
STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Thursday, 12th October, 2023

Present: Councillor Kath Pratt (in the Chair), Councillors Steven Smithson (Vice Chair), Zak Khan, Rennie Pinder and Judith Addison

Altham Parish Councillor Rennie Pinder

Apologies Councillors Danny Cassidy, Noordad Aziz, Mike Booth, Steve Button and Paul Cox

243 Apologies for absence, Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Cassidy, Aziz, Button, P. Cox and Booth.

Councillor Addison acted as substitute representative for Councillor Cassidy.

244 Minutes of Last Meeting

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 19th December 2022 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

Resolved - That the Minutes be received and approved as a correct record.

245 Local Government Ombudsman (LGO) Letter 2023

The Executive Director (Legal & Democratic Services) submitted a report to inform the Committee about the annual Local Government Ombudsman's (LGO's) letter for 2022/23. She informed the Committee that the Local Government's Office produced much less statistical data now than they had done in previous years, however, reported that the pattern of complaint was constant with a low number of complaints and a low number upheld. Reference was made to changes in the Council's complaints policy and to changes in the complaint process from a 3 stage to a 2 stage system.

Resolved (1) That the Committee welcomed the Ombudsman's letter for 2022/23 and noted the report;
(2) That the Committee noted the Council's new complaint policy and the new two stage complaint process.

246 Standards Review 2022/23

The Executive Director (Legal & Democratic Services) submitted a report to provide the Standards Committee with a summary of standards matters relating to 2022/23. She referred to an increased number of complaints made about councillor conduct in 2021/22 after there had, previously, been very few complaints referred to the Standards Assessment Panel and no formal investigations for approximately 10 years. In comparison to the

Resolved - That the report be noted.

Resolved

- That the applications for dispensations from the Hyndburn Councillors and Altham Parish Councillors, as listed in the minutes above, were approved for a period of 4 years from 13th October 2023 to 12th October 2027.

Signed:.....

Date:

Chair of the meeting
At which the minutes were confirmed