



Rutland County Council

Catmose Oakham Rutland LE15 6HP.
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Minutes of the **MEETING of the CONDUCT COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Catmose, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 6HP on Tuesday, 3rd September, 2019 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT: Mr O Hemsley
Miss G Waller
Mrs S Webb
Mr N Woodley

OFFICERS

PRESENT: Mr P Horsfield Deputy Director – Corporate Governance
(Monitoring Officer)
Mr K Silcock Governance Officer

185 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mr I Razzell and Mr A Brown.

186 MINUTES

The minutes of the Conduct Committee held on 2 April 2019 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

187 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr N Woodley declared a personal interest in item 9 of the agenda as he knew one of those involved in the report personally. Mr Woodley stated this would not affect his judgement on the matter, but would abstain from any votes that took place on the item.

188 PETITIONS, DEPUTATION AND QUESTIONS

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

189 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

There were no questions from Members.

190 APPOINTMENT OF PARISH REPRESENTATIVES

Report No. 137 was received from the Monitoring Officer.

Mr Horsfield, Monitoring Officer, introduced the report the purpose of which was for Conduct Committee to consider the recruitment process of Parish Council representatives and to extend the date for receipt of nominations until the end of October 2019.

During debate the following point was noted:

An item would be put forward for the agenda on the Parish Council Forum to remind parishes that they have been invited to nominate a representative and to provide further detail as to the role of the Conduct Committee.

RESOLVED

The Committee **AGREED** to extend the date for receipt of nominations for the parish representative on the Conduct Committee until the end of October allowing Parish and Town Councils extra time to nominate one of their members, in line with their own meeting schedule. Once approved by the Committee and full Council any appointments will be valid until Annual Council 2023.

191 COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE - REVIEW OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ETHICAL STANDARDS

Report No. 128 was received from the Monitoring Officer.

Mr Horsfield introduced the report, the purpose of which was to inform the Committee of the outcome of a recent review of the effectiveness of the current arrangements for ethical standards amongst councillors in English local authorities by the Committee on Standards in Public Life.

During discussion the following point was noted:

Miss Waller proposed that the third recommendation be amended to include that a draft of the letter would be circulated to members of the Conduct Committee prior to dispatch.

RESOLVED

That the Committee:

- i. **NOTED** the recent report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life, (CSPL), arising from its review of the effectiveness of the current arrangements for ethical standards amongst councillors in English local authorities. (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-government-ethicalstandards-report>)
- ii. **NOTED** the recommendations of the CSPL and the identified best practice.
- iii. **AGREED** to make a formal comment on the recommendations, and **REQUESTED** that the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Committee and Group Leaders prepare a letter to be sent; and
- iv. **REQUESTED** that the Monitoring Officer undertook a comparison of the current arrangements with a view to identify whether they conform to the best practice identified by the CSPL report.

192 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

The Committee **AGREED** that the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of items 9 & 10 of the agenda in accordance with paragraph 1 of part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 197 (Information relating to any individual).

193 ALLEGATIONS OF BREACH OF CODE OF CONDUCT - REPORTS OF INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATOR

In accordance with the resolution above, debate and decision on this item took place in private.

194 ALLEGATION OF BREACH OF CODE OF CONDUCT - REPORT OF INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATOR

In accordance with the resolution above, debate and decision on this item took place in private.

195 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

No items of urgent business were received.

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The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.12 pm.

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