

Standards Committee

Minutes

Friday, 03 July 2015 at 10:00

Present:

Councillor Lawn (in the Chair), Councillors Andrews, M Coleman and Jeal.

Cllr Sutton attended as a substitute for Councillor Robinson-Payne.

Mr L Gent (Parish Councillor) also attended.

Mr C Skinner (Monitoring Officer) and Mr D Johnson (NPLaw).

Mrs Emma Sneddon (Member of the Public).

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An Apology for absence was received from Councillor Robinson-Payne.

3 MINUTES

4 CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINT

The Monitoring Officer reported that a code of conduct complaint had been received from Mrs Emma Sneddon against Parish Councillor Celia Boon in respect of the comments made by Mrs Boon to Mrs Emma Sneddon at a Fleggburgh Parish Council meeting.

The Monitoring Officer reported that he had consulted the independent person on this complaint who had recommended that an investigation should take place.

Accordingly, the Committee considered the investigating officer's report and also heard from the complainant Mrs Emma Sneddon.

The Committee found that Mrs Celia Boon had directed the words "Shut up" to Mrs Emma Sneddon at the meeting of Fleggburgh Parish Council on the 5th January 2015 when the Parish Council was considering a planning application submitted by

Mrs Celia Boon.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the Committee concludes that the use of words "shut up" was disrespectful and that the provisions of paragraph 1 of the parish council's code of conduct were thereby contravened.
- (ii) That the Committee recommends that Fleggburgh Parish Council publishes the Standard Committee's decision on the Parish Notice Board or in a Parish Magazine as well as on its website.
- (iii) That the Committee also recommends that the Parish Council should consider its standing orders or code of conduct so that someone with a disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter before the Parish Council leaves the room whilst the matter is discussed.
- (iv) That the Committee instructs the Monitoring Officer to write directly to Mrs Celia Boon with the recommendation that she offers an apology to Mrs Emma Sneddon.

5 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

The meeting ended at: 11:15