

STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE (SMDC) DECISIONS

FRIDAY, 17 NOVEMBER 2023

PRESENT: Councillor A Church (Chair)

Councillors Mr J Berrisford, E Fallows, I Herdman, Mr L Jackson, C Jebb, Councillor W Rogers, M Spooner, P Wilkinson and C Wood

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor(s) C Atkins

APOLOGIES: Councillors B Emery, G Taylor and Mr P Carnall

11 **TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 July 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Councillors observed a minute's silence in memory of Mr Harry Mawdsley (Independent Person) who had recently passed away.

The Committee welcomed Mr John Berresford (Substitute Independent Person) and Cllr Leslie Jackson (Parish Representative) to the meeting.

12 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST, IF ANY:**

There were no declarations of interest.

13 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT OMBUDSMAN ANNUAL LETTER**

The report advised members of the content of the Ombudsman's Annual Letter for the period April 2022 – March 2023. The Local Government Ombudsman's Annual Review Letter summarised complaints and enquiries received by it in relation to the Council. The letters were published on the Ombudsman's website together with specimen data used to inform the Ombudsman's Annual Report.

RESOLVED:

That the content of the Ombudsman's Annual Letter (included at Appendix A to the report) be noted.

14 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED:

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That, pursuant to Section 100A(2) and (4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings whereby it is likely that confidential information as defined in Section 100A (3) of the Act would be disclosed to the public in breach of the obligation of confidence or exempt information as defined in Section 100 I (1) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act would be disclosed to the public by virtue of the Paragraphs indicated.

15 **TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE EXEMPT MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.**

RESOLVED:

That the exempt minutes of the meeting held on 21 July 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

16 **STANDARDS COMPLAINTS MONITORING REPORT**

Members were presented with information regarding complaints made under the Code of Conduct in the period since the committee previously met. This included complaints made against nine parish/town councillors and one former district councillor.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

The meeting closed at 10.20 am

Chairman