

**ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS**

<b>1.</b>	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Standards Committee</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup> June 2015</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Anston Parish Council Update</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>Resources</b>

**5. Summary**

To inform members of the decision of Anston Parish Council at their meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2015 following a report by the Monitoring Officer to the Standards Committee on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2015.

To ask members to consider what, if any, further action should be taken.

**6. Recommendations**

**To consider whether to take further action in respect of Anston Parish Council or to keep the matter under review.**

## **7. Proposals and Details**

### Background

- 7.1 At the last meeting of the Committee, a report by the Monitoring Officer was considered in relation to concerns in respect of Anston Parish Council. The minutes of the meeting are enclosed with this agenda.
- 7.2 Members decided to put the matter 'on hold' and review after the election and to ask Mr. Phil Beavers, Independent Person, to attend the first meeting of the newly elected Anston Parish Council and report his findings back in due course. Mr. Beavers will address the Standards Committee at the meeting.

### Present Position

- 7.3 The Parish Council Elections were uncontested and, therefore, the persons mentioned in Appendix 1 were automatically re-elected. Two longstanding members of the Parish Council resigned.
- 7.4 At the meeting of the Parish Council on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2015 the Parish Council considered the report of the Monitoring Officer - the minutes of that meeting are at Appendix 2. Mr. Beavers attended the new Council meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> May and will report back to the meeting.
- 7.5 Since the last meeting of the Standards Committee there have been two further complaints about Anston Parish Council members. One complaint was not considered to be a breach of the Code and the other one arose out of a previous hearing of a complaint by the Hearings and Assessment Sub-Committee. This matter will be discussed with the Independent Person and an update will be provided at the meeting.
- 7.6 The suggestion of offering dispute resolution 'intervention' to the Parish Council which was agreed at the last meeting of the Standards Committee was put to the Parish Council meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2015. However, no decision has been minuted in this regard.

### Conclusion

- 7.7 There does appear to be reduction in the number of complaints to the Standards Committee. As the Independent Person will report, the behaviour at the last meeting of the Parish Council seems to have improved on that of previous meetings.
- 7.8 No decision has been made by the Parish Council relating dispute resolution intervention.

## **8. Finance**

When investigations into allegations of breaches of the Code are required, there is a cost in officer time. The dispute resolution intervention would cost around £8,000 payable by the Parish Council.

## **9. Risks and Uncertainties**

The Standards Committee needs to be mindful of the need to have an overview of the standards of behaviour by Anston Parish Councillors and take appropriate but proportionate action in this regard.

## **10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications**

Standards Committee – upholding ethical behaviour

## **11. Background Papers and Consultation**

Minutes Anston Parish Council 16/3/15  
Council Constitution  
Files held by the Monitoring Officer

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