

West Suffolk Standards Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the **West Suffolk Standards Committee** held on **Monday 28 November 2022** at **5.00pm** in **Conference Chamber West, West Suffolk House**, Western Way, Bury St Edmunds IP33 3YU

Present: **Councillors**

Roger Dicker
Jim Thorndyke

Cliff Waterman

In attendance:

Carol Bull – Portfolio Holder for Governance

23. **Election of Chair for 2022/2023**

This being the first meeting of the West Suffolk Standards Committee since the Annual Meeting of Council in May 2022, the Monitoring Officer opened the meeting and sought nominations for the Chair of the Committee for 2022/2023.

Councillor Jim Thorndyke was nominated and duly seconded to be Chair for 2022/2023.

There being no other nominations and no objections, it was

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Jim Thorndyke be elected Chair for 2022/2023.

Councillor Thorndyke then took the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

24. **Election of Vice Chair for 2022/2023**

The Chair sought nominations for the election of Vice-Chair of the West Suffolk Standards Committee for 2022/2023.

Councillor Cliff Waterman was nominated and duly seconded to be Vice-Chair for 2022/2023.

There being no other nominations and no objections, it was

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Cliff Waterman be elected Vice-Chair for 2022/2023.

25. **Apologies for absence**

No apologies for absence were received.

Councillors John Augustine, Robert Everitt, Margaret Marks and Andy Neal were unable to attend the meeting.

26. **Substitutes**

No substitutions were declared.

27. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 31 January 2022 were unanimously confirmed as a correct record and were signed by the Chair.

28. **Declarations of interest**

Members' declarations of interest are recorded under the item to which the declaration relates.

29. **Public participation**

There were no members of the public in attendance on this occasion.

30. **West Suffolk Standards Committee Update Report (Report No: STC/WS/22/002)**

This report provided Members of the Committee with an update in relation to the number of complaints received by the Monitoring Officer in 2021/2022 and to date in 2022/2023.

The report also set out information on the new Independent Persons appointed by Council on 27 September 2022.

Complaints

The Monitoring Officer drew attention to the table set out in Paragraph 2.1 of Report No STC/WS/22/002 and highlighted that an additional column had been added, as requested by the Committee at their last meeting, to indicate where the subject of a complaint had resigned.

A calculation error in one of the table's rows was also highlighted.

Members were informed that since publication of the agenda, two of the three outstanding cases had now been concluded. One was settled locally with the complainant and the other was found to be a breach with the sanction of a formal apology, which had already been received.

Independent Persons

The Monitoring Officer confirmed that two of the Independent Persons from the pool had been used for the two cases she just referenced, which had recently concluded.

The Committee was also advised that training took place with all Independent Persons in October 2022.

It was unanimously

RESOLVED:

That the content of the report was noted by the Committee.

The meeting concluded at 5.15pm

Signed by:

Chair
