

BOURNEMOUTH, CHRISTCHURCH AND POOLE COUNCIL
STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 July 2021 at 6.00 pm

Present:-

Cllr S Baron – Chairman (for Agenda Items 1-3 only)

Cllr N Brooks – Vice-Chairman

Present: Cllr M Andrews, Cllr D Borthwick, Cllr D Butt, Cllr A Jones,
Cllr V Ricketts, and Cllr J Kelly

Independent Members: Mr P Cashmore and Mr J Storey

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Stribley and Ian Sibley.

2. Substitute Members

Councillor Kelly substituted for Councillor Stribley.

3. Election of Chairman

Councillors D Butt and Ricketts were both separately Proposed and Seconded to be elected as Chairman and following a secret ballot it was

RESOLVED that Councillor Butt be elected as Chairman of the Standards Committee for the Municipal year 2021/22.

4. Election of Vice-Chairman

Councillors Brooks and Ricketts were both separately Proposed and Seconded to be elected as Vice-Chairman and following a secret ballot it was

RESOLVED that Councillor Brooks be elected as Vice-Chairman of the Standards Committee for the Municipal year 2021/22.

5. Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interest received on this occasion.

6. Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Standards Committee held on 20 April 2021 having previously been circulated, be confirmed as accurate and signed by the Chairman.

7. Public Issues

There were no public issues to report on this occasion.

8. Code of Conduct Complaints - Review

The Head of Democratic Services presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'A' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

The report provided Members with an update on complaints regarding alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct against Councillors received or concluded since the last meeting in April 2021.

The Committee was responsible for maintaining high standards of conduct by Members of BCP Council and the Town and Parish Councils, monitoring the operation of the Code of Conduct, and considering the outcome of commissioned independent investigations.

Following some discussion surrounding the report, the Chairman concluded that having listened to Members during the discussion and the large amount of complaints recorded since April 20 2021 over a 3 month period it was Proposed by the Chairman and Seconded, and:

RESOLVED that the Committee note the report and requests the Monitoring Officer to write an open letter to all Members reminding them of their duty under the Code of Conduct; regarding

1. not breaching the Code of Conduct especially around social media areas; and

2. not bringing inappropriate and ill-considered complaints to the Standards Committee.

Voting: For – unanimous.

9. Annual Report on Code of Conduct Complaints

The Head of Democratic Services presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'B' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

The report provided a summary of the complaints received and determined which were made against councillors for alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct.

The Standards Committee had a duty to consider an annual report and to promote and maintain high standards of conduct.

The Committee discussed the Report including the need for Member training on the new Code of Conduct, the anticipated LGA guidance, the

five Parish and Town Councils within BCP and consequences of non-compliance of Members where complaints were upheld and sanctions imposed.

The Head of Democratic Services concluded that following discussions, the work programme needed to consider training delivery, monitoring LGA guidance and ensuring commitment from Members to adopt the Code.

RESOLVED that the annual report on code of conduct complaints be noted and those areas referred to above be included in the work programme.

Voting: For – unanimous.

The meeting ended at 7.00pm.

CHAIRMAN