

**Minutes of a meeting of the Standards Committee
held on 9th December 2015 at Pippbrook, Dorking
from 7.00pm to 7.10pm**

Present: Councillors Charles Yarwood (Chairman), Paul Elderton (Vice-Chairman), Stella Brooks, Mary Cooper, Howard Jones and Simon Ling (substitute for John Northcott).

Also Present: Councillor Margaret Cooksey

1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th May 2015 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2. Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor John Northcott.

3. Disclosure of Interests

None

4. Annual Report on Complaints of Breaches of the Members' Code of Conduct

The Committee received the report as set out on pages 4 to 5 of the agenda which asked it to note the Appendix setting out the details of all complaints received concerning Members' conduct of the District and Parish Councils, whether or not a breach was found.

Members asked for an approximate indication as to the annual number of complaints the Council receives, and whether the number included in this year's report represented any increase or decrease on previous reports. The Monitoring Officer confirmed that the Council receives, on average, two to four complaints of breaches per year, and therefore the three complaints outlined in the current report remained consistent with previous figures.

RESOLVED: That the Annual Report on Complaints of Breaches of the Members' Code of Conduct be noted.

5. Mole Valley District Council's Independent Person

The Committee received the report as set out on pages 7 to 8 of the agenda, which asked it to recommend to Council the addition of Mr Bernard Quoroll to the list of Independent Persons appointed by full Council at their meeting on 20 January 2015.

The Committee did not recommend exclusion of the press and public for consideration of the item, on the basis that Members were satisfied they could consider the item without disclosing any exempt information in relation to Appendix 1 of the report.

Members expressed the view that Mr Quoroll possessed the necessary skills and experience to fulfil the requirements of the role, and agreed to recommend his addition to the list of Independent Persons for the period expiring May 2019.

RESOLVED: That the addition of Bernard Quoroll to the list of Independent Persons be recommended to Council.

6. Urgent Items

None

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Chairman

Date: