

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 12 February 2019 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00pm.

Present: Councillors; Ashford, Cooke, Davies, Mrs Evetts, D'Arcy, Mrs Hill, Illingworth and Margrave.

Also Present:

Independent Person: Mr R Meacham.

Officers: Mr G Leach (Democratic Services Manager & Deputy Monitoring Officer), Mrs L Dury (Principal Committee Services Officer) and Mr K Walton (Digital Content & Social Media Officer).

Councillor Davies, Vice Chairman – Standards Committee, took the Chair in the absence of a Chairman.

8. Council Procedure Rule 33, to record future meetings

The Committee amended the wording shown on the agenda for this resolution so that it made explicit that recording would not take place whilst any private deliberations were taking place.

Resolved that

- (1) From this point forward, any meetings of this Committee and its sub-committees, held in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa, are both audio and visually recorded including where the press and public have been excluded (but not any private deliberation); and
- (2) That Council be notified of this decision so that it can update Council procedure rules to reflect this.

9. Apologies and Substitutes

- (a) There were no apologies received.
- (b) Councillor Ashford substituted for Councillor Mrs Bunker and Councillor D'Arcy substituted for Councillor Gill.

10. Appointment of Chairman of the Committee

It was proposed by Councillor Cooke, duly seconded; and

Resolved that Councillor Davies be appointed Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing municipal year.

11. **Appointment of Vice-Chairman of the Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor Cooke, duly second; and

Resolved that Councillor Illingworth be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing municipal year.

The appointment of the Vice-Chairman of the Committee was taken as an urgent item by the Chairman because a vacancy had been created the moment the Committee had appointed Councillor Davies as its Chairman.

12. **Adjournment of Meeting for approximately 40 minutes**

At 6.05pm, the Chairman adjourned the meeting so that the Committee could receive training on Social Media, presented by the Digital Content & Social Media Officer.

The meeting reconvened at 7.10pm.

13. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made.

14. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 June 2018 were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

15. **Social Media Policy for Elected Members**

The Committee considered a report from Marketing & Communications which presented an amendment to the Internet Acceptable Usage Policy, providing specific advice for member's usage of social media as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

In addition, a document to provide further guidance and tips on the usage of social media for elected members had been created, as set out in Appendix 2 to the report.

Members made the following comments on the appendices:

Appendix 1:

- page 5 of 14 - 4. Scope, second paragraph – should include "Councillors"; and
- the document should be consistent throughout and use either "Members" or "Councillors".

Appendix 2:

- it would be useful if the wording provided by the Council to a Councillor who had received an allegation via Social Media for being "on the take" was added.

Resolved that

- (1) subject to the amendments outlined above, the Internet Acceptable Usage Policy, attached at Appendix 1 to the report, for all elected Members, to sit alongside the Members' Code of Conduct is approved; and
- (2) the "Social Media Guide for Elected Members" document, attached at Appendix 2 to the report, that can be made available to Members if they are interested in using Social Media in their role as a Councillor, is approved.

(Mr Meacham left the meeting during this item.)

(The meeting ended at 7.19 pm)