

Tuesday 14 February 2023

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STANDARDS SUB-COMMITTEE

You are summoned to a meeting of the Standards Sub-Committee which will be held in the Council Chamber, Woodgreen, Witney OX28 1NB on **Wednesday, 22 February 2023 at 2.00 pm.**



Giles Hughes
Chief Executive

To: Members of the Standards Sub-Committee

Councillors: Luci Ashbourne (Chair), Elizabeth Poskitt (Vice-Chair), Andrew Beaney, Andy Graham and Norman MacRae MBE

Recording of Proceedings – The law allows the public proceedings of Council, Cabinet, and Committee Meetings to be recorded, which includes filming as well as audio-recording. Photography is also permitted. By participating in this meeting, you are consenting to be filmed.

As a matter of courtesy, if you intend to record any part of the proceedings please let the Democratic Services officers know prior to the start of the meeting.

AGENDA

1. **Minutes of Previous Meeting (Pages 3 - 4)**
To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2022.
2. **Apologies for Absence**
Councillor Luci Ashbourne sends her apologies.
3. **Declarations of Interest**
To receive any declarations from Members of the Committee on any items to be considered at the meeting.
4. **Exclusion of the Press and Public**
If the Sub-Committee wishes to exclude the press and the public from the meeting during consideration of any of the items on the exempt from publication part of the agenda, it will be necessary for the Sub-Committee to pass a resolution in accordance with the provisions of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that their presence could involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as described in specific paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. The Sub-Committee may maintain the exemption if and so long as, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.
5. **Determination of Allegation of Breach of the West Oxfordshire District Council Code of Conduct by West Oxfordshire District Councillor (Pages 5 - 56)**
Purpose:
The purpose of the report is to provide the Standards Sub-Committee with the evidence to enable them to determine the allegation that a West Oxfordshire District Councillor, has breached the West Oxfordshire District Council Code of Conduct for Members.

Recommendation:
Members of the Standards Sub-Committee are recommended to follow the Standards Sub-Committee Procedure Rules approved for use at this meeting, consider all evidence before them, and:
 - a) Determine whether West Oxfordshire District Councillor, has breached the code of conduct; and
 - b) If the Sub-Committee determine a breach of the Code, to consider and determine any sanctions that should be imposed upon the Councillor and any other appropriate action to be taken.

(END)

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the **Standards Sub-Committee**

Held in the Council Chamber Woodgreen, Witney OX28 1NB at 10.00 am on

Monday, 18 July 2022

PRESENT

Councillors: Luci Ashbourne (Chair), Elizabeth Poskitt (Vice-Chair), Andy Graham and Norman MacRae MBE

Officers: Susan Gargett (Interim Head of Legal Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer), Kate Seeley (Investigation and Enforcement Manager) and Janet Eustace (Democratic Services).

Additional Attendees: Andrew Colling, Independent Person and, from 10.20 am, the Subject Councillor and his companion.

7 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6 June 2022 were approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

8 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from: Councillor Andrew Beaney.

9 Decision to Proceed

In the absence of the Subject Councillor the Panel agreed to hear the case. (Note The Subject Councillor arrived at 10.20 am)

10 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest received.

11 Exclusion of the Public and Press

Resolved that, in view of the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in paragraphs 1 and 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, the public were excluded from the meeting for the remaining item of business

12 Determination of allegation of breach of the Carterton Town Council Code of

Conduct by Carterton Town Councillor

The Committee, sitting as the Local Hearing Panel, considered the reports of the Monitoring Officer and the Investigating Officer to determine the allegation that the Subject Councillor of Carterton Town Council had breached the Carterton Town Council's Code of Conduct for Members (" the Code").

The Panel concluded that in respect of two matters the Subject Councillor had breached the provisions of the Code relating to objectivity, and that in respect of the third matter there was no breach of the Code.

The Panel concluded that the following sanctions should be recommended to Carterton Town Council:

The Subject Councillor should make a public apology to the Complainant at the next meeting of Carterton Town Council;

Standards Sub-Committee

18/July2022

The Panel also agreed to advise Carterton Town Council to ensure that all Members of the Town Council should receive training in the use of social media, the Code of Conduct and Objectivity.

The Meeting closed at 1.00 pm

CHAIR

By virtue of paragraph(s) 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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