

## Minutes

of the Meeting of

### The Standards Sub-Committee

Monday, 13 November 2023

Kenn Room

Meeting Commenced: 11.00 am

Meeting Concluded: 11.30 am

#### Councillors:

Stuart Davies

Jemma Coles

Mike Solomon (Chairperson)

**Apologies:** None

**Also in attendance:** Ian Carrington-Smith (Independent Member), Anita Smith (Independent Member).

**Officers in attendance:** Sara Saunders (Solicitor and Senior Legal Advisor), Jessika Robinson (Committee Services Support Officer).

#### STD Election of Chairperson for the meeting

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**Resolved:** that Councillor Mike Solomon be elected Chairperson for the meeting.

**Councillor Solomon in the Chair**

#### STD Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (Standing Order 37)

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None.

#### STD Exclusion of the press and public

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**Resolved:** that the resolutions be passed.

**Item:** Minute No. STD 4

#### **Reason for Exemption:**

Paragraphs 1 & 2 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972

**STD 8 Report and Appendices (Exempt) - Complaint Against North Somerset Council Councillor, Case 022023**

The Sub-Committee considered a complaint received from a member of the public regarding a North Somerset Councillor, stating that they had breached the North Somerset Council Code of Conduct and the Weston Town Council Code of Conduct. Both were applicable in the circumstances.

The Deputy Monitoring Officer outlined the complaint as detailed in the report provided to the Sub-Committee.

The Sub-Committee considered the complaint, together with the response from the councillor concerned and received the views of the Independent Members'.

In discussing the complaint and reviewing the evidence provided, the Sub-Committee considered the councillor's actions had not breached the North Somerset Council or Weston Town Council Code of Conduct, and that no further action would be taken.

The Standards Sub-Committee took the opportunity to issue a reminder of the North Somerset Council policy on usage of social media, and the balance between the right of freedom of expression and comments which do not fall within the definition of political expression.

**Resolved:** that the Deputy Monitoring Officer write to the Councillor and the complainant advising of the decision.

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Chairperson

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