

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

24 June 2013

Attendance:

Councillor Read (Chairman) (P)

Councillors:

E Berry (P)
Chamberlain (P)
Clear

Johnston (P)
Nelmes (P)
Phillips (P)

Parish Representatives (non voting co-optees) in attendance:

None (to be appointed later in the meeting)

Independent Persons (non voting advisors) in attendance:

Mr B Bailey and Ms R Blundell
(one vacancy – to be appointed later in the meeting)

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Clear.

2. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee held on 28 January 2013 be approved and adopted.

3. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN**

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Chamberlain be appointed as Vice Chairman of the Committee for the 2013/14 Municipal Year.

4. **STANDARDS ISSUES - UPDATE**

(Report ST98 refers)

The Chief Operating Officer reported that nine City Councillors had still to return their Register of Interest forms, plus Parish Councillors from seven Parish Councils. Outstanding forms were being followed up and it was

anticipated that a complete return for all City and Parish Councillors would be achieved by the end of July 2013. Members agreed that the letter chasing up those remaining returns should mention that individual/parish details would be reported to the next meeting of this Committee, should any forms still be outstanding.

It was noted that the annual Code of Conduct training for City Councillors would be held in September and for Parish Councillors in October 2013.

With regard to the proposed monitoring of meetings by the Independent Persons and Parish Representatives, the Committee agreed that this was a very useful exercise and should be repeated. The meetings to be observed should be Cabinet, Planning Development Control Committee, Licensing Sub Committee and possibly full Council.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Independent Persons and Parish Representatives be requested to undertake further evaluation of the meetings listed above, to ascertain the level of compliance with the Code of Conduct and other guidance.
2. That it be agreed that Members no longer need to declare a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in respect of participating in the Council's consideration of setting the Council Tax.
3. That Minute 511.2 of the Standards Committee held on 28 January 2013 be rescinded and replaced with the following:

"That the Chief Operating Officer, in consultation with the Chairman, be authorised to grant dispensations in relation to disclosable pecuniary interests in respect of Council House tenancies. "
4. That the Chief Operating Officer, in consultation with the Chairman, be authorised to grant dispensations in relation to Discosable Pecuniary Interests due to membership or employment in other public offices, until the expiry of their period of office as a District Councillor.

5. **APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSON AND PARISH REPRESENTATIVES**
(Report ST99 refers)

As all the applications for the above positions contained personal information, the Committee agreed that both sets of appointments should be dealt with in exempt session. It was noted that the report and Appendix A had been made available as a public document, whereas the application forms in Appendices B and C had been sent to the Committee only (details in exempt minute).

RESOLVED:

1. That the report and the Independent Person application form attached as Appendix A be noted.
2. That the two retiring Independent Members (Mr John Barnett and Ms Jennifer Collins) be thanked for their work on the Standards Committee over the past four years.

EXEMPT BUSINESS

RESOLVED:

1. That in all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.
2. That the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business because it is likely that, if members of the public were present, there would be disclosure to them of 'exempt information' as defined by Section 100I and Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

<u>Minute Number</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Description of Exempt Information</u>
###	Appointment of Independent Person and Parish Representatives) Information relating to any individual (Para 1 Schedule 12A refers))))

6. **APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSON AND PARISH REPRESENTATIVES**
(Report ST99 refers)

Having considered the submitted applications, the Committee made a recommendation to Council regarding the Independent Person, and appointed the three Parish Representatives (details of the former in exempt minute).

RESOLVED:

That the following applicants be appointed as Parish Representatives for the 2013/14 and 2014/15 Municipal Years:-

Mrs Jess Bond (Shedfield PC)

Mr Adrian Walmsley (Compton and Shawford PC)

Mr James Watson (Southwick and Widley PC)

The meeting commenced at 6.15pm and concluded at 7.10pm.

**NOT FOR PUBLICATION BY VIRTUE OF PARAGRAPH 1 OF PART 1 OF
SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

24 June 2013

EXEMPT MINUTE

7. **APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSON**
(Report ST99 refers)

RECOMMENDED:

**THAT MR JOHN PEARSON BE APPOINTED AS AN INDEPENDENT
PERSON FOR THE 2013/14 AND 2014/15 MUNICIPAL YEARS.**

Chairman