

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

**Minutes of the meeting held in Committee Rooms A and B, Civic Offices,
Elstree Way, Borehamwood**

2 October 2013

Present:

Councillor Peter Knell (Chairman), Councillors Donne, Harrison, Kieran and West.

Officers

P Hughes

Democratic Services Manager

Also present

Mr Jagat Chatrath, Independent Person

319. **COMMUNICATIONS AND APOLOGIES**

Noted that Councillor Harrison had replaced Councillor Butler as a member of this Committee for this meeting.

320. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (IF ANY)**

None.

321. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 24 June 2013 be confirmed as a correct record.

322. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Noted that the date of the next meeting of this Committee would take place on Thursday, 23 January 2014.

323. **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED that, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I, Schedule 12A to the said Act:-

Part II Agenda Item	Paragraphs in Schedule 12A
Complaints	1 & 2

324. **COMPLAINTS**

The Democratic Services Manager submitted details to the Committee of three complaints about Member behaviour that had been received by the Council. All of the complaints had been considered by the Chairman of the Committee, the Independent Person and the Monitoring Officer and information on their conclusions was reported to the Committee.

The first case concerned a complaint about the alleged behaviour of Councillor O'Brien. The group of three agreed that an investigation be undertaken into the complaint and, following consideration of the outcome, it was noted that no fault had been found.

The second case concerned a complaint about the content of an email sent by Councillor Silver to a Borough resident. The group of three concluded that the comments contained in the email did not meet the expectations of the Code of Conduct. Councillor Silver had apologised for the offence caused.

The third complaint concerned Council impartiality and raised a number of related issues. The group of three had considered the complaint in detail and had agreed a detailed reply to the complainant on each point raised. No further action could be taken on the allegations made as they were not supported by proof or evidence or wrong doing. The complaint was advised to provide further information on the issues raised to provide a focus for further work.

The Committee asked that in future details of all complaints received be circulated for information to Members of the Standards Committee, so that they were aware of activity in this area.

RESOLVED that the information contained in the reports on the three complaints received be noted and the actions of the Chairman of the Standards Committee, the Independent Person and the Monitoring Officer in dealing with these complaints be approved.

CLOSURE: 6.52 pm

CHAIRMAN