

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
STANDARDS COMMITTEE
ON MONDAY 6 JULY AT 4:00 P.M.
HELD VIA REMOTE ACCESS

PART 1

PRESENT:

District Councillors

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

Parish / Town Councillors:

P. Fisher	Brereton & Ravenhill Parish Council
P. Krusconjic	Bridgtown Parish Council
S. Jagger	Hednesford Town Council
D. Gaye	Rugeley Town Council

Independent Person:

Mrs. C. Dawson

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received for Councillors J. Bernard (Norton Canes Parish Council), R. Turville (Brindley Heath Parish Council) and D. Bennett (Heath Hayes and Wimblebury Parish Council).

2. 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.

3. Model Code of Conduct Consultation

The Council Solicitor and Monitoring Officer advised that the creation of a new model code of conduct for members by the Local Government Association (LGA) had been one of the recommendations made by the Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL) as part of its review into ethical standards in local government conducted last year.

As part of the LGAs work on this, a draft code had now been produced which was out for consultation (as included in report Appendix 1). The consultation questions and initial thoughts from the Monitoring Officer were also enclosed as report Appendices 2 and 3, respectively.

The Committee then considered each of the questions in turn. Responses which differ/add to the comments provided by the Monitoring Officer in Appendix 3 are detailed below:

Q1. To what extent do you support the proposals that councillors demonstrate the behaviours set out in the Code when they are publicly acting as, identifying as, and/or giving the impression that they are acting as a councillor, including when representing their council on official business and when using social media.

To a great extent.

Q15. The draft code proposed £25 as the threshold for registering gifts and hospitality. Is this an appropriate threshold?

Yes.

Q16. The LGA will be producing accompanying guidance for the code. Which of the following types of guidance would you find most useful?

Supplementary guidance that focuses on specific areas, e.g. social media.

Q17. If you would like to make any further comments about the code then please do so here:

Overall the draft code appeared to be an excellent document, but it contained a few typographical errors in place. Furthermore, the use of gender neutral language should be reflected through the whole document – it was used in some parts but not others (e.g. the table on disclosable pecuniary interests includes references to his/her). Suggest that the LGA refers to Government guidance on the use of gender neutral language in public documents.

The meeting closed at 5:05 p.m.

CHAIRMAN