

TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

JOINT STANDARDS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Wednesday, 12th July, 2023

Present: Cllr D A S Davis (Chair), Cllr K Barton, Cllr A G Bennison, Cllr G C Bridge, Cllr S M Hammond, Cllr B A Parry, Cllr K B Tanner, Cllr C J Williams, Cllr M D Boughton (substitute) and Cllr J Clokey (substitute), Mr B Stead (Burham Parish Council), Mr N Newman (Ditton Parish Council), Mr O Baldock (Hadlow Parish Council), Mrs W Palmer (Platt Parish Council), Mr M Carboni (Plaxtol Parish Council), and Prof M McKinlay (Ryarsh Parish Council)

In attendance: Borough Councillors G B Hines, M A J Hood and W E Palmer were also present pursuant to Council Procedure Rule No 15.21.

Mr I Craig (Aylesford Parish Council) was also in attendance as a training opportunity.

Apologies for absence were received from Borough Councillors Mrs S Bell (Vice-Chair), Mrs T Dean and R V Roud and from Wrotham Parish Council.

PART 1 - PUBLIC

ST 23/1 NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Notification of substitute Members were recorded as set out below:

- Councillor J Clokey substituted for Councillor R Roud
- Councillor M Boughton substituted for Councillor S Bell

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 23/2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

ST 23/3 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Joint Standards Committee held on 8 June 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS FOR RECOMMENDATION TO THE COUNCIL**ST 23/4 REVIEW OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR DEALING WITH CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS**

Following Council's approval of the changes to the Borough Council's adopted Code of Conduct on 27 April 2022 in light of revisions to the Model Code of Conduct produced by the Local Government Association, the report outlined the suggested changes to the Borough Council's adopted arrangements, which set out the process for handling complaints against Borough/ Parish/ Town Councillors under the Kent Code, and sought Members' approval to recommend them to Council for adoption.

The revised Arrangements were set out at Annex 1 and the principal changes were summarised at 1.2.1 of the report. It was noted that the Borough Council was not obliged to accept the changes proposed by Kent Secretaries.

Members welcomed the proposed revisions to the existing arrangements for dealing with Code of Conduct complaints and had due regard to the legal implications, risk assessment and equality impact assessment arising from these changes.

RECOMMENDED*: That

- (1) the revised Arrangements for Dealing with Code of Conduct Complaints under the Localism Act 2011, attached at Annex 1, be adopted.

***Referred to Council**

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION IN PRIVATE**ST 23/5 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

There were no items considered in private.

The meeting ended at 7.57 pm
having commenced at 7.45 pm