

# **TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **JOINT STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**Monday, 11th October, 2021**

**Present:** Cllr J L Sergison (Chairman), Cllr D A S Davis (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Mrs T Dean, Cllr B J Luker, Cllr K B Tanner, Cllr D Thornewell, Mr M Williams (East Peckham Parish Council) and Mrs W Palmer (Platt Parish Council)

Borough Councillors Mrs P Bates and Mrs S Hudson and Parish Councillors Mrs C Short (Addington), Mr A Sullivan (Aylesford), Mr N Newman (Ditton) and Mr M Carboni (Plaxtol) were unable to attend in person and participated via MS Teams.

Borough Councillors V M C Branson, M A J Hood and D Keers participated via MS Teams and joined the discussion when invited to do so by the Chairman in accordance with Council Procedure Rule No 15.21.

Apologies for absence were received from Borough Councillors Mrs S Bell, D Lettington and M Taylor, from Burham (Mr W E Stead) and Ryarsh (Prof M McKinlay) Parish Councils and from Mr D Mercier (Independent Person)

### **PART 1 - PUBLIC**

#### **ST 21/1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

#### **ST 21/2 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the meeting of the Joint Standards Committee held on 12 October 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **MATTERS SUBMITTED FOR INFORMATION**

#### **ST 21/3 UPDATE - CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS**

The report provided an update on complaints made to the Monitoring Officer in in the current year. He reminded the Committee that, as previously agreed, personal details of the Complainants or Subject Members were not published unless a complaint led to investigation and public hearing before the Hearing Panel. Details of the complaint considered at the Standards Hearing Panel held on 29 April 2021 regarding the conduct of a member of Kings Hill Parish Council were set

out in the report. Details of other complaints received during 2021 were set out at Annex 1 to the report.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be received and noted.

**ST 21/4 COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE**

The report of the Monitoring Officer updated Members on progress in implementing the recommendations set out in the report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL) following its review of local government standards. Attention was drawn to the key aspects of the 2021 'follow up' review of the CSPL and the responses submitted by local authorities.

The Monitoring Officer drew attention to the LGA Model Code of Conduct attached at Annex 2 and advised that, following to detailed consideration by Kent Secretaries, a revised version of the Kent Model Code would be submitted to the Borough Council's General Purposes Committee.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be received and noted.

**MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION IN PRIVATE**

**ST 21/5 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

There were no items considered in private.

The meeting ended at 8.00 pm