

Medway Council
Meeting of Councillor Conduct Committee
Wednesday, 19 August 2015
6.00pm to 6.15pm

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), Kemp, Shaw and Wicks

In Attendance: Perry Holmes, Assistant Director, Legal and Corporate Services/Monitoring Officer
Teri Reynolds, Democratic Services Officer

237 Record of meeting

The record of the meeting held on 15 July was agreed and signed by the Chairman as correct.

238 Apologies for absence

There were none.

239 Urgent matters by reason of special circumstances

There were none.

240 Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests and other interests

Disclosable pecuniary interests

There were none.

Other interests

There were none.

241 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 6 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 5, and, in all the circumstances of the case, the Committee

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considers that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

242 Screening of complaint CCC/2015/003

Discussion:

The Monitoring Officer introduced the report which updated Members on a complaint from four members of the public relating to five Parish Councillors. The committee considered the content of the four letters and discussed whether or not the issues related to the relevant Code of Conduct and if so, whether there was a potential breach by any of the Parish Councillors.

The Committee considered that the majority of the content did not relate to councillor conduct issues. Specifically, the Committee could not envisage any circumstances where voting at a parish council meeting could ever be a conduct matter. Likewise, the venue of a parish council meeting was also not a councillor conduct issue.

In relation to the issue regarding one of the Parish Councillors about potential bias due to a possible friendship, the Committee considered that there was no substantial evidence to suggest that this was the case, and therefore, it did not consider that any breach to the Code may have occurred.

Decision:

The Committee agreed that no further action be taken in relation to complaint CCC/2015/003.

Reasons:

There was no substantial evidence to demonstrate a potential breach of the Code of Conduct.

Chairman

Date:

Teri Reynolds, Democratic Services Officer

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