

MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of a **MEETING** of the **STANDARDS COMMITTEE** held on 11 March 2015
at 6.00 pm

Present

Councillors

R M Deed, Mrs F J Colthorpe, N V Davey
(substituting for Councillor Mrs M E
Squires), R Evans, C R Slade, P F Williams
and Mrs N Woollatt

Apologies

Councillors

R J Chesterton, Mrs L J Holloway and Mrs M E Squires

Also Present

Officers:

Amy Tregellas (Head of Communities and Governance and
Monitoring Officer) and Julia Stuckey (Member Services
Officer)

57 APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Apologies were received from Councillors R J Chesterton, Mrs L J Holloway and Mrs M E Squires who was substituted by Councillor N V Davey.

58 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no members of the public in attendance.

59 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

60 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman had no announcements to make.

61 CONSTITUTION WORKING GROUP

The Committee had before it information* from the Constitution Working Group regarding Member Job Roles.

The Group had compiled the information for inclusion in the Constitution and it was before the Standards Committee for comment prior to inclusion in the full draft Constitution.

The Committee worked through the document page by page. The roles included Councillor Job Role, Community Leader, Decision Maker and Influencer, Day to Day Councillor, Chairman of Non-Regulatory Committees, Chairman of Regulatory Committees, Chairman of the Council, Leader of the Council, Deputy Leader, Cabinet Member, Scrutiny Committee Chairman and Scrutiny Committee Member.

Discussion took place regarding:

- There was no reference to the Chairman's role in agreeing Motions. It was agreed that this should be added and also that this was in consultation with the Leader.
- The job roles stated what Members should do but did not mention their rights. A section to be added listing the rights of Councillors, i.e. the right to submit a motion or to call in a decision.
- Scrutiny Committee Members should be encouraged to obtain the necessary skills to contribute to the work of the Committee.

It was **AGREED** that the Job Roles be brought back to the next meeting of this Committee with the inclusion of the above amendments.

Note: - *Information previously circulated and attached to Minutes.

62 **COMPLAINTS (00:10:08)**

The Head of Communities and Governance and Monitoring Officer updated the Committee on complaints that had been received during 2015.

There had been one complaint reported regarding a District Councillor and there had been 10 complaints regarding one Parish Council. All 10 complaints had been from one complainant. The Monitoring Officer had written asking for further clarification from the complainant and if no information was forthcoming the complaints would be closed.

One complaint had been outstanding from 2014 as it had been appealed. The decision of the Monitoring Officer had now been upheld by the Deputy Monitoring Officer and the complaint closed.

Following a Sub Committee meeting in January a letter had been drafted to the appropriate Town/Parish Council. Changes had been put in place and it was hoped that the situation would be resolved.

As there had not been any discussion during this agenda item which would identify an individual Town or Parish Councillor, it had not been necessary for the meeting to go into Part II.

63 **IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

Constitution Working Group Updates

(The meeting ended at 6.15 pm)

CHAIRMAN