

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2016 at 7.00 pm in Council Chamber, Cecil Street, Margate, Kent.

Present: Dr Jonathan Sexton (Chairman), Mrs Janet Bacon (Independent Member of the Standards Committee)

Councillors: Braidwood, Buckley, J Fairbrass, Johnston, Tomlinson, Jaye-Jones and Taylor-Smith

Parish Councillors: Way (Monkton Parish Council) and Wright (Birchington Parish Council - Birchington South),

125. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Dexter for whom Councillor Taylor-Smith was present.

126. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

127. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was proposed by Councillor Johnston, seconded by Councillor Jaye-Jones and AGREED that the minutes of the meeting of 28 June 2016 were a correct record and be signed by the Chairman.

128. SEALING OF DOCUMENTS

Tim Howes, Director of Corporate Governance and Monitoring Officer, outlined his report. Members were advised that the proposed change would increase efficiency and prevent delays for Legal Services. Members heard that the process involving Members was not used by other councils and is considered to be an archaic practice.

The Chairman invited Committee Members' questions.

It was noted that:

-Members felt that from their perspective it was not difficult to witness the sealing of documents and felt they had made themselves available.

-Members felt it was an erosion of their role and the sealing of documents was an opportunity for individuals to learn about matters they may not otherwise have known about.

-Members heard that whilst they have witnessed the sealing of documents, they have not vouched for the content or accuracy of any document.

Councillor Buckley proposed, Councillor Fairbrass seconded:

“That option 3.1 as outlined in the officer’s report be recommended to Full Council.”

Upon being put to the vote, the motion was declared LOST.

129. **STANDARDS COMPLAINT STATISTICS**

The Committee noted the Standards Complaint Statistics report.

Meeting concluded : 7.45pm