

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Standards Committee held on
Thursday 18 April 2013 at 10.00 am, in Meeting Room 1,
King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn**

PRESENT:

Councillors B Ayres (Chairman), Mrs Z Christopher, C Joyce and Mrs K Mellish
Mr J Stringer (Independent Representative)
Mr A J Maiden (Non-Voting Parish Representative)
Mr R Seppings (Non-Voting Parish Representative)
Nicola Leader, Monitoring Officer

1 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED: That under section 100(a)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor A Wright.

3 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15 February 2013 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Monitoring Officer advised the Committee that she knew one of the persons being complained of and one of the complainants was a serving Borough Councillor. The Monitoring Officer further advised that she would not take part in the determination of the decision at today's meeting and that she was only present to manage the process. The complaints had been referred to an Investigating Officer outside the Borough Council and the Monitoring Officer had not participated in the investigation process.

5 TO CONSIDER THE CONFIDENTIAL REPORT FROM THE INVESTIGATING OFFICER AND THE SEPARATE CORRESPONDENCE DATED 25 MARCH 2013

The Committee considered the above confidential report and separate correspondence relating to complaints: 21/11, 22/11, 31/11 and 32/11.

RESOLVED:

(a) The Standards Committee rejected the idea of formal mediation as a way to resolve these complaints.

(b) **INVESTIGATING OFFICER'S REPORT – FINDINGS OF NO BREACH OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RELATION TO COMPLAINTS 21/11, 22/11, 31/11 AND 32/11**

The Standards Committee agreed with the findings of the Investigating Officer's report that where there was no breach of the Parish Council's Code of Conduct.

(c) **INVESTIGATING OFFICER'S REPORT – FINDINGS OF BREACH OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RELATION TO COMPLAINTS 21/11, 22/11, 31/11 AND 32/11**

The Standards Committee determined that where there was a breach of the Code of Conduct a Panel Hearing would be convened.

The meeting closed at 10.27 am