

**BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK****STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**Minutes from the Meeting of the Standards Committee held on Friday, 3rd February, 2023 at 10.00 am in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Saturday Market Place, King's Lynn PE30 5DQ**

**PRESENT:** Councillor B Ayres (Chair)  
Councillors Mrs J Collingham and C Manning

**Also present on Zoom:**  
Councillor Mrs S Collop

**OFFICERS:**

Alexa Baker, Monitoring Officer  
Kathy Wagg, Democratic Services Officer

**1 APOLOGIES**

Apologies had been received from Councillor Hipperson.

**2 MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed by the Committee and signed by the Chair, as follows:

31 January 2022 – Panel Hearing  
1 February 2022 – Panel Hearing  
3 November 2022 – Panel Hearing  
30 November 2022– Full Committee

**3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**4 URGENT BUSINESS UNDER STANDING ORDER 7**

There was no urgent business to report.

**5 MEMBERS PRESENT PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 34**

Councillor Collop attended under Standing Order 34 Zoom.

**6 CHAIR'S CORRESPONDENCE (IF ANY)**

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The Chair reported that he had received an email regarding the conduct of Members at meetings.

The Monitoring Officer reminded the Committee that last year the Council signed up to Debate not Hate LGA campaign. She suggested that Councillors should be reminded of this and the relevant Standing Orders to deal with the conduct of Councillors at meetings.

Following discussion on the best method of communicating the reminder, it was agreed that specific reference be made in the Code of Conduct, an article in the Members Bulletin and the Monitoring Officer would email the Chairs of Committees and Panels reminding them of the relevant standing orders for dealing with Members conduct at meetings.

## 7 **UPDATED CODE OF CONDUCT AND GUIDANCE ON COMPLAINT HANDLING**

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The Monitoring Officer took the Committee through the amendments to the Code of Conduct, as requested at the previous meeting, highlighted by track changes to the document, namely:

- 2.3 Bullying, harassment and discrimination
- 9.2 Interests
- Appendix B Registering Interests – paragraphs 11 and 12

In response to the item regarding Members conduct at meetings, the Monitoring Officer suggested the following form of words to be included after the first paragraph:

*If you are to act in this manner in a public meeting of this Council, the Chair of that meeting will have due regard to Standing Order 15 regarding disorderly conduct of members.*

The Monitoring Officer then invited the Committee to approve the Updated Code of Conduct subject to the addition of the wording above (in italics) which was agreed.

### **RECOMMENDED:**

- (1) That full Council approves the updated Members Code of Conduct with the track changes accepted, and the addition of the wording in italics.

(2) That the Guidance on Complaint Handling be adopted.

8 **STANDARDS COMMITTEE DECISION NOTICES 2022**

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The Standards Committee considered and noted the decision notices of the hearings held on 1 February 2022 and 3 November 2022.

9 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To be arranged when required.

**The meeting closed at 10.27 am**