

Cannock Chase Council
Minutes of the Meeting of the
Standards Committee

Held on Monday 2 November 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

Via Remote Access

Part 1

Present:

District Councillors

Allen, F.W.C. (Chairman)
Lyons, Miss O. (Vice-Chairman)
Davis, Mrs. M.A. Thompson, Mrs. S.L.
Hewitt, P.M.

Parish / Town Councillors:

| | |
|---------------|---|
| P. Krusconjic | Bridgtown Parish Council |
| P. Dadge | Heath Hayes and Wimblebury Parish Council |
| S. Jagger | Hednesford Town Council |
| J. Bernard | Norton Canes Parish Council |
| D. Gaye | Rugeley Town Council |

Independent Person:

Mrs. C. Dawson

4. Apologies

Apologies for absence were submitted for District Councillor Ms. A.J. Dunnett and Parish Councillor R. Turville (Brindley Heath Parish Council).

5. Declaration of Interests of Members in Contracts and Other Matters and Restriction on Voting by Members

No Declarations of Interests were made in addition to those already confirmed by Members in the Register of Members' Interests.

6. Minutes

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 6 July 2020 were approved as a correct record.

7. CSPL Recommendations and Member Complaints Procedure

Consideration was given to the Report of the Council Solicitor & Monitoring Officer (Item 4.1 – 4.10).

The Monitoring Officer took the Committee through the main detail of the report, as set out in paragraphs 5.1 – 5.5.

(Councillor Lyons joined the meeting at 4:05pm.)

The Committee then considered in turn the 15 best practice recommendations of the Committee for Standards in Public Life (CSPL), together with the comments provided by the Monitoring Officer on each recommendation, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

In response to a query from a Member concerning the inclusion of social media in the bullying and harassment definitions in the new code of conduct, the Monitoring Officer advised that this was referenced within the model code as consulted on by the Local Government Association (LGA), so the expectation was that it would be included in the final code, due to be published by the LGA before the end of the year.

In respect of the publication of the Gifts and Hospitality Register for Members, the Committee recommended that it be published on the Council's website to make it more accessible to the public.

With reference to the recruitment of Independent Persons to support the Committee, a Member suggested that the Council could look to reach out to individuals who were active in the community (such as Church Ministers) to try and increase the number of applicants in the future. The Monitoring Officer advised that this could be possible, but clarified that any persons appointed must not have any political affiliations or show bias in the role.

Resolved:

That:

- (A) The best practice recommendations made by the Committee on Standards in Public Life be noted, and the Monitoring Officer's comments on the recommendations be agreed.
- (B) The Member Conduct Complaints Procedure, as set out in Appendix 2 of the report, be approved.

The meeting closed at 4:35 p.m.

CHAIRMAN