

**Minutes of the Standards Committee meeting held on Wednesday, 23 November 2016 in Committee Rooms 1 & 2 - Deanes, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council at 6.30 pm**

**Members of the Standards Committee in attendance:** Councillors: D Putty (Vice-Chairman), M Westbrook, Parish Councillors: L Agnew, L Fryer, J Slimin, Independent Lay Members: Mr K Bastin, Mr Chris Evans, Mr P Moore OBE (Chair) and Mrs E Morris

1/16 **Apologies for absence and substitutions**

Upon opening the meeting, the Chair thanked former Chair Keith Bastin and Parish Councillor Steve Spillane for their contributions to the work of the Standards committee and thanked legal team members Gary Spencer and David Lipscombe for their work over the last year.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor S Parker.

2/16 **Appointment of Vice-Chairman**

Councillor D Putty was appointed as Vice-Chair for the 2016/17 municipal year.

3/16 **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

4/16 **Urgent matters**

There were no urgent items.

5/16 **Minutes of the meeting held on 26 October 2015**

The [Minutes](#) of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2015 were confirmed by the committee as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6/16 **Standards Committee Annual Report**

The Legal Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer introduced the [Annual report](#) which provided the committee with an update in relation to the determination of complaints against parish, town and borough councillors that occurred between July 2015 to July 2016 noting the time taken to complete investigations had reduced and the increased number of appeals that had been received.

An error within the report which required correction was drawn to the committees attention to address the fact that there had been 13 appeals rather than the stated 12.

The Chairman noted the vacancies on the standards committee that were listed in the Annual Report and asked that the Chair of the Basingstoke and Deane Association of Parish and Town Councils (BDAPTC) raise the parish vacancy at their next meeting.

Parish Councillor Les Fryer agreed to add the nomination to the agenda of the forums next meeting

**Resolved:** The committee notes the Annual Report

7/16 **Arrangements For Dealing with Complaints**

The Legal Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer introduced the [report](#) which summarised the proposed amendments to the arrangements for dealing with complaints noting changes to timescales including an increase to the timescales for the Monitoring Officer to determine an appeal to 28 days.

The committee discussed the arrangements and a majority of members felt that the proposed changes gave additional clarity, however one member felt there had been inadequate opportunity to comment and that the revised arrangements included some unnecessary changes.

As the committee could not reach a consensus on the proposed arrangements a vote was taken, with Councillor Putty voting in favour and Councillor Westbrook voting against. At this point the officer stated that it would be necessary for Councillor Putty to take the role of Chairman in order to consider how he wished to exercise his casting vote. The recommendation was approved on the casting vote of the Chair.

**Resolved:** The committee notes the complaint form and decision notice at appendix D and E to the report

**Recommendation to Full Council:**

- 1) The arrangements for dealing with complaints at appendix B of the report are adopted.
- 2) Authorisation is given to the Monitoring officer to make minor amendments to the arrangements to ensure that they remain an effective working document.

8/16 **Updated Decision Notices**

The Chairman introduced the [decision notices](#) and [appeal decision notices](#) to the Committee for noting.

A typographical error in paragraph two of the decision notice on page 158 of the agenda which listed the name of the wrong councillor was amended from Councillor Snook to Councillor Kingston.

**Resolved:** That the Committee notes the Decision Notices.

The meeting ended at 7.07 pm.

**Chairman**