



Skipton Town Council

Audit & Scrutiny Committee
Wednesday 9th September 2020 at 6.30pm
Via Zoom

Present: Councillors C Nash (Chairman), G Bell, A Hickman , R Judge, R Mahmood and D Shaw

Officers: Jenny Dean (Acting Administration and Member Services Manager)

In attendance: Cllr Madeley

1. To accept representations from the Public between 6.30pm and 6.45pm.

Cllr Madeley stated that he was attending as a member of the Public and the Mayor, and reminded Members that they can all sit in on Committee meetings but cannot influence the debate.

2. To accept apologies for absence.

Cllr Bentley and Cllr Painter

3. To record declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in items on the agenda.

None

4. To consider the recommendations of the Chief Officer relating to requests for dispensations to Members on items requiring a declaration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests.

None

5. To consider which Members will form a working group to investigate alleged Election Irregularities, as instructed by Full Council on the 13 Aug 2020.

Cllr Nash had circulated the detail in the Minutes of Full Council on the 13th August which set out the reason for holding the meeting this evening.

Members AGREED that any Members who felt that they had an interest in the investigation should declare it, and consider whether it is appropriate that they sit on the working group.

18:40 Cllr Shaw entered the meeting.

Cllr Nash has proposed that that the Members of the working group are herself, Cllrs Painter, Bentley and Mahmood.

Cllr Shaw declared that he had a conflict of interest in the investigation, and did not want to be part of the working group.

Cllr Hickman did not feel that he had a conflict of interest and wanted to be part of the working group. Cllr Nash suggested that part of the investigation could be whether the correct procedures were followed when the alleged election irregularities were first brought to Councillors attention, Cllr Hickman still felt that he did not have a conflict of interest.

Cllr Judge also wanted to be part of the working group, and did not feel that he had any conflict of interest.

Cllr Nash suggested that as the alleged allegations involve Members of the Respecting and Protecting Skipton Group, that Members of that group at that time may have an interest.

18:50pm Cllr Shaw left the meeting, as it had been agreed that he wouldn't be on the working group.

Members AGREED to vote on the Members of the working group.

Cllr Judge received two votes in favour, two against and one abstention. As the Chairman Cllr Nash had the deciding vote. Cllr Judge would not be part of the working group.

Cllr Hickman received three votes in favour and so became a member of the working group.

Members AGREED that the other Members of the working group be those proposed by Cllr Nash.

Members AGREED that the working group be formed of Cllrs Nash, Painter, Bentley and Mahmood and Hickman.

Members NOTED the proposed Terms of Reference.

To note all relevant documents;

To learn the facts of the alleged irregularities and how they have been dealt with so far;

To ensure that Skipton Town Council has complied with any statutory function, power or lawful obligation regarding its handling of the allegations;

To consider whether the council has a statutory function or power to request submissions from councillors as suggested and if so, whether and how to request such submissions;

To consider whether the council has been brought into disrepute, what action can or has been taken under our Risk Management Strategy or other policies to prevent the Council being brought into disrepute and whether to recommend any further actions should be taken by STC to prevent future incidents of a similar nature;

To consider whether any breaches of Standards may have occurred that warrant investigation by CDC Standards Committee;

To report back to Full Council not to A&S.

Members AGREED the proposed Terms of Reference as stated above.

The Working Group Members AGREED to meet as soon as possible with the dates of the 16th and 17th proposed. Members AGREED that if possible, they would like to meet in person to make looking through any relevant documents easier, and a potential location could be the Council Chamber to allow for social distancing.

Meeting Closed at 19:11

Chairman:.....