

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

**Minutes from the Meeting of the Standards Committee held on Wednesday,
16th July, 2025 at 4.30 pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Saturday
Market Place, King's Lynn PE30 5DQ**

PRESENT: Councillor A Ware (Chair)
Councillors B Ayres, S Bearshaw, A Moore and J Osborne

An apology for absence was received from Councillor S Ring and S Sandell

1 APPOINTMENT OF VICE - CHAIR FOR THE MEETING

RESOLVED: Councillor B Ayres was appointed Vice-Chair for the meeting.

2 APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

Apologies of absence were received from Councillor S Ring and S Sandell.

3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: The minutes from the meeting held on the 25th March 2025 and 7th May 2025 were agreed as a correct record.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

5 URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

6 MEMBERS PRESENT UNDER STANDING ORDER 34

There were no members present under Standing Order 34.

7 CHAIR'S CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

8 REPORT ON 2024-2025 COMPLAINTS

[Click here to view the recording of this item on YouTube.](#)

The Deputy Monitoring Officer presented the report.

The Chair invited questions and comments from the Committee.

Councillor Osborne referred to page 17, 2.1 and sought clarification on the discrepancy in the number of complaints against Borough Councillors

The Deputy Monitoring Officer confirmed the correct number of complaints against Borough Councillors were 7 for 2024-2025.

Councillor Bearshaw referred to page 18, 4.1 and commented out of 14 Parish Councillor complaints in which 4 were made about the same Councillor. He asked if this was an ongoing concern.

The Deputy Monitoring Officer explained it was difficult to step in with Parish Council's however the independent person would provide a view and recommend a proposal.

In response to a further question from Councillor Bearshaw, the Deputy Monitoring Officer explained complaints against Parish Councillors were sent to the Parish Clerk.

RESOLVED: To note the contents of this report together with Appendices A and B, in the interests of promoting high standards of conduct by Councillors and co-opted members.

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REPORT ON DISPENSATION

[Click here to view the recording of this item on YouTube.](#)

The Deputy Monitoring Officer presented the report.

The Chair invited questions and comments from the Committee.

Councillor Osborne thanked the Deputy Monitoring Officer for the further explanation and commented debates would be helped by the dispensation.

The Deputy Monitoring Officer explained the debate was still able to take place without the Members who had an interest in the room and points of principle were being raised.

Councillor Bearshaw referred to the example used in relation to Planning and the Deputy Monitoring Officer commented the point was noted however the rationale was Council Tax affected the majority of residents within the Borough.

The Deputy Monitoring Officer highlighted to the Committee the dispensation was until the next election date not just for 2025 to 2026.

RESOLVED: The Standards Committee were requested to:

1. To issue dispensations to all Members for the following matters relating to Council

Tax, until the next ordinary date of elections:

i. To participate and vote on the Budget and the setting of Council Tax, including

where the interest is as the owner of an additional property or as beneficiary of

Council Tax Support.

ii. To participate and vote on any Council Tax discount, levy or premium on

dwellings occupied periodically (second homes) and empty & unfurnished

properties, including where the interest is as the owner of an additional property.

iii. To participate and vote on the Council Tax Support scheme for working age

people, including where the interest is as a claimant of Council Tax Support.

iv. To participate and vote on the scheme of Business Rates discretionary reliefs

including where the interest is as a business rate payer in the Borough.

v. To participate and vote on the scheme of Council Tax discretionary reliefs,

including where the interest is as a beneficiary of the relief in the Borough.

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DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was to be scheduled when required.

The meeting closed at 4.49 pm