

Minutes of a meeting of the **STANDARDS PANEL** held in the Meeting Room 1, Council Offices, Priory Road, on Tuesday, 29 September 2015 at 6.30 pm.

PRESENT

G R Aley (Chairman)

M G Chandler

P C Foyster

J L King

Apologies for absence were received from or on behalf of Councillors B Alcock and R Clark

In Attendance: Independent Person, Locum Solicitor – Legal Services and Principal Democratic Services Officer.

6) **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interest.

7) **MINUTES**

4 March 2015

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 March 2015 were agreed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

20 May 2015

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 May 2015 were agreed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

8) **INDEPENDENT PERSON PROTOCOL**

The Panel considered a report by the Executive Manager - Governance seeking comments on an Independent Person Protocol.

Councillors noted that the role of Independent Person was a key feature of the standards framework for all local authorities under the Localism Act 2011, in terms of how allegations of Councillor misconduct were dealt with.

The draft protocol explained the role of the Independent Person and sought to identify a shared understanding of the relationship between the Independent Person and the Council and Parish Councillors.

It was noted that specific provisions around communication between the Independent Person and the subject member or complainant have been included following observations and suggestions made by Mr Wicks.

STANDARDS PANEL - 29 September 2015

The protocol would be reported to Council for approval.

AGREED:

That the Standards Panel supports the publication of the Independent Person Protocol for circulation to all Councillors and Parish Councils.

9) **ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT**

There were no urgent items.

(The meeting ended at 6.45 pm)

(End of minutes)