

Medway Council
Meeting of Councillor Conduct Committee
Wednesday, 7 December 2022
6.00pm to 6.42pm

Record of the meeting

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

- Present:** Councillors: Mrs Diane Chambers (Chairman), Kemp (Vice-Chairman), Howcroft-Scott, McDonald, Price and Tranter
- Substitutes:** None
- In Attendance:** Bhupinder Gill, Assistant Director, Legal and Governance
John Greenhill, Independent Person
Vicky Nutley, Head of Legal Services
Teri Reynolds, Democratic Services Officer

441 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Brake and Potter.

442 Record of meeting

The record of the meeting held on 15 June 2022 was agreed by the Committee and signed by the Chairman as correct.

443 Urgent matters by reason of special circumstances

There were none.

444 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Significant Interests

Disclosable pecuniary interests

There were none.

Other significant interests (OSIs)

There were none.

Other interests

There were none.

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

446 Screening of complaint CCC/2022/009

Discussion:

The Monitoring Officer introduced the report which set out the details of a complaint relating to the conduct of a Medway Councillor. He explained that he had undertaken initial screening as part of the authority delegated to him by the Committee to initially screen complaints and he had concluded that it was not appropriate for him, as Monitoring Officer, to determine that no further action be taken. The matter had therefore been referred to the Committee.

He added that he had attempted an informal resolution between the two parties, as documented in the papers, but that this had been unsuccessful.

The Committee debated the issue and considered that a second attempt at an informal resolution was the most favourable outcome for both parties, should that be successful. This was a view supported by the Independent Person. During the discussion it was suggested that the Monitoring Officer contact all Members to remind them of the expectations of them in relation to their actions on social media, particularly as the Council was leading into a pre-election period, which he undertook to do.

Decision:

The Committee agreed to request the Monitoring Officer to make a conditional offer of informal resolution by requesting the subject member to apologise more formally to the complainant and to remove the relevant posts on social media. Should the subject member not accept to undertake these actions then the matter would be referred for investigation.

Chairman

Date:

Teri Reynolds, Democratic Services Officer

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