

**Minutes of a meeting of the Mid Sussex District Council
Standards Committee held on Wednesday, 30th January 2013
from 7:00 pm to 7:08 pm.**

Present:-

Town Cllr Christopher Ash-
Edwards
Cllr Liz Bennett
Parish Cllr William Blunden

Cllr Jack Callaghan
Parish Cllr Duncan
Cunningham
Parish Cllr Jenny Forbes
Cllr Catrin Ingham

Cllr Andrew Lea
Cllr Gordon Marples
Cllr Simon McMenemy

* Absent

Also present: Mr Gerard Irwin and Sir Roger Sands, Independent Persons on Standards Matters.

14. SUBSTITUTES

None.

15. APOLOGIES

None.

16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

17. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on the 10th October 2012 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

18. ANNUAL REPORT OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE 2012

Tom Clark, Monitoring Officer introduced the report and said that the number of complaints received by the Council had reduced considerably. The majority of complaints received related to Town/Parish Councils but there were none of great enough significance to require an investigation. He said he would make clear in the final report that an Independent Person is consulted on an investigation before any decision is taken.

In response to a Member's question the Monitoring Officer said that all four substantive cases were now closed.

A Member queried whether the decision not to spend public money on an investigation was sufficient grounds for not conducting an investigation. The Monitoring Officer said that this had always been a material consideration under the previous scheme. An individual could seek to challenge the decision by judicial review if they wished.

The Monitoring Officer confirmed that there was no evidence to support the suggestion of a previous relationship between the member and the party opposing the planning application in the fourth complaint in the Appendix.

RESOLVED

That the 2012 Annual Report of the Standards Committee be referred to Council.

19. FUTURE MEETING DATES

The Committee noted that the meeting programmed for 20th March 2013 would now be held on 27th March 2013. The Committee would be considering a report on the role of the independent persons.

RESOLVED

That the amendment to the programme of meetings be noted.

Chairman