

## Selection and Constitutional Review Committee

Minutes of a Meeting of the Selection and Constitutional Review Committee held in Committee Room No. 2 (Bad Münstereifel Room), Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford on the 16<sup>th</sup> January 2014.

### Present:

Cllr. Clarkson (Chairman);

Cllr. Claughton (Vice-Chairman);

Cllrs. Bennett, Mrs Blanford, Chilton, Davison, Mrs Dyer, Galpin, Howard, Robey, Smith.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 1.2 (iii) Councillor Mrs Blanford attended as a Substitute Member for Councillor Mrs Martin.

### Apologies:

Cllrs. Davidson, Mrs Martin

### Also Present:

Member Services and Scrutiny Manager.

## 272 Declarations of Interest

Councillor	Interest	Minute No.
Davison	Made a "Voluntary Announcement" as he knew the current Chairman of the Kent Association of Local Councils (Ashford Branch).	276

## 273 Minutes

### Resolved:

That the Minutes of the meeting of this Committee held on the 10<sup>th</sup> October 2013 be approved and confirmed as a correct record.

## 274 Terms of Reference of the Environment and Nature Conservation Forum

The report advised that at the inaugural meeting of the Environment and Nature Conservation Forum on the 24<sup>th</sup> October 2013, a Mission Statement and Terms of Reference had been presented for agreement. They were a combination of the two

previous fora (Nature Conservation Forum and Environmental Forum). The amended version of the Mission Statement and Terms of Reference were appended to the report for approval by the Committee.

**Recommended:**

**That the Mission Statement and Terms of Reference, attached as an appendix to the report, for the Environment and Nature Conservation Forum be approved and be incorporated into the Council's Constitution.**

## **275 Representatives on Outside Bodies/Organisations**

The report advised of the need to make two nominations to the Ashford Almshouses and Parochial Charities for the period to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

The Chairman advised that he intended to arrange for the list of outside bodies/organisations the Council appointed representatives to, to be examined to assess whether they were still relevant in terms of the Borough Council's activities and furthermore he was also aware that some of the organisations no longer met.

**Resolved:**

**That Councillors Hodgkinson and Miss Martin be appointed to sit on the Ashford Almshouses and Parochial Charities to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2016.**

## **276 Constitutional Issues**

The report dealt with changes the Leader of the Council wished to make to the Conservative Group nominations on the Parish Forum and also the appointment of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman and the ex-officio position. The report also noted the change in membership of the Education and Vocational Skills Advisory Committee in terms of the Labour Group's nomination as Councillor Britcher had taken the seat which had previously been held by Councillor Chilton.

Tabled at the meeting was an update report which explained that the Leader wished to nominate the Chairman of the Ashford Local Branch of the Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) to be appointed as the Vice-Chairman of the Parish Forum. It was also proposed that the ex-officio position be taken by the Leader of the Council.

A Member explained that two Parish Councils within the Borough area were not members of the Kent Association of Local Councils which included in his own Ward, Orlestone Parish Council. The Chairman advised that he had raised with the Chief Executive all the points the Member had made previously and indicated that those Parish Councils would be invited to future rural conferences.

In response to a comment about having a non-elected Borough Council Member as the Vice-Chairman of the Parish Forum, the Chairman emphasised that the Parish Forum did not have any executive powers and any recommendations would need to be considered by the Cabinet and therefore he did not see that this was an issue.

**Recommended:**

- That**
- (i) it be noted that Councillors Mrs Bell and Burgess will take the Conservative Group's seats on the Parish Forum.**
  - (ii) Councillor Mrs Bell be appointed Chairman of the Parish Forum and the Chairman of the Local Branch of the Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) (currently Mr John Rivers) be appointed as Vice-Chairman.**
  - (iii) the Terms of Reference of the Parish Forum be amended to those appended to the update paper.**
  - (iv) it be noted that Councillor Britcher will take the Labour Group seat on the Education and Vocational Skills Advisory Committee.**

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(KRF/AEH)

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Telephone: 01233 330564 Email: keith.fearon@ashford.gov.uk  
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