

JOINT STANDARDS COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE

Date: 21 March 2018

Venue: East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

Time: 7.30pm

Present: Councillor Andy Mercer (Chairman)
Councillor Dave Munday (Vice-Chairman)

East Northamptonshire Councillors:

Rosalie Beattie David Jenney
Annabel de Capell Brooke Rupert Reichhold

Town and Parish Councillors:

Roy Sparkes (Oundle Town Council)
Robert Tyman (Raunds Town Council)
Adrian Winkle (Irthlingborough Town Council)

Vivienne Barnard (Independent Person)
Andrew Sortwell (Reserve Independent Person)

451. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from ENC Councillors Lance Jones and Gill Mercer and Parish Representatives Fiona Cowan (Collyweston Parish Council) and Derek Lawson (Higham Ferrers Town Council).

The Chairman informed the Committee of the recent death of Councillor Lawson's wife. The Members of the Committee wished to extend their condolences to Councillor Lawson and requested the Monitoring Officer to write to Councillor Lawson on their behalf.

452. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Joint Standards Complaints Committee held on 17 January 2018 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

453. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interests were made.

454. QUESTIONS SUBMITTED UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 10.3

There were no questions submitted under Procedure Rule 10.3.

455. REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

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

456. ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report outlining activity in relation to the Standards Framework covering the period from the last meeting of the Committee in November 2017 to date.

There had been three new potential complaints since the previous meeting. The total number of potential complaints in 2017 which had not resulted in subsequent formal complaints had been 13, compared to 5 in 2016.

Since the last meeting, a total of three new formal complaints had been received. All of these related to the same Parish Council as two of the complaints reported at the previous meeting. Three of the four complaints relating to this parish Council had been concluded at Initial Assessment stage with the outcome of 'other action' in the form of a mediated governance review at the Parish Council, which would commence shortly. Two were at the Initial Assessment stage.

Two complaints had reached the Hearing stage of the process. One Hearing had been held on 9 March 2018 and the outcome would be reported to the next meeting of the Committee once the appeal period had ended. A Hearing date for the second complaint was being arranged.

The Monitoring Officer reported that two Monitoring Officer Conferences would be held in June and July this year. One would be attended by herself and the other by Ben Smith (Democratic Services Manager) who would be appointed as an additional Deputy Monitoring Officer role at the Council in the summer.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

(Reason: No further action or decisions are required as a result of this report).

Chairman