

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Meeting: 5 December 2022
At: 6.00 pm

PRESENT

Councillor Mr Stephen Clarke (Independent Member) (Chair), Councillor Andrew Stewart (Independent Member) (Vice-Chair), Councillors Brian Bagnall, Anna Charles-Jones, Steve Gribbon and Cottam (Independent Person)

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

RESOLVED – That Mr Stephen Clarke be elected Chair of the Committee for the period until the next Annual Council Meeting.

Mr Stephen Clarke in the Chair

2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

RESOLVED – That Mr Andrew Stewart be elected Vice Chair of the Committee for the period until the next Annual Council Meeting.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes (copies of which had been circulated) of the meeting held on 3 March 2022 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors and Officers were invited to declare any interests which they may have had in any of the items on the agenda for the meeting.

The following interest was declared:-

Personal & Prejudicial Interest

| <u>Councillor</u> | <u>Interest</u> |
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| Anna Charles-Jones | Agenda Item 7 - 'Annual Report regarding Councillor conduct' as one of the subjects in the report. Councillor Charles-Jones took no part in the discussion on this item. |

5. URGENT DECISIONS

The Monitoring Officer reported that a dispensation had been granted for Councillors Meller & Morrison in relation to their area committee and Cheadle Towns Fund. The report had been due to come before the Standards Committee on 19 September 2022 but the meeting had to be cancelled. In order that Councillors Meller and Morrison could take part in the Area Committee that had taken place on 29 November 2022, the urgent decision to grant the dispensation was taken. Both councillors will continue to declare their interest in the Cheadle Towns Fund.

RESOLVED – That the urgent decision be noted.

6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

7. ANNUAL REPORT REGARDING COUNCILLOR CONDUCT

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) which updated the Committee on complaints received about the conduct of members during the 2021/22 municipal year.

The following comments were made/issues raised:

- Members of the Standards Committee commented that they were pleased to see a reduction in the number of complaints relating to councillor's use of social media.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

The meeting closed at 6.06 pm