

Selection & Constitutional Review Committee

Minutes of a Meeting of the Selection & Constitutional Review Committee held in Committee Room No.2 (Bad Münstereifel Room), Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford on the 8th December 2016.

Present:

Cllr. Clarkson (Chairman);

Cllr. Bell (Vice-Chairman);

Cllrs. Mrs Bell, Bennett, Burgess, Galpin, A Howard, Mrs Martin, Ovenden, Shorter.

Also Present:

Cllrs. Bradford, Clokie, Pickering, Smith.

Deputy Chief Executive, Senior Solicitor (Strategic Development), Senior Member Services Officer.

214 Declarations of Interest

Councillor	Interest	Minute No.
Clarkson	Made a Voluntary Announcement as a Director of the ABC Property Company.	
Shorter	Declared an 'Other Significant Interest' as the proposed nominee to the Chilmington Green Community Management Organisation Partnership Working Group. He would leave the room for this item.	216
	Made Voluntary Announcements as a Director of Kent Play Clubs and as a Director of the ABC Building Consultancy Company.	

215 Minutes

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of this Committee held on the 13th October 2016 be approved and confirmed as a correct record.

216 Appointment to Chilmington Green Community Management Organisation Partnership Working Group

The Deputy Chief Executive introduced the report. It advised that in anticipation of the Chilmington Green development Section 106 Agreement being completed and fully signed early next year and consent being issued, approval was sought to nominate a Councillor to the Chilmington Green Community Management Organisation Partnership Working Group (PWG). The PWG was an advisory group to the developer consortium whose responsibility it was to create a Community Management Organisation (CMO). It would have a limited lifespan as its focus would be on the detail of work to create a formal CMO and once that was established the PWG would be defunct. Trustee directors would be appointed to the CMO during the course of the next year and this would include a representative from Ashford Borough Council.

A Member asked if the proposed representative, Councillor Neil Shorter, would have enough time to do justice to the role given his busy Cabinet Portfolio, and whether there would be any conflict of interest between the two roles. The Chairman said that he also had some concern about the workload all being down to one individual Cabinet Member. Following debate the Committee agreed that given his history and knowledge of the issue, Councillor Shorter was the sensible candidate to undertake the role, but a second Member should be appointed to shadow him so that they could assist and provide continuity and back up for the role. This could be kept under review as they progressed towards the creation of the CMO and appointing a trustee director. Given the location of the Chilmington Green development it was suggested that Councillor Jessamy Blanford would be the sensible nominee for the shadow role.

Resolved:

That Councillor Neil Shorter be nominated as the Borough Council's representative to the Chilmington Green Community Management Organisation Partnership Working Group for the period up to the formal creation of the Community Management Organisation. The Council will also appoint a shadow Member to assist and provide continuity and back up for the role.

217 Mandatory Training and Amendment to Terms of Reference of the Licensing and Health and Safety Committee

The report sought agreement to add mandatory training requirements to the Notes of the Terms of Reference of the Licensing and Health and Safety Committee to ensure consistency. It also sought the Committee's response to an Internal Audit recommendation that Members of Committees with mandatory training requirements (Planning and potentially Licensing) should undertake training/refresher training at least once every four years to remain 'eligible' to sit on those Committees.

During the debate it was agreed that training for Members of the Licensing and Health and Safety Committee should be mandatory and undertaken at least once every four years. However, some Members expressed their belief that once Planning training had been undertaken, there should be no mandate to re-take that training to remain eligible. Other Members considered it was important to refresh the training each Council term in the context of representing constituents properly and continuous professional development.

One Member said that he would not be keen to see mandatory training extended further than these two particular Committees.

Recommended:

- That (i) mandatory training be added as a Note to the Terms of Reference of the Licensing and Health and Safety Committee.**
- (ii) Members of Committees with mandatory training requirements (Planning and Licensing) should undertake training/refresher training at least once every four years to remain 'eligible' to sit on those Committees.**

218 Changes to the Responsibility for Functions

The report recommended amendments and additions to the Responsibility for Functions in the Constitution, in order to remove gaps in the delegations and to clarify positions.

The Chairman said that he had not had a full opportunity to review the report and discuss it with colleagues and he therefore proposed that consideration of the report be deferred to allow that to happen.

Resolved:

That the report be deferred to allow more time for consideration by Members.

219 Representatives on Outside Bodies

The report advised the Committee of the need to make nominations to positions on various outside bodies/organisations.

Resolved:

- That (i) Councillor Hicks be appointed as a Member representative on the Citizens Advice Bureau – Ashford Branch Management Committee.**
- (ii) the appointment of a Member representative to sit on the Home Improvement Agency Support Group be deferred.**

- (iii) Councillors Apps and Krause be appointed to sit on the Ashford Almshouses and Parochial Charities to 30th November 2019.**

DS