

Minutes

of the Meeting of the

Standards Sub-Committee

Wednesday, 4th June 2014

held at the Town Hall, Weston-super-Mare, Somerset.

4

Meeting Commenced: 2.00 pm Meeting Concluded: 2.15 pm

Councillors:

P Ian Porter (Chairman)

P Andy Cole

P Clive Webb

P: Present

A: Apologies for absence submitted

Also present (co-opted, non-voting): Ken Rutter (Independent Lay Person)

Officers in attendance: Fiona Robertson (Deputy Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer), David Jellings (Corporate Services Directorate)

SSC Election of Chairman (Agenda Item 1)

1

Resolved: that Councillor Ian Porter be elected Chairman for the meeting.

(Councillor Porter in the Chair)

SSC Declarations of Interest by Members (Agenda Item 3)

2

None

SSC Minutes of the Meeting held on 26th March 2014 (Agenda Item 4.1)

3

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting be approved as a correct record.

SSC Exclusion of Press and Public

4

Resolved: that the press, public and officers not required by the members or officers advising to remain during the exempt session be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that its consideration will involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Section 1001 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Item	Reason for Exemption
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Minute no. SSC 5 Paragraphs 1 and 6 of Part 1 of the Local Government Act 1972

SSC 5	Complaint against a Councillor – Exempt Appendices (Agenda Item 5)
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The Sub-Committee considered a complaint received from a councillor regarding a fellow North Somerset councillor stating that the councillor had breached the North Somerset Council Code of Conduct applicable to councillors.

Members of the Sub-Committee had received the complaint papers in advance and the Deputy Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer outlined the complaint set out in those papers.

The Sub-Committee received the views of the Independent Lay Person.

The Sub-Committee considered the complaint.

Resolved:

(1) that the majority of the allegations and supporting material do not, even if substantiated, indicate that the councillor committed a breach of the North Somerset Council Code of Conduct; and further that on the basis of the complaint as submitted, and in particular that there being no further explanation contained in the complaint nor supporting evidence, no finding be made that any breach of the North Somerset Council Code of Conduct has occurred and therefore, no action be taken on the allegation;

(2) that the issue of alleged breaches of a Certificate of Lawful Use does not fall within the remit of this Sub-Committee, and it is noted that the Deputy Monitoring Officer has referred all of the complaint that refers to this for the consideration of the Planning Enforcement Team, Development and Environment Directorate.

(3) that (2) above and other aspects of the complaint do not fall within the remit of this Sub-Committee; they do not relate personally to the conduct of the councillor when acting as a councillor, but relate to the activity of a charitable organisation;

(4) further serious allegations against the councillor relating to his influence in his role as a councillor which it is alleged may have resulted in misconduct, were completely unsubstantiated, and the Sub-Committee on receiving an explanation from the councillor concerned was satisfied that there had not been a breach of the code of conduct to further investigate, and also determined that should the complainant have any substantial evidence to support the allegations made by him, then this would be better submitted to the police as suggested by the complainant himself in his complaint;

(5) that if the complainant refers any serious allegations to the police for investigation, and this results in due course in a conviction of the councillor

concerned, the Standards Sub-Committee would in such circumstances and in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 consider any further complaint about this and determine if a breach of the code of conduct had occurred and at that time take any relevant action.

Chairman
