



**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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