

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
ETHICAL GOVERNANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

30 JANUARY 2020 AT 6.30 PM

PRESENT: Mr R Webber-Jones - Chairman

Mr SL Bray (for Mr MB Cartwright), Mrs CM Allen (for Mr LJP O'Shea), Mr DC Bill MBE, Mrs MA Cook, Mrs L Hodgkins, Mr RB Roberts (for Mr RG Allen) and Mr MC Sheppard-Bools (for Mr E Hollick)

Also in attendance: Mr G Grimes, Independent Person

Officers in attendance: Tan Ashraf, Julie Kenny and Rebecca Owen

281 APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors R Allen, Cartwright, Furlong, Hollick and O'Shea, with the following substitutions authorised in accordance with council procedure rule 10:

Councillor C Allen for Councillor O'Shea
Councillor Bray for Councillor Cartwright
Councillor Roberts for Councillor R Allen
Councillor Sheppard-Bools for Councillor Hollick.

282 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

In considering whether the minutes of the previous meeting were an accurate record, a member requested that the minutes be amended to reflect a majority vote at that meeting in relation to reviewing the code of conduct complaints process. In response, the chairman reminded members that they had been advised at the time that they could not raise that matter under "minutes of the previous meeting" nor make a decision on a matter for which the appropriate statutory notice had not been provided. The chairman did, however, draw attention to the inclusion in those minutes of the request for a review and confirmed that an item would be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

It was moved by Councillor Bray, seconded by Councillor Bill and

RESOLVED – the minutes of the meeting held on 17 June 2019 be confirmed and signed by the chairman.

283 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

284 UNACCEPTABLE AND VIOLENT BEHAVIOUR POLICY REPORT

The policy on the Management of Unacceptable and Violent Customer Behaviour was presented to members. It was noted that previously there was a central list of potentially violent customers but it could not be flagged in individual systems, but this would change under the new policy.

It was acknowledged that the policy applied to officers and a method of allowing councillors access to such information was being investigated, however the Member Development Group would be asked to explore this further.

In response to a member's question, the reference to social media on page 9 of the agenda pack was highlighted as posting information about employees on social media was covered by the policy.

It was moved by Councillor Bray, seconded by Councillor Cook and

RESOLVED – the policy on the Management of Unacceptable and Violent Customer Behaviour be approved.

285 CORPORATE COMPLAINTS 2018-19

Members were informed of complaints received under the council's two-stage complaints process and the outcome of these, and complaints received via the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman. It was noted that overall numbers of complaints were lower than the previous year and no fault had been found by the Ombudsman in their investigations during 2018/19.

It was moved by Councillor Bray, seconded by Councillor Bill and

RESOLVED – the report be endorsed.

286 COMPLAINTS UPDATE

It was reported that there were no code of conduct complaints in progress other than those on this agenda.

287 MATTERS FROM WHICH THE PUBLIC MAY BE EXCLUDED

On the motion of Councillor Bray seconded by Councillor Bill, it was

RESOLVED – in accordance with section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1, 2 and 10 of Part I of Schedule 12A of that Act.

288 COMPLAINT 2019-04

Consideration was given to a complaint that a borough councillor had breached the code of conduct by using council resources for political purposes and breaching the trust of a parish clerk. Discussion ensued about whether the matter was solely election-related or in the capacity as a serving councillor and whether the notice board in question was a public or private space.

It was moved by Councillor Bray, seconded by Councillor Sheppard-Bools and

RESOLVED – no further action be taken.

289 COMPLAINT 2019-08

The committee considered a complaint that a borough councillor had failed to act honestly and to represent all of her constituents regarding a planning application. It was moved by Councillor Bill, seconded by Councillor Cook and

RESOLVED – No further action be taken.

(The Meeting closed at 7.00 pm)

CHAIRMAN