

EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting of the Standards Committee held in the Coltman VC Room, Town Hall on Monday 2nd September 2024 at 6.30pm.

Present:

Councillors L. Walker (Chairman), L Beech, R Lock and M. Shrive.

Officers Present:

John Teasdale (Head of Legal and Regulatory Services and Monitoring Officer) and Andrea Davies (Principal Democratic Services Officer)

Also Present:

Sarah Riches (Independent Person), Parish/Town Councillors J McKiernan and H Headech.

An apology for absence was received from: Councillor D F Fletcher

30/24 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest at the commencement of the meeting.

31/24 **PUBLIC MINUTES**

Resolved:

That the Public Minutes of the Meeting held on the 3rd June 2024 be approved by the Committee and signed as a correct record, subject to the deletion of the following wording at 26/24 “due to the incorrect paperwork being submitted“.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows.

Those voting for the motion	Those voting against	Those abstaining
Councillor L. Walker Councillor L Beech Councillor M. Shrive		Councillor R Lock

32/24 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business submitted to the meeting pursuant to Rule 12.

33/24 **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

Resolved:

That Councillor M Shrive be appointed Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows.

Those voting for the motion	Those voting against	Those abstaining
Councillor L. Walker Councillor L Beech Councillor R Lock Councillor M. Shrive		

34/24 **MONITORING OFFICER'S UPDATE REPORT**

The Committee received an update from the Monitoring officer on the complaints which were currently live: one complaint relating to an investigation of a complaint made against Councillor P Hudson, a final report was in the process of being prepared and a further update would be provided to the committee prior to the next meeting; the other live complaint was concerning Rocester Parish Council, involving declarations of interests and Councillor P Atkins. A determination was awaited as to whether the matter was to be investigated.

The Committee noted that the longstanding complaint made by former Councillor D Florence-Jukes against Councillor A Clarke had recently come to an end, following a full apology being made by Councillor Clarke, so the matter had now been concluded.

With regards to the annual updates of Register of interests, there remained 12 forms outstanding from Borough Councillors and 11 Parish Councils had yet to submit their forms. Officers would continue to chase these up.

An opportunity for questions followed.

NOTED.

35/24 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Resolved:

That, in accordance with Section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the Press and Public be excluded from the Meeting during discussion of the following items as it would likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings that there would be disclosed exempt information as defined in the paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act indicated in brackets before each item number on the Agenda

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows.

Those voting for the motion	Those voting against	Those abstaining
Councillor L. Walker Councillor L Beech Councillor R Lock Councillor M. Shrive		

Chairman