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## STANDARDS COMMITTEE

**Minutes of the meeting held on 9 November 2017 at 7.00 pm in Council Chamber, Cecil Street, Margate, Kent.**

**Present:** Dr Jonathan Sexton (Chairman), Mrs Janet Bacon (Vice Chairman)

Councillors: Buckley, Dexter, J Fairbrass, Johnston, Tomlinson and S Piper

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

**In Attendance:** Mr Tucker (Independent Person)

### **138. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Braidwood and Mr James.

### **139. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **140. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

It was proposed by Councillor Johnston, seconded by Councillor Wright and AGREED that the minutes of the meeting of the 12 September 2017 were a correct record and be signed by the Chairman subject to it being noted that Dr Sexton was present.

### **141. SUPPORT FOR TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS**

Tim Howes, Director of Corporate Governance and Monitoring Officer, provided an interim update to Members.

The recommendations from the Standards Committee meeting on 12 September were presented at Parish Forum on 26 October. The Parish Forum welcomed the recommendations for joint training and work was to be carried out to agree budgetary contributions from the councils.

Councillor Wright suggested that parish and town councils would benefit from training on the Code of Conduct and Standards.

The Chairman asked the Committee to email Tim Howes with their ideas for training courses for Thanet parish and town councils.

### **142. DISQUALIFICATION CRITERIA FOR COUNCILLORS**

Tim Howes, Director of Corporate Governance and Monitoring Officer, outlined his report.

The Chairman and Vice Chairman asked questions about the effect of new legislation on councillors who are involved in demonstrations or protests which may be perceived as examples of civic disobedience.

It was proposed by Councillor Johnston, seconded by Councillor Buckley and AGREED:

“3.1 The Committee support the update to the disqualification criteria for local authority members as proposed in Annex 1 of the agenda.”

**143. STANDARDS COMPLAINT STATISTICS**

The Committee noted the Standards Complaint Statistics report.

Meeting concluded : 8.40pm