to receive confidential or exempt information. The Officer briefly summarised the difference between confidential and exempt information and outlined the practical guidance for members relating to the handling of confidential or exempt information. He went on to answer questions from Members.

RESOLVED That:

- 1. the Committee note the legal position in respect of confidential/exempt information.**
- 2. the Committee endorses the guidance for Councillors relating to the handling of confidential / exempt information as set out in Appendix 2.**
- 3. the guidance set out in Appendix 2 is circulated to all Councillors**

28 Conduct During Elections

The Monitoring Officer presented his report. He explained that the Committee had previously asked for guidance for Councillors to be provided in relation to conduct during elections. This information is also relevant to Parish Councillors.

The Monitoring Officer explained that extensive guidance is available for prospective Councillors and their agents from the Electoral Commission's website

The Monitoring Officer provided an overview of the appendices which covered Electoral Offences, the Code of Conduct for campaigners and Purdah Guidance.

The Monitoring Officer answered Members' questions. He explained that during Purdah no publicity would be given to candidates other than Mayoral Engagements.

RESOLVED That:

- 1. the Committee notes the contents of the Report and the associated appendices.**
- 2. the Appendices are circulated to Members.**

29 Any Other Business

General Data Protection Regulations

The issue of General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) was raised. The Monitoring Officer explained that there would be a Data Protection and GDPR briefing on 26 March.

Standards Training Session

It was agreed that Standards training would be available to all Councillors and Parish Councillors. It was proposed that this would be undertaken early in the municipal year.

Duration of the meeting: 7 p.m. – 7.40 p.m.

Chairman at the meeting on
5th September 2018

This page is intentionally left blank