

BOROUGH OF REIGATE AND BANSTEAD

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Standards Committee held at the Town Hall, Reigate on Wednesday, 3rd April 2013 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: The Mayor (Councillor R.C. Newstead) – Minutes 1 and 2 only; Councillors Mrs. J.S. Bray, J.M. Ellacott, R.S. Mantle and T. Schofield.

Ms. C. Austin - Horley Town Council
Mr. S. Norton - Salfords and Sidlow Parish Council

1. CONSENT FOR THE MAYOR TO TAKE THE CHAIR

RESOLVED that in accordance with paragraph 11.2 of the Committee and Sub-Committee Procedure Rules, consent be given for the Mayor to take the Chair for the purposes of Minute 2.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED that Councillor J.M. Ellacott be elected Chairman of the Committee for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2012/13.

(Councillor J.M. Ellacott – in the chair)

3. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED that Councillor D.J. Pay be elected Vice-Chairman of the Committee for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2012/13.

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 13th June 2012 be approved as a correct record and signed.

5. APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

Mr. R. Pett: Independent Person

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

7. **PROCEDURES FOR DEALING WITH COMPLAINTS UNDER THE MEMBER CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Committee received a report on the adoption of procedures for dealing with complaints under the Member Code of Conduct. The report set out relevant statutory powers, background information, procedures and protocols (set out as an Annex to report) and legal, financial and equalities implications.

The report fulfilled the requirements of the Localism Act 2011 and the Council to introduce procedures and protocols associated with allegations of misconduct by Members.

The procedures and protocols were based on a framework developed on behalf of Surrey authorities (to ensure general consistency in approach) but adapted and developed to suit local circumstances.

They sought to ensure fairness and transparency whilst, at the same time, providing proportionate, cost effective and timely action in relation to complaints against Members.

RECOMMENDED that the procedures and protocols set out in Annex 1 to the submitted report be adopted and the Monitoring Officer be authorised to make consequential amendments to the Scheme of Delegation within the Constitution.

8. **APPOINTMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT MEMBER**

The Committee received a report (for information) on the appointment of an Independent Person which had been submitted to the meeting of the Council on 14th February 2013. The recommendations in the report (to appoint Mr. R. Pett and authorise the Monitoring Officer to pay reasonable expenses) had been adopted. The Committee noted that the Monitoring Officer was continuing to attempt to identify a second Independent Person to recommend to Council.

RESOLVED that the report and appointment be noted.

9. **FUTURE MEETINGS: 2013/14**

RESOLVED to note that during the Municipal Year 2013/14 meetings of the Committee were scheduled as follows:

12th June 2013

12th September 2012

4th December 2013

2nd April 2014

10. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None.

The meeting closed at 7.45 p.m.

