



**MINUTES of
JOINT STANDARDS COMMITTEE
30 JULY 2015**

PRESENT

Chairman	Councillor Rev. A E J Shrimpton
Vice-Chairman	Councillor M R Pearlman
Councillors	Mrs B E Acevedo and R G Boyce, MBE, CC

290. APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor I E Dobson.

291. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 7 November 2013 be approved and confirmed.

292. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

293. PROCESS FOR COUNCILLOR CONDUCT COMPLAINTS

The Committee received a presentation from the Monitoring Officer on the process for Councillor Conduct Complaints.

The presentation highlighted a number of key areas in relation to the Code of Conduct for Councillors, which was derived from the Localism Act 2011. Particular attention was paid to the following:

- The Nolan Principles of Public Life – the principles apply to anyone who works as a public office-holder either nationally or locally. Broadly the principles are in respect of selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.–
- General Obligations – applies to the way in which a Councillor acts.
- Breaches of the Code of Conduct – the complaints process, stage 1 and 2.
- Sanctions for breaches of the Code of Conduct.

294. DISPENSATIONS FOR DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS, OTHER PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

The Committee considered the report of the Monitoring Officer which was seeking to agree dispensations to all Members and co-opted Members of Maldon District Council in certain circumstances which would enable them to take part in the business of the Council even if the Member has a disclosable pecuniary interest, other pecuniary interest or a non-pecuniary interest relating to that particular business.

At the meeting of the Council on 24 January 2013 (Minute No. 776 refers), dispensations to all Members were agreed to be effective until the recent elections, and the Committee was being asked to agree these afresh.

RESOLVED that the grant of the following dispensations to all Members are agreed and will have effect until the next ordinary election of District Councillors.

- (a) School meals or school transport and travelling expenses – where a member is a parent or guardian of a child in full time education, or where a member is a parent governor of a school, unless the decision relates particularly to the school which his child attends
- (b) An allowance, payment or indemnity given to members
- (c) Any ceremonial honour given to Members
- (d) Setting council tax under the Local Government Finance Act 1992
- (e) Where the decision to be made does not affect the member's financial position or the financial position of a person or body described in paragraph 8.1.(a) and (b) of the Local Code of Member Conduct and
- (f) the decision to be made does not relate to the determination of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to the member or a person or body described in paragraph 8.1 (a) and (b) of the Local Code of Member Conduct.

295. INDEPENDENT PERSON(S) – TERM OF OFFICE

The Committee considered the report of the Monitoring Officer considering arrangements for the recruitment and appointment of new Independent Persons.

The report reminded Members that at a meeting of the Council on 7 February 2013 it was resolved to confirm the appointment of Mr Norman Victor Hodson as Independent Person to the Joint Standards Committee, and also the appointment of Mr Steven Ronald Anthony and Mr Jonathan Swan as reserve Independent Persons to the Joint Standards Committee. The terms of office for the Independent Person and the two reserves expired on 7 February 2016.

The Committee noted that although reliance on the Independent Person had been limited largely to consultation on stage 1 conduct complaints, the recent legislative change relating to the procedure for dismissal of statutory officers now involved a panel comprising at least two Independent Persons.

RESOLVED that the Monitoring Officer be authorised to proceed with the necessary arrangements for the recruitment of a new Independent Person and two reserve Independent Persons to take office on 8 February 2016 for a period of two years, with possible extension by the Monitoring Officer for a further period of two years.

There being no further items of business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.00pm.

REV. A E J SHRIMPTON
CHAIRMAN

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