

Standards Committee
12 JUNE 2019

Present: Councillors: John Donaldson, Peter Burgess, Brian Donnelly,
Godfrey Newman, Kate Rowbottom, Jim Sanson and
Diana van der Klugt

Apologies: Monitoring Officer
Councillor Frances Haigh

Also Present: John Donaldson, Independent Monitor

SC/1 **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman of the Council, Councillor Rowbottom took the Chair for the election of a new Chairman for the Standards Committee. Councillor Donnelley was nominated by Councillor P Burgess and seconded by Councillor van der Klugt. There being no other nominations, Councillor Donnelley was duly elected as Chairman of the Standards Committee for the municipal year 2019-20.

SC/2 **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

Councillor van der Klugt was nominated as Vice Chairman by Councillor Rowbottom and seconded by Councillor P Burgess. There being no other nominations, Councillor van der Klugt was duly elected as Vice-Chairman.

SC/3 **TO APPROVE THE TIME OF MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE ENSUING YEAR**

The dates and times of Standards Committee meetings for the municipal year 2019/20 were unanimously approved.

RESOLVED

That Standards Committee meetings should proceed as scheduled for the duration of the Council year.

SC/4 **DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interest.

SC/5 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the Standards Committee held on 13 March 2019 were agreed as an accurate record and were signed by the Chairman.

SC/6 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Committee recorded its thanks for the work of the former Chairman of the Standards Committee, former Councillor Coldwell.

In the ensuing discussion, the following points were considered:

- That the new Standards Committee guidance from the Government strengthened the role of the Independent Person and of the Standards Committee.
- That the Parish Representative would be appointed at the next meeting of the Horsham Association of Local Councils on 25th June 2019. An advertisement would be issued for an additional Independent Person.
- Sub committees would require three Councillors from the Standards Committee to hear complaints.
- That the guidance from central Government recommended that parish councils should adopt the code of conduct used by District Councils and that a model code of conduct should be provided to the parishes. It was noted that the Sussex Association of Local Councils did have a model code of conduct.
- That Horsham District Council's code of conduct should be updated.

RESOLVED

That:

- a) the Committee thank former Councillor Coldwell for his work as Chairman of the Standards Committee during the last municipal year;
- b) Horsham District Council's code of conduct be updated;
- c) the Standards Committee training be rescheduled.

SC/7 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business.

The meeting closed at 10.29 am having commenced at 10.00 am

CHAIRMAN