

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

13 March 2019

Present – Councillors Ireton (Chairman), Mercer and Solloway.

Parish Representatives (non-voting): Veronicka Dancer.

Independent Persons (non-voting): Peter Charlesworth.

Officers – Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) and Clerical Assistant (Minutes).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mason and Whitaker, Independent Persons Roger Millin and John Boumphrey and Parish Representatives Michael Rooze and Robert Stead.

Start: 6.30pm

Finish: 7.11pm

The minutes of the Committee's meeting held on 23 January 2019 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Minutes for Report

STN.357 **COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE REVIEW ON ETHICAL STANDARDS IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) presented a report regarding the Standards in Public Life Review and highlighted the 26 recommendations (Appendix 2). Key interests to Committee were emphasised (items 3.5 to 3.8 of the report).

The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) updated members regarding the role of Political groups in encouraging good conduct and standards of their members highlighted as a recommendation in the Public Life Review.

- Resolved** – (1) That, the Solicitor to the Council's (Monitoring Officer's) report and the three appendices are noted.
(2) That, the Solicitor to the Council reported to the Committee at a future meeting having reviewed the List of Best Practice.
(3) That, the Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) works with Political groups at Craven District Council to implement the recommendation.

STN.358 **AUDIT OF PARISH COUNCILS' REGISTER OF INTERESTS**

The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) submitted a report that updated Members about the recent audit of Parish Councils' Registers of Interests. The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) drew Member's attention to item 3.3 of the report regarding recommendation 2 from the Public Life Review.

A discussion took place that considered the need for the Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) to inform Parish Councils what the Localism Act says and requires regarding

registering home addresses on the authorities Register of Interests. The Committee concluded that it was still necessary for the Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) to contact Parish Councils.

Resolved – (1) That, the Report is noted.

(2) That, the Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) writes to Parish Councillors reminding them what the Localism Act requires whilst acknowledging the recommendations in the CSPL Review.

STN.360

MONITORING REPORT

The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) submitted a report updating Members on the Code of Conduct complaints received and the status of existing complaints since the last report to Committee on 23 January 2019.

Resolved – That, the Monitoring Report is noted.

Minutes for decision

STN.359

REVIEW OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS

The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) submitted a report that progressed the Committee's review of the Members' Code of Conduct. The report raised two outstanding issues that the Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) presented to Members;

- The scope of the code of conduct;
- Membership (past or present) of a Masonic Lodge.

After a short discussion the Committee concluded that the Code of Conduct should be amended so that membership (past or present) of a Masonic Lodge must be declared by Members.

The Committee agreed to revisit the Code of Conduct in a couple of years.

Recommended – (1) That, the report is noted.

(2) That, the Code of Conduct is amended so that membership (past or present) of a Masonic Lodge must be declared.

Chairman