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APOLOGIES Committee Services
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HEAD OF PAID SERVICE'S OFFICE
HEAD OF PAID SERVICE
Richard Holmes

12 June 2019

Dear Councillor

You are summoned to attend the meeting of the;

JOINT STANDARDS COMMITTEE

on **THURSDAY 20 JUNE 2019** at **7.30 pm.**

in the Council Chamber. Maldon District Council Offices, Princes Road, Maldon.

A copy of the agenda is attached.

Yours faithfully



Head of Paid Services

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

CHAIRMAN	Councillor Mrs M E Thompson
VICE-CHAIRMAN	Councillor R G Boyce MBE
COUNCILLORS	M W Helm R H Siddall C Swain

PARISH COUNCILLORS	<i>To be appointed</i>
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AGENDA
JOINT STANDARDS COMMITTEE
THURSDAY 20 JUNE 2019

1. **Chairman's notices (please see overleaf)**

2. **Apologies for Absence**

3. **Minutes of the last meeting** (Pages 5 - 8)

To confirm the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 21 February 2019, (copy enclosed).

4. **Disclosure of Interest**

To disclose the existence and nature of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, other Pecuniary Interests or Non-Pecuniary Interests relating to items of business on the agenda having regard to paragraphs 6-8 inclusive of the Code of Conduct for Members.

(Members are reminded that they are also required to disclose any such interests as soon as they become aware should the need arise throughout the meeting).

5. **Any other items of business that the Chairman of the Committee decides are urgent**

6. **Exclusion of the Public and Press**

To resolve that under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act, and that this satisfies the public interest test.

7. **Complaint against a Parish Councillor** (Pages 9 - 12)

To consider the report of the Monitoring Officer, (copy enclosed).

NOTICES

Sound Recording of Meeting

Please note that the Council will be recording any part of this meeting held in open session for subsequent publication on the Council's website. At the start of the meeting an announcement will be made about the sound recording. Members of the public attending the meeting with a view to speaking are deemed to be giving permission to be included in the recording.

Fire

In event of a fire, a siren will sound. Please use the fire exits marked with the green running man. The fire assembly point is outside the main entrance to the Council Offices. Please gather there and await further instruction.

Health and Safety

Please be advised of the different levels of flooring within the Council Chamber. There are steps behind the main horseshoe as well as to the side of the room.

Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV)

This meeting is being monitored and recorded by CCTV.



**MINUTES of
JOINT STANDARDS COMMITTEE
21 FEBRUARY 2019**

PRESENT

Councillors Mrs F B Acevedo, E L Bamford, I E Dobson,
Rev. A E J Shrimpton and Mrs M E Thompson

Parish Councillors Councillors J Anderson and S Nunn

887. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN

Councillor Shrimpton called for nomination to act as Chairperson for the meeting. Councillor Mrs Thompson proposed Councillor Shrimpton and this was seconded by Councillor Dobson.

RESOLVED that Councillor Shrimpton be appointed as Chairman for the meeting.

IN THE CHAIR: COUNCILLOR REV. A E SHRIMPTON

The Chairman then called for nomination for a Vice-Chair and proposed Mrs Thompson. This was seconded by Councillor I H Dobson.

RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs Thompson be appointed as Vice-Chairman for the meeting.

888. CHAIRMAN'S NOTICES

The Chairman drew attention to the list of notices published on the back of the agenda.

889. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

**890. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS HELD ON THE 22 FEBRUARY
2018 AND THE 10 APRIL 2018**

RESOLVED

- (i) that the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 22 February 2018 be received.

It was reported that the name of the Independent Person was incorrect and should be amended to read N Hodson.

RESOLVED

- (ii) that subject to the above amendment the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 22 February 2018 be confirmed.

RESOLVED

- (i) that the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 10 April 2018 be received.

It was reported that the Independent Person, N Hodson, had attended the meeting, therefore the attendance list required amendment.

RESOLVED

- (ii) that subject to the above amendment the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 10 April 2018 be confirmed.

891. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

There were none.

892. AGREEMENT OF AN ALLOWANCE FOR THE INDEPENDENT PERSON

The Committee considered the report of the Monitoring Officer proposing an increase to the allowance for the Independent Person.

The Monitoring Officer took the Committee through the report. He advised that the Independent Person's allowance was linked to a percentage of a basic allowance of a district member. The advantage of this was that when member allowances were periodically increased the Independent Person allowance would automatically increase. This would streamline the process and avoid the need for taking this back to Committee for consideration and approval.

It was noted that the increase being proposed was £250 and given this was an absolute amount regardless of much work undertaken therefore this represented very good value for money.

The Chairman put the recommendation to the Committee and it was agreed.

RESOLVED that the annual allowance is increased to 20% of the Members' Basic Allowance to be paid monthly starting from May 2019, as the beginning of the new municipal year, as a replacement for the existing allowance and reimbursement of internet costs.

893. ANY OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE DECIDES ARE URGENT

There were none.

894. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED that under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act, and that this satisfies the public interest test.

895. UPDATE ON COMPLAINTS MADE UNDER THE MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT

The Committee received the report of the Monitoring Officer updating them on complaints received from May 2018 and that after initial assessment were potential contraventions of the Code of Conduct.

The Monitoring Officer took the Committee through the steps required to be taken into consideration when dealing with a complaint, depending on the severity and clarified when the views of the Independent Person is sought.

Members discussed the content of the report and agreed that it was clear the procedure worked well.

Councillor I H Dobson, on behalf of the Committee, expressed thanks to both Mr Simon Quelch, the Council Solicitor and Mr Norman Hodson, the Independent Person, for their sterling work in this area.

RESOLVED that the complaints procedure is working satisfactorily.

There being no further items of business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.55 pm.

REV. A E J SHRIMPTON
CHAIRMAN

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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