
CONDUCT COMMITTEE

22 AUGUST 2012

Present:- Councillors Nicholls (Chairman), Heaney (Vice-Chairman), Broderick, Cossens, Double and P B Honeywood

In Attendance:- Head of Resource Management, Legal Services Manager and Monitoring Officer and Democratic Services Officer (ER)

(11.00 a.m. – 11.02 a.m.)

1. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman welcomed Members and Officers to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Johnson, with Councillor Cossens substituting.

3. QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 15.3

There were none.

4. REPORT OF THE HEAD OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Allegation of Failure to Comply with the Code of Conduct – Complaint Nos. 01/2012 and 02/2012.

The Committee had before it the report of the Head of Resource Management in order to decide how complaints 01/2012 and 02/2012 were to be investigated and how the Independent Panel would be involved.

Three complaints had been received in late May and early June 2012, making allegations against a TDC Councillor. They concerned alleged conduct relating to the issue of the Willow Tree Day Nursery question raised by a Councillor at the full Council meeting on 22 May 2012. Two complaints concerned what happened during that Council meeting and during the adjournment when the Councillor, who was the subject of the complaints, had left the Princes Theatre. The third complaint made allegations only regarding what happened in the Princes Theatre during that Council meeting.

On 28 June 2012, the Referrals Sub-Committee of the (now) former Standards Committee had met and decided (by a decision notice dated 29 June 2012) to refer the complaints to the Monitoring Officer for investigation. The standards regime under the Local Government Act 2000 ended on 30 June 2012 and was replaced on 1 July 2012 by new arrangements under the Localism Act 2012 made by the full Council at its meeting on 22 May 2012, which put in place a new code of conduct for TDC Councillors and had made arrangements for dealing with complaints alleging misconduct by district and/or parish Councillors. The Officer Conduct Panel met on 12 July 2012 and decided:

“That, in accordance with the decision of the Referrals Sub-Committee, there was a case to answer and that the complaints be referred to the Conduct Committee.”

It was moved by Councillor Double, seconded by Councillor Broderick and:

RESOLVED that complaints 01/2012 and 02/2012 be referred to the Independent Panel for investigation in such manner as the Independent Panel considered appropriate.

5. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

There were none.

Chairman