

## **MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**MINUTES** of a **MEETING** of the **STANDARDS COMMITTEE** held on 28 April 2015 at 6.00 pm

### **Present**

**Councillors** R M Deed (Chairman)  
R J Chesterton, Mrs F J Colthorpe,  
Mrs L J Holloway, C R Slade,  
Mrs M E Squires and P F Williams (Vice  
Chairman)

### **Apologies**

**Councillors** R Evans and Mrs N Woollatt

### **Also Present**

**Officers:** Philip Langdon (Solicitor) and Julia Stuckey (Member Services Officer)

## **78 APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**

Apologies were received from Councillors R Evans and Mrs N Woollatt.

## **79 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

## **80 MINUTES**

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

## **81 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman wished all the best for the future to those Members not standing for re-election.

## **82 COMPLAINTS**

There were no complaints to report.

## **83 UPDATES FROM THE CONSTITUTION WORKING GROUP**

The Committee continued where they had finished at the last meeting, working through the Rules of Procedure from page 112.

It was AGREED that all references to the Legal Services Manager should be changed to say the Monitoring Officer.

Throughout the document rules were referred to as rule 0. This required amending to read the true rule number.

On page 141 (12) it was AGREED to change the word 'will' to 'can'.

The formatting throughout the document needed to be checked for consistency.

When referring to Members and Officers in the Code of Conduct the use of apostrophes needed to be consistent.

Pages 166, 167 and 168 needed to be combined onto one page and the numbering checked.

It was AGREED that the Monitoring Officer be asked to confirm whether the highlighted comments in the document had been actioned.

Discussion took place regarding point 4.7 on page 173, referring to Officers responding to emails from Members within 5 days. It was AGREED to ask the Monitoring Officer to confirm whether or not this has been agreed by Council.

On page 177 a comment had been made regarding Members arranging public meetings and the need to inform the Chief Executive or Head of Service about this. It was AGREED that the Solicitor look into the legalities of this and provide appropriate wording.

The Members Allowances Scheme would need to be updated when it had been agreed.

The Chairman thanked the Committee and the Constitution Working Group for the effort they had put into updating the Constitution.

It was AGREED that the full Constitution, including the index and glossary be brought to the next meeting of the Committee, which would be held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2015 at 6.00pm in the Phoenix Chamber.

#### **84 IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

The Committee to review the full Constitution, including the glossary and index.

(The meeting ended at 6.53 pm)

**CHAIRMAN**