

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Standards Committee of the Bolsover District Council held in the Council Chamber, The Arc, Clowne on Tuesday 19th April 2022 at 14:00 hours.

PRESENT:-

Members:-

Ruth Jaffray (Co-optee Member) in the Chair

Councillors Clive Moesby, Tricia Clough, David Dixon, Graham Parkin and Deborah Watson.

Officers:- Jim Fieldsend (Monitoring Officer), Lisa Ingram (Legal Team Manager – Contentious Team), Liz Robinson (Customer Standards and Complaints Officer) and Tom Scott (Governance Officer).

STA38-21/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Councillor David Downes.

STA39-21/22 URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items of business to consider.

STA40-21/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were requested to declare the existence and nature of any disclosable pecuniary interests and/or other interests, not already on their register of interests, in any item on the agenda and withdraw from the meeting at the appropriate time.

There were no declarations made.

STA41-21/22 MINUTES – 24TH JANUARY 2022

Councillor Tricia Clough requested that the minutes be amended to show her apologies.

Moved by Councillor David Dixon and seconded by Councillor Deborah Watson

RESOLVED that subject to the inclusion of Councillor Tricia Clough's apologies, the Minutes of a meeting of the Standards Committee held on 24th January 2022 be approved as a true and correct record.

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STA42-21/22 CUSTOMER SERVICE STANDARDS/ COMPLIMENTS, COMMENTS AND COMPLAINTS REPORT 2021/22 - 1ST APRIL 2021 TO 30TH SEPTEMBER 2021

Committee considered a report which set out performance in relation to Customer Service Standards and the effective management of complaints.

The Monitoring Officer noted that some missed targets for telephony had been as a result of Covid 19 and resource issues.

A Member requested for future reports that the performance tables compare current statistics with figures from the previous 12 months rather than the previous quarter. The Monitoring Officer confirmed that this would be included for future reports.

Moved by Councillor Graham Parkin and seconded by Councillor David Dixon
RESOLVED that the overall performance on Customer Service Standards and Compliments, Comments and Complaints be noted.

(Customer Standards and Complaints Officer)

STA43-21/22 NEW BOLSOVER JOINT PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE - PROPOSAL TO DISESTABLISH THE COMMITTEE

Committee's approval was sought to recommend to Council that the New Bolsover Joint Partnership Committee be disestablished.

At its meeting held on 17th March 2022, Members of the New Bolsover Joint Partnership Committee had supported the proposal to disestablish the Committee as the New Bolsover New Beginnings project had come to an end. However, Members had expressed the prospect of accommodation continuing to be provided for the Friends of New Bolsover. The Monitoring Officer confirmed that discussions were ongoing to find the group a venue.

Moved by Councillor Deborah Watson and seconded by Councillor Graham Parkin
RESOLVED that Standards Committee support the disestablishment of the New Bolsover Joint Partnership Committee for the reasons outlined in the report.

RECOMMENDED that Council agree to disestablish the New Bolsover Joint Partnership Committee for the reasons outlined in the report.

(Monitoring Officer)

STA44-21/22 DRAFT STANDARDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

Committee considered a draft Annual Report on the work they had undertaken during the municipal year 2021/22, prior to submission to Annual Council.

Moved by Councillor David Dixon and seconded by Councillor Deborah Watson
RESOLVED that the Committee's Annual Report be presented to Annual Council on 18th May 2022.

(Governance/ Monitoring Officer)

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STA45-21/22 MEMBER TRAINING ATTENDANCE

Committee considered a report which provided information relating to Councillor attendance at training events between November 2021 and March 2022.

The Monitoring Office emphasised the importance of Members attending Code of Conduct training.

A Member believed it was the responsibility of political group leaders to ensure their Members attended training.

Members agreed that future Member update reports include the genuine reasons for a Member not being able to attend training.

In response to a query from the Legal Team Manager, a Member felt that training should be delivered in a more interactive way.

Moved by Councillor Clive Moesby and seconded by Councillor Deborah Watson
RESOLVED that the information and statistics for Member attendance at training between November 2021 and March 2022 as attached at Appendix 1 to the report be noted.

STA46-21/22 UPDATE ON RIPA TRAINING

Committee considered a verbal update on the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) training.

The Monitoring Officer noted that all authorising officers who undertook covert surveillance would need to undertake the training.

Moved by Councillor Clive Moesby and seconded by Councillor Deborah Watson
RESOLVED that the verbal report be noted.

STA47-21/22 COMPLAINTS UPDATE

Committee considered a report which set out the figures for complaints made against Members since 1st January 2022.

In response to a Member's question, the Monitoring Officer explained that currently, if a complaint was made against a parish councillor, only the parish clerk was notified, however, he was considering the possibility of notifying parish councillors as well.

Moved by Councillor David Dixon and seconded by Councillor Deborah Watson
RESOLVED that the report be noted.

STA48-21/22 WORK PROGRAMME 2021/2022

Committee considered the remainder of their Work Programme for 2021/22.

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Moved by Councillor David Dixon and seconded by Councillor Deborah Watson
RESOLVED that the Work Programme 2021/2022 be noted.

The meeting concluded at 14:45 hours.