

TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

JOINT STANDARDS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Wednesday, 8th June, 2022

Present: Cllr J L Sergison (Chair), Cllr D A S Davis (Vice-Chair), Cllr A Cope, Cllr Mrs T Dean, Cllr S A Hudson, Cllr B J Luker, Cllr K B Tanner and Cllr M Taylor, Mr W E Stead (Burham Parish Council), Mr N Newman (Ditton Parish Council), Mr S Richardson (Hadlow Parish Council), Mr T Petty (Kings Hill Parish Council), Mrs W Palmer (Platt Parish Council) and Prof M McKinlay (Ryarsh Parish Council)

(Note: As Borough Councillor V M C Branson was unable to attend in person and participated via MS Teams she was unable to vote on any matters).

Borough Councillor D Harman participated via MS Teams and joined the discussion when invited to do so by the Chair in accordance with Council Procedure Rule No 15.21.

Apologies for absence were received from Borough Councillors Mrs P A Bates, Mrs S Bell and C J Williams and from Addington (Mrs C Short), Aylesford (Mr A Sullivan) and Plaxtol (Mr M Carboni) Parish Councils.

PART 1 - PUBLIC

ST 22/1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made in accordance with the Code of Conduct. However, in the interest of transparency, Councillor M Taylor advised that he was one of the complainants in respect of the complaints set out at Annex 1 to Agenda Item 6 (Minute ST 22/4 refers).

ST 22/2 NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Notification of substitute members were recorded as set out below:

Councillor M Boughton – substitute for Councillor S Bell
Councillor F Tombolis – substitute for Councillor P Bates

In accordance with Council Procedure Rules 17.5 to 17.9 these Councillors had the same rights as the ordinary member of the committee for whom they were substituting.

ST 22/3 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Joint Standards Committee held on 11 October 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS SUBMITTED FOR INFORMATION**ST 22/4 UPDATE - CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS**

The report provided an update on complaints made to the Monitoring Officer since the previous meeting of the Committee that a Member may have failed to comply with his/her authority's Code of Conduct. In response to a request for details of the cost of undertaking investigations and hearings, the Monitoring Officer offered to circulate these to members outside of the meeting.

ST 22/5 COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE - REVIEW OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT STANDARDS

The report of the Monitoring Officer provided an update on the response of the Government to the recommendations set out in the report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life following its review of local government standards.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION IN PRIVATE**ST 22/6 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

There were no items considered in private.

The meeting ended at 7.58 pm