

25 June 2025

**AT A MEETING**  
**of the**  
**STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

held on the Wednesday, 25 June 2025 at 6.30 pm

**PRESENT**

Masud (Chair)

Councillors Sawyer (Vice-Chair), Bywater, Gambold, Meader, Rigby and Royden

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Wheeler

Also Present:

L Phanco, Interim Monitoring Officer

S Wickenden, Democratic Services Officer

**1. ELECTION OF CHAIR**

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Masud be elected Chair of the Committee for the ensuing Municipal Year.

**2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR**

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Sawyer be appointed Vice-Chair of the Committee for the ensuing Municipal Year.

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**3. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

There were no questions from Members of the Council or members of the public.

**4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There was an apology for absence from Councillor Wheeler. Councillor Rigby substituted for Councillor Wheeler.

**5. PREVIOUS MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 20 February 2025, were confirmed.

**6. DISCLOSURE OF LOCAL AND / OR DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

There were no disclosures of a local or disclosable pecuniary interest.

**7. TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Committee received the report of the Interim Monitoring Officer which submitted, for Members' information, details of its terms of reference, as set out in the Constitution.

In response to Members questions, the Interim Monitoring Officer confirmed that:

- The Independent Person's served a four year term.
- There had been no changes to the constitution. Any changes to the constitution would require approval from Full Council.

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RESOLVED

That the report, be noted.

**8. REGISTER OF GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY**

The Interim Monitoring Officer introduced the Register of Gifts and Hospitality Update report. He advised that on this occasion there were no gifts or hospitality to report.

The Interim Monitoring Officer noted that paragraphs 5.4 and 5.5 related to the former Speaker, Councillor Wheeler's attendance at the festival of "Sant' Angelo Muxaro in the World" in Sicily in 2024 and stated that Councillor Wheeler had not made a disclosure as there had been no cost to the Borough or to Taxpayers. The hospitality was funded by the Municipality of Sant' Angelo Muxaro, their residents and other attendees.

In response to questions from Members, the Interim Monitoring Officer confirmed that:

- Democratic Services could circulate a reminder to Members on the rules surrounding declaring any gifts or hospitality.
- There were no details of any reciprocal trips. It was anticipated that should this occur that local businesses and residents would provide the hospitality. The Council has not committed to any costs of any associated visits.
- It was only gifts and hospitality over £25 that needed to be declared, the reminder to Members would emphasise the amount.
- Any changes to the amount would need to be considered as a constitutional change. It could be proposed to the Constitution Review Group or alternatively a report could be prepared on the matter for a later meeting date.

A member commented that Councillors should be cautious when receiving hospitality and consider the £25 limit as the price of meals had increased considerably in recent years.

RESOLVED

That the report, be noted.

## **9. DISPENSATIONS**

The Interim Monitoring Officer introduced the Dispensations Update report. He advised that this report outlined the dispensations that had been approved, which allowed Members to participate in discussions and/or vote where there were disclosures of pecuniary interests. It was highlighted that there had been no dispensations granted since the last meeting of the Committee. It was noted that generally dispensations would only be approved if required to obtain quorate for a meeting.

### **RESOLVED**

That it be noted that no dispensations were granted since the last meeting.

## **10. COMPLAINTS**

The Interim Monitoring Officer introduced the Complaints update report. He stated that the number of complaints received was details in table 5.5 of the report. In the last 18 months there had been an exceptionally high volume of complaints concerning one Parish Council, the Standards Sub Committee were working with the Parish Council on this matter. There had been two recent further complaints regarding this Parish Council. The number of Borough Councillor complaint increased in 2024/25 compared to the previous year.

It was noted that not all complaints received were valid, there were no particular trends to the complaints received and there had been no significant complaints.

A Member thanked the Interim Monitoring Officer for their work on the Parish Council complaints

A Member commented their thanks to the Interim Monitoring Officer and stated that he had provided a sterling service to the Committee and wished him well with his new endeavours.

### **RESOLVED**

That the report, be noted.

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**11. WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee considered the future Work Programme and reviewed items programmed for the next meeting of this Committee.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Work Programme, be noted.

The meeting closed at 6.46 pm