

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

15 June 2016

Attendance:

Councillor Thacker (Chairman) (P)

Councillors:

Bell (P)
Berry (P)
Izard (P)

Laming (P)
Mather (P)
Read

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

Ms J Bond, Mr J Chapman and Ms M Hill

Independent Persons (non-voting advisors) in attendance:

Mr B Bailey, Canon Dr R Lindley and Mr J Spokes

1. **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

Councillors Mather and Thacker declared disclosable pecuniary interests in respect of agenda items due to their role as a County Councillor and wife of a County Councillor respectively. However, as there was no material conflict of interest, they remained in the room, spoke and voted under the dispensation granted on behalf of the Standards Committee to participate and vote in all matters which might have a County Council involvement.

2. **MEMBERSHIP OF SUB-COMMITTEES ETC**

The Committee noted that two meetings of the Standards (Assessment) Sub-Committee were scheduled to take place concurrently immediately following the main Committee. At the request of Councillor Berry, it was agreed that the membership of the two Sub-Committees be amended so that Cllr Berry and Cllr Izard should swap their places.

3. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN**

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Berry be appointed as Vice Chairman of the Committee for the 2016/17 Municipal Year.

4. **DATES AND TIME OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

The Committee noted the proposed timetable of meetings for 2016/17. Following discussions, it was agreed that the meeting start time be amended to 6.30pm.

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services suggested that Members might wish to suggest items for consideration at future Committee meetings. During discussion, it was agreed that the practice of the Independent Persons and Parish Representatives observing various other formal meetings within the Council was useful and should continue, although possibly not on an annual basis. It was suggested that a list of all the different formal Council meetings be submitted to the next meeting of the Standards Committee in order that a programme of visits could be planned over the subsequent few years. This was agreed.

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services also suggested future reports be submitted on Members' training undertaken and an update on Council protocols.

RESOLVED:

1. That future meetings of the Committee commence at 6.30pm.
2. That the items suggested above for discussion at future meetings be noted.

5. **MINUTES**

The Committee noted that the minutes had mistakenly recorded Ms J Bond as being in attendance. It was agreed that this be corrected.

RESOLVED:

That subject to the above correction, the minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee held on 16 February 2016 be approved and adopted.

6. **DISPENSATIONS – 2016/17 UPDATE** (Report ST113 refers)

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services advised that it was suggested that delegated authority be granted to himself, in consultation with the Chairman, to grant dispensations to Members in the future in order to remove the requirement for a Standards Committee solely for this purpose. It was suggested that a Report be submitted to the next meeting following the exercise of the delegated authority listing which Councillors had received such a dispensation. This was agreed.

The Committee suggested that guidance should be explicit in requiring Councillors to declare that they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, even when they had a dispensation. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services agreed to incorporate this when the Code of Conduct was next updated.

In response to questions, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services advised that the dispensation would not apply in situations where a conflict of interest occurred. In such circumstances, the Councillor would be required to take the appropriate action, depending on whether the interest was a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or personal and prejudicial.

Councillor Mather stated that she had been appointed to the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority which is a Responsible Authority under the Licensing Act (and she was Chair of Licensing and Regulation Committee). It was agreed that this be added to the list of dispensations to be granted.

Councillor Thacker stated that her appointment to the South Downs National Park Authority commenced on 23 June 2016.

RESOLVED:

1. That dispensations be granted to those Members listed in Paragraphs 2.1 to 2.4 of the Report, for the reasons set out therein.
2. That an additional dispensation be granted to Councillor Thacker to cover her membership of the South Downs National Park Authority.
3. That an additional dispensation be granted to Councillor Mather to cover her membership of the Fire and Rescue Authority.
4. That a dispensation be granted to Councillor Porter to cover her membership of Hampshire County Council.
5. That the dispensations set out above continue in force until the Member in question is required to stand for election.
6. That the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be given delegated authority, in consultation with the Chairman, to grant dispensations to Members in the future, subject to a report back to the next Committee outlining the dispensations granted.

The meeting commenced at 6.15pm and concluded at 6.50pm.

Chairman