

STANDARDS AND CONDUCT COMMITTEE

FRIDAY, 4TH MARCH, 2016

PRESENT: Councillor E Nash in the Chair

Councillors B Gettings, P Harrand, B Selby,
C Townsley and B Urry

APOLOGIES: Councillor Ingham and Mr G Tollefson

IN

ATTENDANCE: Councillor Hughes – Horsforth Town
Council

1 Appeals against refusal of inspection of documents

There were no appeals against refusals of inspection of documents.

2 Exempt Information - Possible exclusion of the press and public

There were no resolutions to exclude the public.

3 Late items

There were no late items submitted for consideration.

4 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary and Other Interests

There were no declarations made.

5 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Ingham and Mr Tollefson (The Independent Person).

6 Minutes - 6th March 2015

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 6th March 2015 be approved as a correct record subject to the reference to “Shadwell Town Council” being amended to “Shadwell Parish Council”

7 Annual Report of the Standards and Conduct Committee

The Head of Governance Services presented an annual report relating to matters within the committee's terms of reference and which provided assurances in respect of the arrangements in place for standards and conduct matters.

By way of update the Head of Governance Services informed Members that since the agenda had been published a further complaint had been received in respect of a Leeds City Council member which had been dismissed at Stage 1.

In reviewing the matters set out in the report, consideration was given to the circumstances that might arise where a complaint concerning Disclosable Pecuniary Interests would be considered by the West Yorkshire Police. The committee emphasised the importance of Members keeping their register of interests up to date, and concluded that Members should be provided with a reminder, on a quarterly basis, to review the content of their Register of Interests.

The committee agreed that the annual report should be referred to full Council for consideration in order for full Council to receive assurances as to how the authority's duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct (by Members and co-opted Members of the Council) is being discharged.

RESOLVED – The Committee resolved

- (a) To receive and note the assurances provided in respect of the Council's arrangements for Standards and Conduct;
- (b) To refer the annual report on Standards and Conduct to full Council for consideration;
- (c) That no amendments, to either the Members' Code of Conduct or the procedures for considering complaints, are required at this time; and
- (d) That a reminder be sent to all Members to check their register of interests on a three monthly basis.