



Rutland County Council

Catmose Oakham Rutland LE15 6HP

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Minutes of a meeting of the **CONDUCT COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Catmose, Oakham at 7.00 pm on **Monday 16 February 2015**.

PRESENT:	Mr M E Baines	Rutland County Council (Chairman)
	Mr T King	Rutland County Council
	Mr M D A Pocock	Rutland County Council
	Miss G Waller	Rutland County Council
	Mr S Aley	Parish Council Representative
	Mr G Grimes	Independent Person
Officers present:	Mrs N Brown	Coordinator – Corporate Support Team
	Mr P McCourt	Head of Legal Services (Peterborough)
	Mrs D Mogg	Director of Resources
Apologies:	Mrs C J Cartwright	Rutland County Council
	Mr A Crombie	Town Council Representative
	Mr I Shatford	Independent Person

763 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest in respect of items on the agenda.

764 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Conduct Committee held on Tuesday 7 October 2014 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman. It was noted that the minutes now reflected the correct date.

765 PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS

No petitions, deputations or questions had been received in relation to items listed on the agenda for this meeting.

766 MEMBER CODE OF CONDUCT

Report No. 47/2015 – from the Monitoring Officer was received.

The Head of Legal Services, Mr McCourt, introduced the report the purpose of which was to present to the Committee a draft revision of the Member Code of Conduct for consideration.

During discussion it was noted that:

- i) Clarification was given that the General Principles referred to at section 3.1, were those detailed on page 19 of the report;
- ii) Clarification was requested by Miss Waller as to how the requirements regarding nondisclosure of information would fit with safeguarding of vulnerable adults and children. Mr Mc Court indicated that particular circumstances would be covered by the exceptions detailed in section 4.4 a) point i) to iv). In the case of safeguarding disclosure of information could be considered as reasonable and in the public interest and made in good faith and might also be required by law; and
- iii) Further guidance, information and training could be offered to assist Co-opted Members to fully understand the requirements of the Code, in particular those with little previous knowledge and experience in this area and Youth Representatives on the People (Children) Scrutiny Panel. Mrs Mogg confirmed that as part of the induction for new Members in May 2015, training would be arranged that would be open to both new and existing Members including Co-opted Members.

RESOLVED

- a) The Committee **RECOMMENDED THAT COUNCIL** adopt the revised Member Code of Conduct as set out at Appendix C of this report.

767 APPOINTMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT PERSON

Report No. 46/2014 – from the Monitoring Officer was received.

The Monitoring Officer, Mrs D Mogg, introduced the report the purpose of which was to alert the Conduct Committee to the approaching end date of the appointment of one of the Council's Independent Persons and to discuss options to remain resilient in this area.

During discussion it was noted that:

- i) The Committee were asked to note that the correct name of the Independent Person discussed in the report was "Mr Shatford" and not "Mr Shatner";
- ii) The appointment of the two independent persons being aligned would mean that both positions would be up for re-appointment at the same time. This could result in the Conduct Committee being without an

independent person. It had previously taken some time to secure the appointments for Independent Persons;

- iii) It was confirmed that the expiry of the appointment of the Independent Person would not necessarily require a new recruitment exercise. The Committee could recommend to Council that the appointment be extended where the Independent Person wanted to continue; and
- iv) The Committee agreed that a staggered appointment process would be more suitable and that the recommendation should be altered to reflect this.

Mr King proposed an amendment to the recommendation (detailed below) which was seconded by Miss Waller.

RESOLVED

- a) The Committee **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL** the initial extension of Mr Shatford's appointment as Independent Person to 31 March 2016.

768 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

No other items of urgent business had been notified to the Chairman.

769 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

24 March 2015 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber

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The Chairman closed the meeting at 7:19pm

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