

**STANDARDS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE
13th June, 2024**

Present:- Councillor Monk (in the Chair); Councillors T. Collingham, Clarke, Hall, along with Parish Councillors Mr. A. Buckley and Mrs. M. Carroll and also Independent Member Mr. P. Edler.

Also in attendance was Mr. P. Beavers, Independent Person.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Beck, Hughes and Keenan, Independent Members Mrs. A. Bingham and Mrs. K. Penney and Mr. D. Roper-Newman, Independent Person.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest to report.

2. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for Minute Nos. 4 and 5 (Whistleblowing Policy and Complaints) on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 7TH MARCH, 2024

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 7th March, 2024 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings and signed by the Chair.

4. A REVIEW OF CONCERNS RAISED PURSUANT TO THE WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY

Consideration was given to the report and appendix presented by the Deputy Monitoring Officer, which provided an overview of the Whistleblowing cases which have been received over the past year.

Particular reference was made to the appendix to the report which set out clearly the description of the concerns received and action taken.

Resolved:- That the Whistleblowing concerns raised over the previous year and the actions taken to address these matters be noted.

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5. REVIEW OF COMPLAINTS

Consideration was given to the report presented by the Deputy Monitoring Officer, detailing the progress with the handling of complaints relating to breaches of the Council's Code of Conduct for Members and Town and Parish Councillors. The report listed the current cases of complaint and the action being taken in respect of each one.

Reference was made to each related case and recommended outcomes/actions identified were highlighted.

Discussion ensued on the level of support afforded to complainants and subject members and how best this could be facilitated if it was deemed appropriate. Further research would be undertaken to determine how best those involved could be signposted to support services.

Resolved:- That the report be received and the contents noted.

6. URGENT BUSINESS

There were no urgent items of business requiring the Committee's consideration.