

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 18 April 2016 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 4.00 pm.

Present: Councillor Davies (Chairman) Councillors; Mrs Bunker, Bromley, Cooke, Mrs Falp, Gill and Mrs Hill.

Also Present:

Independent Persons: Mr R Meacham and Mr R Tomkinson

Officer: Mr G Leach (Democratic Services Manager & Deputy Monitoring Officer).

10. **Apologies and Substitutes**

There were no substitutes or apologies for absence.

11. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

12. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meetings held on 2 June 2015 and 18 November 2015 were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

13. **Standards Committee of Warwick District**

The Committee considered a report from the Democratic Services Manager & Deputy Monitoring Officer that brought forward proposals for a Joint Standards Committee of Warwick District.

Warwick District Council was committed to engaging with Parish and Town Councils and ensuring they were represented, by vote, on a Standards Committee. Warwick District Council had determined that unless all Parish and Town Councils in Warwick District wanted to be part of the Joint Committee, it would not offer a Joint Committee. However, this Committee had asked officers to investigate the potential for having a Joint Committee without all Councils participating. This report brought forward proposals to establish a Joint Committee without all Parish & Town Councils participating.

At present all bar three Parish and Town Councils within Warwick District had expressed a desire to join the Committee. Ongoing dialogue was taking place with Baddesley Clinton Parish Council and Warwick Town Council and, at this stage, officers were confident that they would also join the Joint Standards Committee. However Radford Semele Parish Council had declined the invitation to join.

The inclusion of a single recommendation setting out the proposal for a Joint Committee was to ensure that all the Councils would confirm their position through a common resolution at their Annual Meeting. This would provide a clear mandate for the Joint Committee.

The timetable proposed for nominations to the Joint Committee was to ensure all Councils had sufficient time to consider a nomination and vote, recognising that not all Parish Councils met every month.

The proposal for an additional meeting of the Standards Committee was included to ensure that it could consider and make any appropriate recommendations prior to them being considered by Warwick District Council.

Resolved that

- (1) all Parish & Town Councils have agreed to join a Joint Standards Committee for Warwick District, except for Radford Semele Parish Council, which has declined, and that Baddesley Clinton Parish Council and Warwick Town Council are due to consider the matter later this year, be noted;
- (2) all Councils who have agreed to participate in a Joint Standards Committee for Warwick District be asked to pass the following resolution at their Annual meeting in May 2016:

“That this Council supports the continuation of the Joint Standards Committee for Warwick District Council and the proposals for representation of the Parish/Town Councils, that there should be four representatives one representing Warwick Rural East Community Forum area, one representing Warwick Rural West Community Forum Area and two representing the areas covered by the four towns.

The Joint Standards Committee will be responsible for undertaking hearings into the Conduct of Councillors following a report to it by the Monitoring Officer. As set out in the Arrangements for Dealing with Complaints about Councillors, cases will be determined by Hearing Panels appointed by the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chairman of the Standards Committee. If necessary, the Committee will also be entitled to issue appropriate sanctions against those Councillors involved.”

- (3) all Councils which have agreed to participate in the Standards Committee for Warwick District submit nominations to the Committee by no later than 31 May 2016 and that these nominations be circulated to the relevant Councils on 1 June 2016 for them to vote on by 5.00pm on 5 August 2016.

- (4) the Parish and Town Councils, who at this time, have not agreed to participate in the Joint Standards Committee for Warwick District, be notified of these decisions;
- (5) an additional meeting of the Standards Committee be held on Wednesday 10 August 2016 at 5.00pm to consider the nominations for the Joint Committee and recommend them to Council later that evening;
- (6) at the additional meeting of the Standards Committee on 10 August 2016, officers bring forward any necessary amendments to this Council's Constitution for recommendation to Council.

14. **Record of Complaints**

The Committee considered the record of complaints made after 7 May 2015, about Warwick District Councillors and Parish/Town Councillors within Warwick District.

The Committee confirmed that the record included all the information it would like to see but asked the Democratic Services Manager & Deputy Monitoring Officer to look at the formatting to find a better layout.

Resolved that the record of complaints be noted.

(The meeting ended at 4.15 pm)