

# **STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL**

## **STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING**

### **Minutes**

**FRIDAY, 25 MARCH 2022**

PRESENT: Councillor G Bond (Chair)

Councillors J Aberley, B Emery, D Fowler, T Holmes, B A Hughes,  
K J Jackson, P Taylor and Mr. H Mawdsley

IN ATTENDANCE: M Trillo Executive Director (Governance &  
Commissioning) & Deputy Chief Executive  
P Trafford Member & Community Services Officer  
L Vernon Head of Democratic Services

APOLOGIES: Councillors I Herdman and P Wilkinson

49 **URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS, IF ANY (24 HOURS NOTICE TO BE PROVIDED TO THE CHAIRMAN).**

There were no urgent items.

50 **TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.**

Cllr. Fowler asked for more detail regarding the Planning Applications Scheme of Delegations (Min. 45) as he was not present at the meeting. Officers and members confirmed the discussion which took place.

**RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 19 November 2021 be **APPROVED** as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

51 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST, IF ANY:**

There were no declarations made.

52 **STANDARDS ANNUAL REPORT**

Head of Democratic Services – Linden Vernon – introduced the report to members which gave an overview of the issues considered by the Standards Committee during 2021/21, including:-

- Local Government Association – Model Member Code of Conduct;
- Committee on Standards in Public Life – Ethical Standards Review;
- Monitor complaints received regarding alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct;
- Annual Letter received from the Local Government Ombudsman;
- Member Development Annual Review.

Complaints were shown by comparison with High Peak Borough Council as follows:-

**Standards Committee (SMDC)- 25 March 2022**

Year	No. of Complaints					
	Staffordshire Moorlands Parish Cllr	Staffordshire Moorlands District Cllr	Staffordshire Moorlands Total	High Peak Parish Cllr	High Peak Borough Cllr	High Peak Total
2013/14	3	1	4	10	1	11
2014/15	5	1	6	2	1	3
2015/16	3	12	15	4	0	4
2016/17	9	16	25	4	2	6
2017/18	5	8	13	1	3	4
2018/19	2	9	11	2	1	3
2019/20	6	26	32	19	1	20
2020/21	3	5	8	19	1	20

Members discussed the merits and otherwise of online and hybrid meetings, particularly the fact that those attending online were unable to vote under current legislation. Consultation was ongoing with regard to potential future change to legislation to allow voting in such situations. Members were advised that the sound system in the Council Chamber was due to be replaced, making the system more robust, further enabling such meetings to take place successfully.

**RESOLVED** – That the report be **NOTED**.

53 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED:**

That, pursuant to Section 100A(2) and (4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings whereby it is likely that confidential information as defined in Section 100A (3) of the Act would be disclosed to the public in breach of the obligation of confidence or exempt information as defined in Section 100 I (1) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act would be disclosed to the public by virtue of the Paragraphs indicated.

54 **TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE EXEMPT MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.**

Members considered the exempt minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2021.

55 **STANDARDS COMPLAINTS MONITORING REPORT.**

Members considered a report on complaints made under the Code of Conduct in the period since the Committee last met.

The meeting closed at 10.45 am

\_\_\_\_\_Chairman\_\_\_\_\_Date