



STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Meeting: Wednesday, 23 March 2022 at 6.30 pm - Virtual Meeting

Present: Councillor R Quinn (Chair)

Councillors T Ashton, A McKeown (substitute for Gardner), P Roberts and Mr P Carnall

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R Abbots, S Gardner, E Longden and Mr P Matthews

Councillors Barrow and Thrane were in attendance

20/11 TO RECEIVE DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST ON ANY MATTERS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE
(Agenda Item 2)

There were no declarations made.

20/12 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING
(Agenda Item 3)

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2022 be approved as a correct record.

20/13 STANDARDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT
(Agenda Item 4)

The Committee considered a report that provided an overview of the issues considered by the Standards Committee during 2020/21. This included the following matters:

- Local Government Association - Model Member Code of Conduct
- Review into Ethical Standards by the Committee for Standards in Public Life
- Monitoring complaints received regarding alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct and outcome of reports after Independent Investigations into alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct
- The Annual Letter received from the Local Government Ombudsman
- Annual Review of Councillor Development

Councillors expressed their concerns with regards to the high level of costs incurred by the Borough Council following the need to process standards complaints relating to Chapel-en-le-Frith Parish Council.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

20/14 PARISH REMUNERATION PANEL
(Agenda Item 5)

The Committee considered a report that proposed the establishment of a Parish Remuneration Panel following a request received from Chapel-en-le-Frith Parish Council. Councillors queried the number of other parish/town councils in the High Peak that paid allowances to their members. Officers confirmed that this information would be gathered as part of any future report.

RESOLVED:

That a Parish Remuneration Panel be established and that the Council's two serving Independent Persons and one of the applicable Independent Members of the Audit and Regulatory Committee be appointed to form the Panel.

**20/15 CONSIDERATION OF DISPENSATION TO ALLOW ALL COUNCILLORS
DISPENSATION FROM S.85 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972
FOR A PERIOD OF 6 MONTHS**
(Agenda Item 6)

The Committee considered a proposal to allow all councillors dispensation from S.85 of the Local Government Act 1972 for a period of six months. This was proposed given the issues that some councillors may encounter in attending face to face meetings due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

RESOLVED:

That a dispensation to allow all councillors dispensation from S.85 of the Local Government Act 1972 be granted for a period of 6 months. As the meeting took place online in a deliberative manner the decision, reflecting the views of the Committee, was formally made by officers using emergency powers within the Council's constitution.

20/16 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC
(Agenda Item 7)

RESOLVED:

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business as there may be disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

20/17 TO APPROVE THE EXEMPT MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING
(Agenda Item 8)

RESOLVED:

That the exempt minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2022 be approved as a correct record.

20/18 COMPLAINTS - STANDARDS COMMITTEE MONITORING REPORT
(Agenda Item 9)

Consideration was given to Standards complaints received by the Monitoring Officer since the previous Committee meeting.

The meeting concluded at 7.00 pm

CHAIRMAN