



Minutes

AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Date:	Tuesday, 18 October 2016
Venue:	Town Hall, St Annes.
Committee Members:	Councillor John Singleton JP (Chairman) Councillors Delma Collins, Peter Collins, Sue Fazackerley, Edward Nash, Graeme Neale, Roger Small.
Independent Persons Present:	Mr Horrocks, Mrs Broughton and Mr Mozley
Officers Present:	Tracy Morrison, Katharine McDonnell
Other Attendees:	Mark Towers (Deputy Monitoring Officer)

1. Declarations of interest

Members were reminded that any disclosable pecuniary interests should be declared as required by the Localism Act 2011 and any personal or prejudicial interests should be declared as required by the Council's Code of Conduct for Members.

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Substitute members

The following substitution was reported under Council procedure rule 24(c):

Councillor Sue Fazackerley for Councillor David Donaldson

3. Exclusion of the Public

Members of the committee were invited to consider passing a resolution excluding the public from the meeting for the consideration of item 4 below in accordance with the provisions of Section 100(4) of the Local Government Act 1972. This was on the grounds that the business to be discussed was exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 2 (Information relating to an individual and Information which was likely to reveal the identity of the individual) of Schedule 12A of the Act.

It was RESOLVED to exclude the public.

4. Code of Conduct Investigation

Tracy Morrison (Monitoring Officer) provided an overview of the process by which a complaint against a councillor was dealt with. She explained that as Monitoring Officer she had delegated powers to determine whether a complaint should be dismissed or referred for investigation. In both cases, the Monitoring Officer would confer with an Independent Person as to the correct course of action.

Ms Morrison advised members that a formal investigation had been instigated to establish the facts following a complaint made against Councillor Sandra Pitman by Bryning with Warton Parish Council.

The investigation had been undertaken by Mr Mark Towers, (Deputy Monitoring Officer). His report outlined the allegation, background, evidence gathered, and other considerations. Mr Towers attended to introduce his report and assist members of the committee. His finding was that Councillor Pitman **had not** breached the Code of Conduct in regards to paragraphs 4.12 and 4.13.

Members had before them a full copy of the Investigatory Officer's report. A summary report was to be published on the Council's website.

Following a discussion, taking into regards the findings of the investigatory officer, the view of the Monitoring Officer and the Independent Person, the Committee NOTED:

1. The findings of Mr Tower's report; and
2. To endorse the approach to encourage a better working relationship between the complainant and Councillor Pitman.

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