



Skipton Town Council

16/50

Extra Ordinary Full Council Thursday 27 October 2016 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillors M Emmerson, A Rankine, G Bell, C Clark, J Dawson, C Harbron, R G Heseltine, Mrs P Heseltine, A Hickman, E Jaquin, J Kerr, P Madeley, K McIntyre and P Whitaker.

Officers: Dave Parker (Chief Officer) and Les Chandler (Estate Manager).

Two members of the public.

1. To appoint a minute taker for further items on the agenda.

The Leader of the Council explained that, because the meeting had been called to discuss a matter involving the Chief Officer, it might be better if his staff were not involved in the meeting. However, since the meeting could discuss only the complaints process, not the complaint itself, it was **AGREED** that the minutes should be taken by an officer.

2. To accept representations from the Public between 7.00 pm and 7.15 pm.

Mr J Kerwin-Davey of Newmarket Street explained why he had resigned as Mayor of Skipton three and a half years previously and asked the Council to re-investigate the circumstances of his resignation.

3. To accept apologies for absence.

Apologies were accepted from Councillor Mrs W Clark (holiday) and Councillor C Dow (work commitments).

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

None.

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.

The Chief Officer pointed out that although this item had not been included on the meeting agenda provided by the Mayor the consideration of dispensations at Council meetings is a statutory requirement.

It was **AGREED** that dispensations should be considered.

Members noted that no requests for dispensations had been submitted

5. To consider the exclusion of Press and public for agenda item 6 further to the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960.

Councillor Madeley advised that the meeting had been called to change the complaints procedure rather than to discuss a specific complaint so it was **RESOLVED** that the meeting should remain open to the public.

6. To consider the complaint brought by members of the public to the last Full Council and to resolve a way forward.

Because Members have decided to treat as a complaint the comments about the Chief Officer made by two members of the Royal British Legion at the Council's meeting on 15 August 2016 it was **RESOLVED** to endorse the decision of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee to establish, in line with Council procedures, a Complaints Panel to investigate the comments.

Given the need for the Panel to reflect the political balance of the Council, and for its members to have no links to the Royal British Legion, it was **RESOLVED** that the Panel should comprise Councillors J Kerr, P Madeley and Mrs K McIntyre.

Since the members of the Panel are not qualified to investigate disciplinary matters, and the Council's Human Relations Adviser is compromised by the relationships she has already formed with officers, it was **AGREED** that the Leader and Deputy Leader should approach Craven District Council to ask if it could provide a suitably qualified and experienced officer, with no connection to the Town Council, to act as an independent adviser to the Panel.

Meeting closed at 7.50 pm.