

# JOINT STANDARDS COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE

**Date:** 18 March 2015

**Venue:** East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

**Time:** 6.30pm

**Present:** East Northamptonshire Councillors:

Pauline Bradberry  
David Jenney

Bob Nightingale

Town and Parish Councillors:

Fiona Cowan	(Collyweston Parish Council)
John Greig	(Titchmarsh Parish Council)
Derek Lawson	(Higham Ferrers Town Council)
Arthur Whittaker	(Yarwell Parish Council)

Vivienne Barnard	Independent Person
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## 431. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee, nominations for the election of a Chairman to preside at the meeting were requested. Councillor David Jenney was proposed and duly seconded and, being the only nominee, it was

### RESOLVED:

That Councillor David Jenney be elected as Chairman to preside at this meeting of the Committee.

## 432. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Joint Standards Complaints Committee held on 19 November 2014 were approved and signed by the Chairman presiding at the meeting.

## 433. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Sylvia Hobbs (ENC), Colin Wright (ENC) Mike Clements (Raunds Town Council) and David Coleman (Rushden Town Council).

## 434. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

**435. QUESTIONS SUBMITTED UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 10.3**

There were no questions submitted under Procedure Rule 10.3.

**436. REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

The Monitoring Officer reported that no requests for dispensations had been received.

**437. ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER**

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report outlining activity in relation to the Standards Framework in the period from the last meeting of the Committee in November 2014 to date.

The Monitoring Officer reported that there were 22 outstanding register of interest forms for Town and Parish Councillors. Reminders would be issued to Parish Clerks regarding the need for Councillors elected in May 2015 to complete registers within 28 days of being elected to office.

No new complaints had been received since the last meeting of the Committee. The Monitoring Officer had received 7 enquiries relating to standards issues and 1 request for information about the complaints process.

The Governance and Audit Committee, at its meeting held on 2 February 2015, had considered comments made by a Councillor involved in recent complaints on the procedure for considering complaints made against Councillors contained in Part 9 of the Constitution. The Governance and Audit Committee had not recommended any changes to the existing procedure as it was considered that changes already made to Part 9 of the Constitution adequately covered the issues raised by the Councillor concerned.

Fourteen Town and Parish Councils had, to date, adopted the revised 2014 Code of Conduct. Three Town and Parish Councils had adopted the NALC Code of Conduct and the remaining Councils were operating under the ENC Code in place prior to the 2014 revisions being made.

A programme of induction sessions would be held for both District and Parish Councillors elected at the May 2015 elections. These would include training on standards issues and all District Councillors would be provided with a printed copy of the Council's Constitution. Town and Parish Council Clerks would be responsible for issuing a copy of the relevant Code of Conduct to their Council Members.

**RESOLVED:**

That the report be noted.

*(The Chairman of the Committee, Councillor Andy Mercer, having been delayed, arrived at the meeting at the conclusion of the business set out on the Agenda)*

**438. CHAIRMAN'S THANKS**

As this was the last meeting of the Committee during the term of the current Council and noting that some Committee members would not be seeking re-election at the forthcoming local elections in May 2015, the Chairman thanked District Councillors, Town and Parish Council representatives, as well as Officers, for their work on the Committee.

Councillor John Greig confirmed that he would not be standing as a candidate in May's elections and thanked both elected Members and Officers for the support they had given to him over the many years he had served on Titchmarsh Parish Council.

**Chairman**