

**Medway Council**  
**Meeting of Councillor Conduct Committee**  
**Wednesday, 24 June 2015**  
**7.00pm to 7.50pm**

**Record of the meeting**

**Subject to approval as an accurate record at the next meeting of this committee**

**Present:** Councillors: Brown-Reckless, Carr, Hicks (Chairman), Shaw and Wicks

**Substitutes:** Councillors:  
Murray (Substitute for Godwin)  
Royle (Substitute for Kemp)  
Willey (Substitute for Mrs Diane Chambers)

**In Attendance:** Perry Holmes, Monitoring Officer  
Teri Reynolds, Democratic Services Officer

**56 Record of meeting**

The record of the Councillor Conduct Committee meeting on 23 February 2015 and the record of the Joint Meeting of Committees held on 27 May 2015 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as correct.

**57 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs Diane Chambers, Godwin and Kemp.

**58 Urgent matters by reason of special circumstances**

There were none.

**59 Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests and other interests**

Disclosable pecuniary interests

There were none.

Other interests

There were none.

**60 Conduct of Councillors**

**Discussion:**

The Monitoring Officer introduced the report which updated the committee on the work undertaken following a motion agreed at Full Council on 23 April 2015, regarding the legislation relating to the conduct of Councillors in elected office.

The report also referred to some work undertaken by Kingston Council which was seeking to introduce a 'right of recall' provision to allow citizens to "sack" their serving local Councillors if, for example, their attendance at Council meetings fell below 20%, if they were convicted of a crime attracting any prison sentence or if they moved residence outside of the borough. It was therefore suggested that the Monitoring Officer maintain a watching brief on national developments.

**Decision:**

The Committee noted the current legal framework relevant to the conduct of Councillors and instructed the Monitoring Officer to maintain a watching brief on national developments.

**61 Exclusion of the press and public**

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the exempt material relating to agenda item 7 because consideration of these matters in public would disclose information falling within Paragraphs 1 and 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 as specified in agenda item 6, and, in all the circumstances of the case, the Committee considers that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

**62 Complaint CCC/2015/001**

**Discussion**

The Committee considered complaint number CCC/2015/001, received by the Monitoring Officer on 13 May 2015, which related to a parish councillor.

The Monitoring Officer circulated additional evidence provided by the complainant, which the committee had agreed to accept, plus additional information about related matters.

Members of the Committee expressed concern that some of the evidence that was provided by the complainant was difficult to read and a view was also made that the committee should defer consideration and screening of this complaint to allow police proceedings to conclude.

## **Councillor Conduct Committee, 24 June 2015**

### **Decision:**

- (1) The Committee determined that the screening of complaint CCC/2015/001 be deferred to a future meeting of the Committee, once police proceedings have concluded.
- (2) The Committee also requested the Monitoring Officer to request the complainant to provide clearer copies of the evidence that was difficult to read.

### **Reasons:**

The committee considered that continuing with screening of the complaint at this stage may prejudice ongoing Police investigations.

**Chairman**

**Date:**

**Teri Reynolds, Democratic Services Officer**

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