

Medway Council
Meeting of Councillor Conduct Committee
Wednesday, 15 July 2015
6.03pm to 6.30pm

Record of the meeting

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

Present: Councillors: Brown-Reckless, Carr, Mrs Diane Chambers, Godwin, Hicks (Chairman), Shaw and Wicks

In Attendance: Jan Guylar, Head of Legal Services/Deputy Monitoring Officer
Perry Holmes, Assistant Director, Legal and Corporate Services/Monitoring Officer
Teri Reynolds, Democratic Services Officer

118 Record of meeting

The record of the meeting held on 24 June 2015 was agreed and signed by the Chairman as correct.

119 Apologies for absence

An apology of absence was received from Councillor Kemp.

120 Urgent matters by reason of special circumstances

The Chairman explained that he had accepted item 7 (Update on complaint CCC/2015/002) as an urgent item in order to avoid further delay in screening this complaint. This item was late due to additional information regarding the complaint being submitted after the date of despatch.

121 Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests and other interests

Disclosable pecuniary interests

There were none.

Other interests

There were none.

122 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 items 6 and 7 because consideration of

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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 5, 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.

123 Update on complaint CCC/2015/001

Discussion:

The Monitoring Officer introduced the report which updated Members on new information relating to complaint CCC/2015/001, the screening of which had been deferred at the committee's previous meeting.

Decision:

The Committee agreed that no further action be taken in relation to complaint CCC/2015/001

Reasons:

Due to the fact that the subject member had since resigned from their position as a parish councillor.

124 Screening of complaint CCC/2015/002

Discussion:

The Committee considered complaint number CCC/2015/002, received by the Monitoring Officer on 3 July 2015, which related to two Medway Councillors.

The Monitoring Officer also shared additional evidence that had been provided by the complainant and one of the subject members, which the committee had agreed to accept, plus additional information about related matters.

Decision:

The committee agreed that: -

- (1) No further action be taken in relation to complaint CCC/2015/002.
- (2) A briefing note be provided to all Members of the Council to clarify the legal advice that Ward Members can represent the views of their constituents at meetings even when they have a conflict of interest or a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest.

Reasons:

If proved, the conduct attributed to each Councillor would not amount to a breach of the Code of Conduct.

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Chairman

Date:

Teri Reynolds, Democratic Services Officer

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