

Mid Devon District Council

Standards Committee

Wednesday, 3 February 2021 at 6.00 pm
Remote Meeting

Next ordinary meeting
Wednesday, 2 June 2021 at 6.00 pm

Important - this meeting will be conducted and recorded by Zoom only. Please do not attend Phoenix House. The attached Protocol for Remote Meetings explains how this will work.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/94659271668?pwd=bXN0ejMrcDZJdjRxOWcyV1hWalh3QT09>

Meeting ID: 946 5927 1668

Passcode: 142554

One tap mobile

08000315717,,94659271668#,,, *142554# United Kingdom Toll-free

08002605801,,94659271668#,,, *142554# United Kingdom Toll-free

Dial by your location

0 800 031 5717 United Kingdom Toll-free

0 800 260 5801 United Kingdom Toll-free

0 800 358 2817 United Kingdom Toll-free Meeting ID: 946 5927 1668

Passcode: 142554

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/acN8OZHGR8>

Membership

Cllr Mrs F J Colthorpe

Cllr R M Deed

Cllr C J Eginton

Cllr C R Slade

Cllr Mrs M E Squires

Cllr L D Taylor

Cllr A White

Cllr Mrs N Woollatt

Cllr A Wyer

AGENDA

Members are reminded of the need to make declarations of interest prior to any discussion which may take place

- 1 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**
To receive any questions relating to items on the Agenda from members of the public and replies thereto.

Note: A maximum of 30 minutes is allowed for this item.
- 2 **PROTOCOL FOR REMOTE MEETINGS** (Pages 5 - 10)
To note the protocol for remote meetings.
- 3 **APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**
To receive any apologies for absence and notices of appointment of Substitute Members (if any).
- 4 **ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN**
To consider electing a Vice Chairman for the Committee.
- 5 **MINUTES** (Pages 11 - 14)
Members to consider whether to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as a correct record.
- 6 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT**
Councillors are reminded of the requirement to declare any interest, including the type of interest, and reason for that interest, either at this stage of the meeting or as soon as they become aware of that interest.
- 7 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**
To receive any announcements the Chairman of the Committee may wish to make.
- 8 **MOTION 565 (COUNCILLORS: MISS E WAINWRIGHT AND MISS J NORTON - 15 OCTOBER 2020)** (Pages 15 - 16)

The following motion (minus Item 4 which was referred to the Scrutiny Committee) has been passed to the Standards Committee from Council for consideration and report.

Council resolves to:

1. Practice equality, fairness and inclusion, and to play its part in creating an equal society for all. There is no place for sexism, racism, bigotry, discrimination or intolerance of any form in our society.
2. Acknowledge that language is a powerful tool for change and inspiration, as well as ignorance, oppression and damaged

relationships, and should be used thoughtfully and respectfully. Many people who do not have a voice in the public domain have to suffer the consequences of inaccurate or insulting language.

3. Review and, if needed, update member training, to equip all members with the language and tools needed to actively promote diversity and inclusivity.
5. Ask that the Chairs of the Equality Forum and Community PDG identify and discuss approaches to reaching hard-to-reach communities in Mid Devon.
6. Show leadership by creating a diversity and inclusion strategy, and seek input from residents and local organisations that have expertise, to ensure the council is inclusive towards diverse and hard-to-reach communities in its recruitment, member representation and service provision. As part of this, review and update the MDDC equalities policy.
7. Explore further opportunities to increase inclusivity, diversity and representation in Mid Devon District Council, including but not limited to amongst women, minority ethnic communities, young people, and carers.

(1) The Fawcett Society and Local Government Information Unit report, 'Does Local Government Work for Women?' found that structural and cultural barriers hold back women's participation in local government. The practices and protocols of local government create unnecessary barriers to participation particularly for women with caring responsibilities. <https://www.fawcettsociety.org.uk/does-local-government-work-for-women-final-report-of-the-local-government-commission>

- 9 **MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT** (Pages 17 - 34)
To consider the new model LGA code of conduct and whether it should be reviewed for potential adoption by the Council.
- 10 **GOVERNANCE REVIEW**
To receive an update from the Monitoring Officer on the implications for this Committee – bearing in mind that Council's original instruction was that significant changes to the Constitution should be considered by the Standards Committee.
- 11 **COMPLAINTS AND TRAINING UPDATE**
To receive an update from the Monitoring Officer with regard to

complaints dealt with since the last meeting. During the discussion it may be necessary to consider passing the following resolution to protect the Members of District, Town and Parish Council's being discussed. The Monitoring Officer may also provide an update on advice, training and support during the year.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT – EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RECOMMENDED that under section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the next item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, namely information relating to an individual

12 IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Members are asked to identify any items they would like brought forward to future meetings. Depending on the progress of the Governance Review, there may be a special meeting of the Committee in March or April 2021: after that, the next meeting will be the first meeting of the municipal year 2021 and will be held on Wednesday 2 June 2021.

Stephen Walford
Chief Executive
Tuesday, 26 January 2021

Covid-19 and meetings

The Council will be holding some meetings in the next few weeks, but these will not be in person at Phoenix House until the Covid-19 crisis eases. Instead, the meetings will be held remotely via Zoom and you will be able to join these meetings via the internet. Please see the instructions on each agenda and read the Protocol on Remote Meetings before you join.

If you want to ask a question or speak, email your full name to Committee@middevon.gov.uk by **no later than 4pm on the day before the meeting**. This will ensure that your name is on the list to speak and will help us ensure that you are not missed – as you can imagine, it is easier to see and manage public speaking when everyone is physically present in the same room. Notification in this way will ensure the meeting runs as smoothly as possible.

If you require any further information please contact Sally Gabriel
E-Mail: sgabriel@middevon.gov.uk