

TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

JOINT STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Monday, 12th October, 2020

Present: Cllr J L Sergison (Chairman), Cllr D A S Davis (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Mrs P A Bates, Cllr R I B Cannon, Cllr Mrs T Dean, Cllr A Kennedy, Cllr M Taylor, Cllr C J Williams; Parish and Town Councillors Mrs C Short (Addington Parish Council), Mr A Sullivan (Aylesford Parish Council), Mr N Newman (Ditton Parish Council), Mr S Richardson (Hadlow Parish Council), Mrs W Palmer (Platt Parish Council), Mr M Carboni (Plaxtol Parish Council) and Mrs D Alford-Smith (Snodland Town Council)

Councillors V M C Branson, N J Heslop, M A J Hood, Mrs A S Oakley and H S Rogers were also present pursuant to Council Procedure Rule No 15.21. Mr D Mercier (Independent Person) was in attendance as an observer.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs S Bell and from Borough Green (Mr I Simpson), East Peckham, Leybourne (Mr R Ulph), Ryarsh (Prof M McKinlay), Trottiscliffe (Mr D Gaunt) and Wrotham (Mr D Beach) Parish Councils.

PART 1 - PUBLIC

ST 20/1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs T Dean advised that she would take no part in the consideration of Item 5, which was a matter submitted for information, as she had a personal interest in a number of the cases referred to in the update on the Code of Conduct Complaints. Councillor D Davis stated that he would take no part in the same Item as he was personally involved in one of the cases.

ST 20/2 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Joint Standards Committee held on 12 June 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 3 OF THE CONSTITUTION (RESPONSIBILITY FOR COUNCIL FUNCTIONS)

ST 20/3 COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE - BEST PRACTICE RECOMMENDATIONS

The report of the Monitoring Officer provided an update on progress with the implementation of recommendations published in the report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL) which had been presented to the meeting of the Joint Standards Committee held on 12 June 2019 (Minute ST 19/4 refers).

The Committee was reminded that the CSPL had identified a number of best practice recommendations for local authorities to consider in order to improve ethical standards. The report set out details of the current position within Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council which would be used to demonstrate progress with the implementation of the best practice recommendations when reviewed by the CSPL.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the content of the report be noted; and
- (2) the proposed update on the best practice recommendations, intended to be provided to the CSPL, be approved.

MATTERS SUBMITTED FOR INFORMATION

ST 20/4 UPDATE - CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS

The report of the Monitoring Officer provided an update on 19 complaints received since 1 April 2020. 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.

RESOLVED: That the report be received and noted.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION IN PRIVATE

ST 20/5 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no items considered in private.

The meeting ended at 7.53 pm