

HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Standards Committee held on 6 July 2021

Present

Wilson (Chairman), Briggs, Patrick, Payter, Mrs Shimbart and Turner

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor J Lowe (Vice-Chair) and Councillor P Wade.

2 Chairman's Announcements

There were no Chairman's announcements.

3 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4 Confirmation of Membership of Constitution Working Group

The Chair advised the committee that there would be a working group set up to focus attention on any suggested changes to the Constitution. It was said that the chair would exclude themselves from the working group due to potential conflict caused by this current role.

The members put forward were Councillor Patrick, Briggs, Payter and Shimbart. The committee were advised that the membership of this working group will be kept fluid allowing all members an opportunity to sit upon it. The Monitoring Officer advised the committee that the intention of the working group is to address the amendment suggestions made in the first instance and present its recommendations to the Standards Committee. It was proposed that the first item to be taken to the working group would be around allowing members to join exempt sessions as this has been raised by a fellow Councillor.

The committee RESOLVED that a Working Group be set up to consider any amendments to the constitution throughout the current year.

The committee voted unanimously **FOR** to set up the Constitution Working Group.

5 Code of Conduct Complaints

The Monitoring Officer introduced the item to the committee confirming that it would be a standing item on the agenda in order to provide a brief overview on the management of councillor conduct complaints made as of 1st January 2021. Members were provided with an exempt table outlining the current complaints and their progress.

Councillors expressed an interest in discussing the item further. The committee were therefore invited to pass a resolution to enter an exempt session.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson

Seconded by Councillor Turner

6 Exclusion of the Press and Public

RESOLVED that the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the minutes headed and numbered as below because:

it was likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during those minutes there would be disclosure to them of exempt information of the descriptions specified in paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A (as amended) of the Local Government Act 1972 shown against the heading in question; and

in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Minute 5 Councillor Code of Conduct Complaints
(Paragraph 1)

The meeting commenced at 5.00 pm and concluded at 5.46 pm