

**Minutes of the Standards Committee
16 March 2022**

Present:

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

Councillors:

M.M. Attewell	R.W. Sider BEM	T. Fidler
J.R. Boughtflower	R.A. Smith-Ainsley	
S.C. Mooney	C. Bateson	

Apologies: Councillors J.T.F. Doran, R. Dunn (substituted by T. Fidler), C. Grant (substituted by C. Bateson) and O. Rybinski

489/22 Minutes

The minutes of the Standards Committee held on 20 October 2022 were agreed.

490/22 Disclosures of Interest

There were none.

491/22 Arrangements for dealing with allegations of breaches of the Member Code of Conduct

The local arrangements had been updated following the issuing of revised best practice by the Local Government Association.

It was acknowledged that standards complaints were time consuming to administer and that there were a significant number of cases still awaiting resolution due to the number of complaints received. The committee therefore hoped that the new arrangements, which clarified the Monitoring Officer's authority on determining any initial action on the receipt of complaints, would result in speedier outcomes being reached in many cases. Mechanisms, to ensure that complainants were kept apprised of progress on their complaints, had also been incorporated.

It was **resolved** that the revised arrangements for member code of conduct complains be approved.

492/22 Update on Complaints relating to the Member Code of Conduct

The Monitoring Officer provided an overview of the number of complaints (including any outcomes) that had been received since the previous report in October 2021.

The Committee remained disappointed at the number and nature of the complaints that continued to be received.

It was **resolved** that the report be noted.

493/22 Membership of the Committee System Working Group

The membership arrangements had been amended to account for frequent changes in political groups at Spelthorne.

It was **resolved** that the membership of the Committee System Working Group comprise of all Group Leaders and independent members that exist at the time of any meeting of the Working Group, and one additional named Conservative member.