

EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Standards Committee held the Coltman VC Room, Town Hall on Monday 7th December 2021.

Present:

Councillors Mrs J Killoran (Chairman), R Faulkner, D F Fletcher and R Grosvenor.

Officers Present:

Mr Chris Ebberley (Interim Monitoring Officer) and Mrs M Henchcliffe (Senior Democratic Services Officer).

Also Present:

Mr G Goodall (Independent Member) and Mr W Qneibi (Parish Councillor).

Apologies for absence was received from Councillor C Sylvester and Mrs A Trenerly (Parish Councillor).

36/21 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest at the commencement of the meeting.

37/21 **MINUTES**

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th September 2021 be approved and signed as a correct record.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

Those voting for the motion	Those voting against	Those abstaining
Councillor R Faulkner		
Councillor D Fletcher		
Councillor Mrs J Killoran		
Councillor C Sylvester		
Councillor R Grosvenor		

38/21 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business pursuant to Rule 12.

39/21 **GUIDANCE OF MEMBER MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS HANDLING**

The Interim Monitoring Officer updated Members with a verbal overview of the guidance of the Member model code of conduct complaints handling. He confirmed that the Council largely followed the guidance and the Constitution would be updated to address any changes as part of its review in 2022

He reported that he would be circulating the guidance notes outside of the meeting.

An opportunity for questions followed.

NOTED.

40/21 **MONITORING OFFICER'S UPDATE REPORT**

The Interim Monitoring Officer updated Members on complaints received since the last meeting of the Committee. He informed Members that he had received a total of nine complaints.

Five were from parish council members, four of which were from Mayfield Parish Council. He reported that the Borough Council could only deal with the conduct matters regarding parish councils. He reported that we actively working with the Staffordshire Parish Council Association to help resolve some of the reported issues.

The other parish council complaint was for Uttoxeter Rural. The Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Independent Person found that there was no breach, and the matter has now been dealt with.

Four complaints were received regarding Borough Council Members. Of these four, three were Member against Member complaints. The remaining ESBC member complaint was from a member of the public which was being dealt with by the Council's complaints procedure.

Of the three ESBC Member complaints, two did not breach the code. The remaining complaint was being discussed with the Independent Person.

Councillor R Grosvenor requested that subsequent to the last meeting, the former Monitoring Officer had not referenced two other complaints in her update. The Monitoring Officer informed Members that he would look into the matter and respond outside of the meeting.

An opportunity for questions followed.

NOTED.

41/21 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:

That, in accordance with Section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the Press and Public be excluded from the Meeting during discussion of the following items it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings that there would be disclosed exempt information as defined in the paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act indicated in brackets before each item number on the Agenda:

MONITORING OFFICER'S UPDATE REPORT

