

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON
MONDAY, 3 DECEMBER, 2012 AT 4.00 P.M.
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT:

Councillors:	Lovell, A. (Chairman)
Rowley, J.	Toth, J.
Sutherland. M.	
Bullock, L.	Heath Hayes and Wimblebury Parish Council
Pearson, A.	Hednesford Town Council

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from CCDC Councillors G. Molineux; Mrs. A. Spicer; and R. Todd.

Apologies were also received from Councillors P. Fisher, Brereton and Ravenhill Parish Council; Miss M. Freeman, Bridgtown Parish Council; R. Turville, Brindley Heath Parish Council; Mrs. M. Allen, Cannock Wood Parish Council; J. Bernard, Norton Canes Parish Council; and Mrs. P. Williams, Rugeley Town Council.

2. Declarations of Interests of Members in Contracts and Other Matters and Restriction on Voting by Members

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

3. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 12 June, 2012 be approved as a correct record.

4. Matters Arising

Appointment of Independent Person(s)

The Monitoring Officer advised that the Regulations had been amended first to allow the appointment of Independent Persons who had previously served as Independent Members, then subsequently amended again to limit them to 12 months. This meant that the Council would potentially incur the expense of recruiting someone it had confidence in, but might not actually have to use them within the 12 month period, then have to recruit someone else. While it

might be possible to stretch the appointment process, i.e. advertise and interview, but not appoint until such time as an Independent Person was actually required and then appoint them for 12 months, in practice, this might prove problematic. The other alternative would be to seek to recruit someone with previous Independent Member experience at a neighbouring authority who had been similarly affected by the changes.

To this end, an advert had been drafted which required some minor amendment and could then be placed with a view to recruiting someone early in the new year with the appointment to be recommended to and confirmed by Council.

Adoption of CCDC Code of Conduct by Parish / Town Councils

The Democratic Services Manager confirmed that notifications had been received from the constituent Parish / Town Councils that they had adopted the Council's Code of Conduct (amended to reflect their identities). Therefore, subject to agreement by full Council, Parish / Town Council representatives would be appointed with full voting rights to the Standards Committee.

5. Training for New Standards Regime

The Committee discussed proposals for training under the new Standards Regime.

RESOLVED:

That

- (A) The Monitoring Officer should organise a training session for all CCDC Councillors, plus the Parish / Town Council representatives on the Standards Committee.
- (B) Subject to a suitable level of interest being expressed, a further session be organised for other Parish / Town Councillors. Initially, this would be limited to a maximum of two representatives per Council, but this could be reviewed dependent on uptake.

6. Reporting of Complaints

The Monitoring Officer advised that he would report to each Standards Committee if he had received any complaints since the last meeting.

One complaint had been received over the Summer from a Member of the Public who considered that an elected Member had not treated him / his concerns with due respect. The matter had been **resolved informally** with the Councillor agreeing to write to the complainant to apologise if any offence had been caused.

(The meeting finished at 4.40 pm.)

CHAIRMAN