

MINUTES of the **WEST SUFFOLK JOINT STANDARDS COMMITTEE** held at West Suffolk House, Western Way, Bury St Edmunds on Monday 16 June 2014 at 6.00pm.

PRESENT:

Councillors:

Forest Heath District Council

R Dicker
Mrs C F J Lynch
E Stewart

St Edmundsbury Borough Council

B Cockle
D Redhead
J Thorndyke

Also in attendance:

J Bowes, Head of Legal and Democratic Services/Monitoring Officer
H Hardinge, Committee Administrator & FHDC Scrutiny Support

APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

SUBSTITUTES

There were no substitutes at the meeting.

031. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR 2014/2015**

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services reminded Members that in the Joint Committee's Terms of Reference it stated that the chairmanship should be annually rotated between the two authorities.

Accordingly, Councillor B Cockle nominated Councillor E Stewart as Chairman and this was seconded by Councillor D Redhead, and with the vote being unanimous, it was

RESOLVED:

That Councillor E Stewart be elected Chairman for 2014/2015.

Councillor Stewart then took the Chair for the remainder of the meeting and requested nominations for the appointment of the Vice-Chairman.

032. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN 2014/2015**

Councillor B Cockle nominated Councillor J Thorndyke as Vice-Chairman and this was duly seconded, and with the vote being unanimous, it was

RESOLVED:

That Councillor J Thorndyke be appointed Vice-Chairman for 2014/2015.

Councillor R Dicker joined the meeting at 6.03pm following consideration of the above item.

033. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no questions/statements from members of the public.

034. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 March 2014 were unanimously accepted by the Committee as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

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

So that the Joint Committee could make reference to and pose questions with regard to the application forms as set out in the exempt appendices attached to the agenda it was necessary to exclude the press and public from the meeting.

Therefore, with the vote being unanimous, it was

RESOLVED:

That, under Section 100(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as prescribed in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, and indicated against each item.

036. **APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS (REPORT NO JST14/006)**

Prior to the consideration of this item Councillor B Cockle advised that he knew the two references used by Candidate 2. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services thanked the Councillor for his disclosure but explained that this did not constitute any form of interest.

This report reminded Members that as part of the recruitment of two Independent Persons (IPs) for West Suffolk it was agreed at the meeting of the Joint Committee on 3 March 2014 for a short-list of candidates for interview to be brought before the Committee in order to allow Members to make comment.

Accordingly the application forms of the three candidates that had been selected for interview were attached to the agenda as exempt appendices 1, 2 and 3.

Interviews had been undertaken by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services together with the outgoing Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Joint Committee (Councillors D Redhead and E Stewart) on 11 June 2014. Unfortunately Candidate 1 had been unable to attend due to being away on holiday so the panel interviewed just Candidates 2 and 3.

The Chairman and the Head of Legal and Democratic Services explained that both candidates interviewed well and were, in their opinion, entirely capable of acting as an IP. Both of the candidates resided within West Suffolk and the panel considered them to be representative of the diversity of the region. Accordingly, Candidates 2 and 3 were recommended by the panel for appointment.

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services explained that the appointments recommended by the Joint Committee would be confirmed by both authorities' full Councils on 30 June 2014 (St Edmundsbury Borough Council) and 16 July 2014 (Forest Heath District Council).

Members raised questions with regard to the term of office of the IPs. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services explained that the term was not prescribed; however, she would recommend two-years.

Therefore, with the vote being unanimous, it was

RESOLVED:

That Candidates 2 and 3 be appointed as the West Suffolk Independent Persons (IPs) for two-years, subject to confirmation by both authorities' full Councils on 30 June 2014 (St Edmundsbury Borough Council) and 16 July 2014 (Forest Heath District Council).

Prior to close of the meeting the Chairman requested that, on behalf of all Members present, thanks be formally recorded to Councillor D Redhead for his work as Chairman of the Joint Committee during the previous year.

The meeting closed at 6.14pm.