

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE (ASSESSMENT) SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2020

Present: Cllrs Nocturin Lacey-Clarke (Chairman), Matthew Hall and Bill Pipe

Also present: Cllr Brian Heatley

Officers present (for all or part of the meeting):

Jonathan Mair (Corporate Director - Legal & Democratic Service Monitoring Officer) and Fiona King (Senior Democratic Services Officer)

18. Election of Chairman

Councillor Lacey Clarke was elected as Chairman for the meeting of the Sub-committee.

19. Apologies

No apologies for absence were received at the meeting.

20. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests were made at the meeting.

The Monitoring Officer advised the Sub-Committee that following a conversation with a councillor he had given advice that as Dorset councillors they were perfectly entitled to sit and consider the assessment of a complaint about a councillor of the same group or other group.

21. Assessment Sub-committee Terms of Reference and Dorset Council Member Complaints Process

All present noted the Assessment Sub-committee Terms of Reference and Dorset Council Member Complaint process.

22. Urgent items

There were no urgent items of business.

23. Exempt Business

Decision

That the press and the public be excluded for the following item(s) in view of the likely disclosure of exempt information within the meaning of paragraph 1 of schedule 12 A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

24. Code of Conduct Complaint 1

The Monitoring Officer advised members that the complainant had now withdrawn this complaint following the resignation of the councillor.

25. Code of Conduct Complaint 2

The sub-committee noted a range of complaints that had been made against a number of councillors that had been received by the Monitoring Officer.

Decision

1. That the complainants be informed that no further action is to be taken in connection with one of the complaints.
2. That the Monitoring Officer appoint an officer of the Council to investigate two of the complaints.
3. That the Monitoring Officer offered to meet with one of the complainants, a councillor the Mayor and Town Clerk but for no investigation to take place.

26. Code of Conduct Complaint 3

The sub-committee noted two complaints against a councillor that had been received by the Monitoring Officer.

Decision

That the Monitoring Officer appoint an officer of the Council to investigate both complaints individually.

27. Code of Conduct Complaint 4

The sub-committee noted a complaint against a councillor that had been received by the Monitoring Officer.

Decision

That the Monitoring Officer seek informal resolution between the parties.

28. Code of Conduct Complaint 5

The sub-committee noted a complaint against a councillor that had been received by the Monitoring Officer.

Decision

That the Monitoring Officer raise with the Town Clerk concerns about unnecessary complexity in the Town Council's Code of Conduct.

29. **Code of Conduct Complaint 6**

The sub-committee noted a complaint against a councillor that had been received by the Monitoring Officer.

Decision

That the Monitoring Officer appoint an officer of the Council to investigate the complaint.

Duration of meeting: 11.00 am - 12.00 pm

Chairman

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