

Medway Council
Meeting of Councillor Conduct Committee
Wednesday, 7 November 2018
6.10pm to 7.30pm

Record of the meeting

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

- Present:** Councillors: Mrs Diane Chambers, Godwin, Hicks (Chairman) and Shaw
- Substitutes:** Councillors:
Potter (Substitute for Carr)
Royle (Substitute for Wildey)
- In Attendance:** Jan Guylor, Head of Legal Services, Local Land Charges and Licensing/Deputy Monitoring Officer
Perry Holmes, Chief Legal Officer/Monitoring Officer
Teri Reynolds, Democratic Services Officer

507 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Carr, Kemp, Wicks and Wildey.

508 Record of meeting

The record of the meeting held on 10 October 2018 was agreed and signed by the Chairman as correct.

509 Urgent matters by reason of special circumstances

There were none.

510 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Significant Interests

Disclosable pecuniary interests

There were none.

Other significant interests (OSIs)

There were none.

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Other interests

There were none.

511 Members' Code of Conduct and Procedure for Dealing with Councillor Conduct Complaints

The Members noted the Members Code of Conduct and the Procedure for dealing with Councillor conduct complaints which were attached to the agenda to assist with the consideration of the complaints set out at agenda item numbers 7, 8 and 9.

512 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, 8 and 9 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.

513 Screening of Complaint CCC 2018/003

Discussion:

The Monitoring Officer introduced a report which detailed a complaint received on 15 October 2018 in relation to a Medway Councillor. The Committee considered the complaint as detailed in section 2 of the report.

Decision:

The Committee agreed that the subject member had potentially breached paragraph 2.1(i) and (ii) of the Member Code of Conduct and that complaint CCC 2018/003 should be referred to the relevant political group for resolution, having completed the Medway Council screening process for Councillor Conduct complaints.

514 Screening of Complaint CCC 2018/004

Discussion:

The Monitoring Officer introduced a report which detailed a complaint received on 16 October 2018 in relation to a Medway Councillor. The Committee considered the complaint as detailed in section 2 of the report.

Decision:

The Committee agreed that the subject member had potentially breached paragraph 2.1(i) of the Member Code of Conduct and that complaint CCC

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2018/004 should be referred to the relevant political group for resolution, having completed the Medway Council screening process for Councillor Conduct complaints.

In accordance with Council Rule 12.6, Councillor Potter requested that his vote against the decision that the subject member may have potentially breached the Member's Code of Conduct be recorded.

515 Screening of Complaint CCC 2018/005

Discussion:

The Monitoring Officer introduced a report which detailed a complaint received on 23 October 2018 in relation to a Medway Councillor. The Committee considered the complaint as detailed in section 2 of the report.

Decision:

- (1) The Committee agreed to take no further action in respect of complaint CCC/2018/005 as it did not consider the alleged actions to amount to a breach of the Medway Member Code of Conduct.
- (2) The Committee agreed to request the Monitoring Officer to write to the two Group Whips, given the Council is now leading up to local elections in May 2019, requesting them to remind Members of the Council to behave in a civil and appropriate manner, accepting there will be disagreements.

Chairman

Date:

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