

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

18th March 2015

Present: Councillors: Brian Donnelly (Chairman), David Coldwell (Vice-Chairman), Andrew Baldwin,

Advisory Members

Present: Parish Council representative: Val Court
Independent persons: John Donaldson, Mary Jagger

Apologies: Councillors: Sheila Matthews, Godfrey Newman, Brian O'Connell, Tricia Youtan

SC/22 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 3rd December 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

SC/23 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

SC/24 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SUB-COMMITTEES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Local Assessment Sub-Committee held on 11th February 2015 were received.

SC/25 **TO RECEIVE ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE, THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OR THE MONITORING OFFICER**

The Chairman and Committee Members welcomed the new Independent Person, John Donaldson, to the Committee. He had been appointed for a term of four years. As this was the last meeting of the Committee for the Council Year and Sheila Matthews was not standing for re-election, the Chairman thanked her for the many years of valuable service to the Committee. He also thanked Isabel Glenister, who had stepped down from her role as Parish Council Representative, for the work she had undertaken for the Committee.

The Committee considered that recruitment for a new Parish Representative should take place after the May election. It was agreed that the Monitoring Officer would write to HALC (Horsham Association of Local Councillors) to advise them of this.

The Monitoring Officer agreed that Councillor training sessions scheduled for after the election should be extended to include Independent Persons and Parish Representatives.

SC/26 **ETHICAL FRAMEWORK UPDATE**

The Monitoring Officer presented the report on developments in the ethical framework that affected the role and activities of Councillors and the Council's business, including:

- Training and awareness: Members were advised that ethical governance would be included in training for new Councillors.
- Local assessment, review, other action, investigations and determinations: There had been one new complaint assessed by the Monitoring Officer, and one new complaint assessed by the Local Assessment Sub-Committee since the last ethical update on 3rd December 2014. Members agreed that the new standards regime was proving effective.
- Parish Clerks' Meetings: The Monitoring Officer had attended the HALC Clerks meeting on 27th January 2015. The meeting had been well attended.
- Register of Interests: After the May election all Councillors would be required to complete a new Members Interest form within 28 days. The Monitoring Officer would chase up those District and Parish Councillors who did not do so.
- Work Programme update: Members noted that the annual report for presentation to full Council was being drafted and it was anticipated that it would be finalised at the next meeting of the Committee in June.
- Case summaries : Members noted the Ombudsman cases, and cases from other local authorities, as printed in Appendices 4 and 5 of the report.

RESOLVED

That the contents of the report be noted.

REASONS

- i) To ensure that the Committee, the Members of the Council and others to whom the report is circulated are kept up to date with developments in the ethical framework.
- ii) To promote and maintain high standards of conduct amongst Members.

The meeting finished at 11.00 having commenced at 10.00am.

CHAIRMAN