

**Medway Council**  
**Meeting of Councillor Conduct Committee**  
**Wednesday, 12 October 2016**  
**6.00pm to 6.55pm**

**Record of the meeting**

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

- Present:** Councillors: Carr, Godwin, Hicks (Chairman), Shaw and Wicks
- Substitutes:** Councillors:  
Filmer (Substitute for Kemp)  
Royle (Substitute for Mrs Diane Chambers)
- In Attendance:** Jan Guylar, Deputy Monitoring Officer  
Perry Holmes, Monitoring Officer (for item 5 only - Social Media and the Code of Conduct for Councillors)  
Teri Reynolds, Democratic Services Officer

**350 Apologies for absence**

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

**351 Record of meeting**

The record of the meeting held on 11 May 2016 and the record of the joint meeting of committees held on 18 May 2016 were both agreed and signed by the Chairman as correct.

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

There were none.

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

Disclosable pecuniary interests

There were none.

Other interests

There were none.

**354 Social Media and the Code of Conduct for Councillors**

**Discussion:**

The Monitoring Officer introduced the report which provided the Committee with suggested wording to be added to the Medway Council Member Code of Conduct, making an explicit reference to the use of social media. This followed the debating of this issue at the Councillor Conduct Committee on 11 May 2016, where the Committee agreed that an explicit reference in the Code should be included.

**Decision:**

The Committee recommended full Council to approve the addition to the Member Code of Conduct, as set out at Appendix 1, subject to a slight amendment to improve the clarity.

**355 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 7 and 8 because consideration of these matters in public would disclose information falling within Paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 7 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.

**356 Screening of Complaint CCC/2016/002**

**Discussion:**

The Deputy Monitoring Officer introduced a report which detailed a complaint received by the Monitoring Officer on 2 September 2016 relating to two Medway Councillors. The complaint was split into 5 allegations and the Committee debated each allegation individually.

**Decision:**

The Committee decided to refer allegations 1, 2 and 4, which related to one Member, to the Police having completed and met the legal jurisdiction criteria test set out in an agreed protocol with Kent Police (Localism Act 2011 – s34 Criminal Offence Investigations in Kent and Medway).

The Committee decided to refer allegation 3, which related to the same Member, to the Police as it was considered that allegation 3 was so intrinsically linked to allegations 1, 2 and 4 that this allegation should not stand alone and should be included with the other elements of the complaint and be referred to the Police.

## **Councillor Conduct Committee, 12 October 2016**

The Committee decided to take no further action in relation to allegation 5, which related to a different Member, as having completed the Medway Council screening process test the Committee considered that there was insufficient evidence, on the face of the complaint, to demonstrate a potential breach of the Member Code of Conduct.

### **357 Screening of Complaint CCC/2016/003**

#### **Discussion:**

The Deputy Monitoring Officer introduced a report which detailed a complaint received by the Monitoring Officer dated 22 September 2016 relating to a Parish Councillor.

#### **Decision:**

The Committee decided to take no further action, having completed the Medway Council screening process test, as it considered there to be insufficient evidence within the complaint to demonstrate that the Parish Councillor was acting in that capacity.

**Chairman**

**Date:**

**Teri Reynolds, Democratic Services Officer**

Telephone: 01634 332104

Email: [democratic.services@medway.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@medway.gov.uk)