

**Minutes of the Standards Committee
20 October 2021**

Present:

I. Winter (Chairman)
Dylan Price (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors:

I.J. Beardsmore	K.M. Grant	R.W. Sider BEM
J.R. Boughtflower	S.C. Mooney	R.A. Smith-Ainsley
R.D. Dunn	O. Rybinski	

481 Apologies and Substitutes

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Attewell.

482 Minutes

The minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 28 July 2021 and the extraordinary meeting held on 29 September 2021 were agreed.

483 Disclosures of Interest

There were none.

484 Update on complaints relating to the Code of Conduct

The report outlined the complaints that had been received between January 2020 and October 2021. Where complaints had been determined, the outcome of these were also reported.

It was confirmed that assessment panels were held in private, with investigation panels generally being held in public, depending on the subject of the complaint.

The members' code of conduct and the complaints processes were reviewed at appropriate intervals. The process for persistent and vexatious complainants was contained in a separate Council policy.

There was discussion about the upcoming standards training for councillors. The committee requested that there be a specific section on the use of social media, in particular responding to multiple or persistently challenging individuals.

The committee noted that complaints were taking some time to be considered which was due to the high number that were being received. The committee requested that the date complaints were received, determined, and by who be included in future reports. It also requested that the origin of political complaints be reported, subject to smaller groups sharing a category.

The report was noted.