MINUTES of
JOINT STANDARDS COMMITTEE
28 APRIL 2026

PRESENT

Chairperson	Councillor M G Bassenger
Vice-Chairperson	Councillor M E Thompson
Councillors	S J N Morgan, J C Stilts, Michael, S C Stratton and J Driver (Substitute for S J Burwood)
Parish / Town Councillors	Councillors M J Hall and S C Stratton
Independent Person	Mr J Mitchell

1. CHAIRPERSON'S NOTICES

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting and went through some general housekeeping arrangements for the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTION NOTICE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S J Burwood and U G C Siddall-Norman. In accordance with notice duly given it was noted that Councillor J Driver was attending as a substitute for Councillor Burwood.

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

There were none.

4. 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 of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1 and 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act, and that this satisfies the public interest test.

5. OUTSTANDING CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINT

The Committee considered the report of the Monitoring Officer seeking Members' consideration on how to progress an outstanding complaint made against a Councillor.

The report provided details of two complaints that had been received in March 2024 in relation to the behaviour of a Councillor. It was noted that an independent investigation

into these complaints had been carried out and the draft report was attached at Appendix A to the report.

The Monitoring Officer presented her report and reminded the Committee that it was not here to discuss the merits of the draft report (Appendix A) but whether the process should be reopened and continued.

The Committee discussed the report along with the three options set out for progressing the complaints. In response to questions raised the Monitoring Officer provided further information and confirmed that she could request further information from the Councillor.

Councillor J C Stilts proposed that the Committee agrees Option B – to place the complaint on hold for a further six months. This proposal was duly seconded.

The Chairperson then put the proposal in the name of Councillor Stilts, also requesting that the Monitoring Officer approach the Councillor to obtain further information. Upon a vote being taken this was duly agreed.

RESOLVED that the outstanding complaint made against a Councillor (as set out in the report) be placed on hold for a further six months (until October 2026) and further information from the Councillor be requested by the Monitoring Officer.

There being no other items of business the Chairperson closed the meeting at 12.55 pm.

M G BASSENGER
CHAIRPERSON