

**NOTE: THIS SUMMARY IS NOT THE FORMAL MINUTES OF THE HEARING PANEL. IT IS INTENDED TO GIVE EARLY NOTICE OF THE DECISIONS TAKEN.**

**IF YOU REQUIRE FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE PROCEEDINGS AT THE MEETING PLEASE CONTACT COMMITTEE SERVICES ON [01926] 456114.**

2. **Substitutes** – There were no substitutes.
3. **Appointment of Chairman** – it was resolved that Councillor Pratt be Chairman for the meeting.
4. **Declarations of Interest** – These will be recorded in the minutes.
5. **Code of Conduct Complaint – Councillor Coles (Weston-under-Wetherley Parish Council)**

The panel has given careful consideration to all the information it has received and the representations it has heard today. We have concluded that in relation to:

#### **CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINT**

The Panel accepts the facts and reasoning set out in sections 6 and 7 of the investigating officer's report. In particular, the panel finds the events of 27 February 2013 particularly disturbing and taken as a whole consider that the behaviour showed a lack of respect to Mrs Maria Norman and is also bullying and intimidatory and therefore in breach of the parish councils code of conduct.

#### **Sanctions**

The Panel considers the bullying and intimidation of officers to be particularly serious and has therefore decided that the sanctions it is imposing are:

- (1) To publish its findings in respect of the member's conduct in local media and the Panel also recommends that this includes the Parish Newsletter; and
- (2) That a formal report be submitted to the Parish Council recommending that Councillor Coles be censured for his behaviour towards the Parish Clerk, Mrs Maria Norman, unless he apologises to Mrs Norman in a public council meeting for his behaviour, within eight weeks from 28 April 2014.