

**MINUTES OF THE STANDARDS SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, 6TH MARCH 2013**
3.00 p.m. – 3.38 p.m.

Responsible Officer: Emily Marshall
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Present:

Mr R Evans, Mr V Hunt and Mrs J E Jones.

Officers Present:

Graham White (Solicitor) and Emily Marshall (Committee Officer)

1.0 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

1.1 RESOLVED:

That Mr V Hunt be elected Chairman of the Standards Sub-Committee for the duration of the meeting.

2.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2.1 None received.

3.0 DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

3.1 Members of the Committee were reminded that they must not participate in the discussion or voting on any matter in which they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and should leave the room prior to the commencement of the debate.

4.0 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

4.1 RESOLVED:

That in accordance with the provisions of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972 and paragraph 10.4(1) of the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules, the public and press be excluded during consideration of the following agenda item.

5.0 CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINT

Consideration was given to an exempt report of the Monitoring Officer in relation to an allegation that a Shropshire Councillor had failed to comply with the Code of Conduct of Shropshire Council.

The Solicitor presented the report to the Sub-Committee providing information in relation to the complaint and outlined the options available to the Sub-Committee.

The Sub-Committee Members had regard to the representations made by the Councillor in response to the allegations and decided that further action was not justified in this case and that there was insufficient evidence to suggest that any investigation might conclude that there had been a failure to comply with the Code of Conduct of Shropshire Council.

The Sub-Committee suggested that it might be appropriate to offer training and advice to Parish Council's on some of the issues raised as a result of the complaint.

RESOLVED:

The Standards Sub-Committee considered that further action was not justified in this instance.

REASONS:

Members considered that although all Councillors were required to comply with the Code of Conduct when they were acting in their capacity as Councillor, in this instance the Councillor had indicated that his request for information under the Freedom of Information Act had been made other than in his capacity as a Shropshire Councillor.

The Councillor had also provided details of his Twitter account which made it clear that although he was a Shropshire Councillor, the views he shared on that account were those of him personally and were not intended to be those of a Councillor acting in that capacity.

The Sub-Committee concluded that the Councillor was not acting in his capacity as a Councillor when requesting the information or while posting it on his Twitter account and so the Code of Conduct did not apply to him at the time of the actions attributed to him.

The Sub-Committee also considered that there was insufficient evidence to suggest that any investigation might conclude that there had been a failure to comply with the code of conduct.

Signed (Chairman)

Date:.....