

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 10 October 2013 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT:

Councillor Pratt (Chairman); Councillor Brookes, Mrs Bunker, Mrs Falp, Gifford, Mrs Higgins, Mrs Knight, Mrs Syson, Wilkinson and Williams.

Parish and Town Council representatives: Councillors Cooke, Mrs Gordon, Owen and Smart.

ALSO PRESENT:

Independent Persons: Mr R Meacham and Mr R Tomkinson

Officers: Mr G Leach (Democratic Services Manager & Deputy Monitoring Officer) and Mrs G Needham (Solicitor for the Council)

Councillor Gifford substituted for Councillor Ms De-Lara Bond.

9. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

10. **CONFIDENTIALITY ABOUT CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS**

The Committee considered three documents from Councillors Mrs Bromley, regarding the process for handling complaints about the conduct of Councillors, the Code of Conduct hearing for Councillor Dhillon by Council on 21 August 2013 and a debate in the House of Commons on the new standards regime.

Councillor Mrs Bromley had previously confirmed she would attend the meeting however she had offered her apologies on the day explaining that the documents spoke for themselves and could not be added to.

There was a robust discussion by the Committee on the papers and specifically the Council meeting of 21 August 2013 with a mixture of views expressed.

The Democratic Services Manager & Deputy Monitoring Officer explained that there was due to be a review of the Code of Conduct and associated documents twelve months on from their implementation. On that basis he advised that the Committee may want to appoint a working party at this stage.

RESOLVED that

- (1) Councillors Brookes, Mrs Falp, Pratt, Mrs Syson and Wilkinson be appointed to review the Code of Conduct and associated documents and report back to Standards Committee; and

STANDARDS COMMITTEE MINUTES (Continued)

- (2) the Member Development Group be asked to look at appropriate training for all District, Parish and Town Councillors on the Code of Conduct and complaints process.

(The meeting ended at 5.35 pm)