



Arun District Council  
Civic Centre  
Maltravers Road  
Littlehampton  
West Sussex  
BN17 5LF

Tel: (01903 737500)  
Fax: (01903) 730442  
DX: 57406 Littlehampton  
Minicom: 01903 732765

e-mail: [committees@arun.gov.uk](mailto:committees@arun.gov.uk)

Committee Manager Jane Fulton

10 September 2020

## **STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

A meeting of the **Standards Committee** will be held on **Thursday 24 September 2020 at 6.00 p.m.** and you are requested to attend.

***PLEASE NOTE:*** *This meeting will be a 'virtual meeting' and any member of the press and public may listen-in and view the proceedings via a weblink which will be publicised on the Council website at least 24 hours before the meeting.*

*Different meeting arrangements are in place for the period running from 4 April 2020 to 7 May 2021 from the provisions of the Coronavirus Act 2020 and the meeting regulations 2020, to allow formal 'virtual meetings'.*

*This Council's revised Rules of Procedures for 'virtual meetings' can be viewed here [click here](#)*

Members: Councillors Edwards (Chairman), Bennett (Vice-Chair), Mrs Baker, B Blanchard-Cooper, Bower, Coster, English, Kelly and Tilbrook

## **AGENDA**

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members and Officers are invited to make any declarations of pecuniary, personal and/or prejudicial interests that they may have in relation to items on this agenda, and are reminded that they should re-declare their interest before consideration of the item or as soon as the interest becomes apparent.

Members and Officers should make their declaration by stating:

- a) the item that they the interest in
- b) whether it is a pecuniary, personal and/or prejudicial interest
- c) the nature of the interest

3. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 4)  
To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 20 February 2020 (attached).
4. ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA WHICH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MEETING IS OF THE OPINION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A MATTER OF URGENCY BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES
5. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION MODEL MEMBER CODE OF CONDUCT (Pages 5 - 10)  
The Local Government Association has produced a New Model Member Code of Conduct.  
It is open to the Council to adopt this Code of Conduct in whole, or with amendments. Alternatively, the Council can amend its existing Member Code of Conduct.
6. NEW SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDANCE FOR COUNCILLORS (Pages 11 - 40)  
This report seeks the views of the Standards Committee relating to a new Social Media Guidance document for Councillors. It is open to Standards Committee to recommend that Cabinet endorse the Guidance in whole, or with amendments.
7. REGISTER OF ASSESSMENTS OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST COUNCILLORS (Pages 41 - 44)  
This report updates the Committee on the complaints against Councillors received so far in 2020. The Committee is responsible for maintaining high standards of conduct by Members of the District and Town & Parish Councils, for monitoring operation of the Code of Conduct, and for considering the outcome of investigations in the event of breaches of the Code.
8. EXEMPT INFORMATION  
The Committee is asked to consider passing the following resolution:-  
  
That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and accredited representatives of newspapers be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds it may involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act by virtue of the paragraph specified against the item.

9. REGISTER OF ASSESSMENTS OF COMPLAINTS (Pages 45 - 50)  
AGAINST COUNCILLORS [EXEMPT - PARAGRAPH 1 -  
INFORMATION RELATING TO INDIVIDUALS]

To consider the attached report.

Note : \*Indicates report is attached for all Members of the Council only and the press (excluding exempt items). Copies of reports can be obtained on request from the Committee Manager).

Note : Members are reminded that if they have any detailed questions would they please inform the Chairman and/or relevant Director in advance of the meeting.

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