

# Standards Committee Agenda

Wyre Borough Council  
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**Standards Committee meeting on Tuesday, 7 February 2017 at 6.00 pm  
in the Civic Centre, Poulton-le-Fylde**

1. **Introductions and Apologies for Absence**
2. **Declarations of Interest**

Members will declare any pecuniary or significant other interests they have in relation to the items on this agenda.

3. **Code of Conduct: Alleged breach by Cllr Patricia Greenough,  
Preesall Town Council**

- (a) Purpose of the meeting  
This meeting of the Standards Committee has been convened to:
  - consider an investigation report and its findings;
  - hear representations from the Investigating Officer and the Subject Member;
  - decide, on the basis of the evidence submitted and the representations made, whether the Subject Member has breached the Code of Conduct; and, if so,
  - decide which, if any, of the available sanctions to impose.

- (b) Procedures to be followed  
This hearing is being conducted under the procedures for dealing with alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct agreed by Wyre Borough Council on 7 July 2016 and included in Part 5.02 of the Council's Constitution.

(Pages 1 - 12)

The procedures to be followed at this stage in the process are set out in the Hearing Procedures in Annex B.

- (c) Documents to be considered  
The following documents are submitted for consideration by the Committee

(Pages 13 - 92)

- (i) Report of the Investigating Officer (Mike Dudfield), attached.

The complaint about Cllr Greenough submitted by Mrs Finch, the former Clerk of Preesall Town Council, included a complaint about another Preesall Town Councillor, which was also investigated and is referred to in the Investigating Officer's report, but is not proceeding to a hearing. The name of the other Subject Member has therefore been redacted from the report submitted to this meeting. The Monitoring Officer will report the outcome of that complaint to the next scheduled meeting of the Standards Committee on 16 March.

- (ii) Appendices to the Investigation report NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Even though personal details have been redacted from the documents listed in the schedule of evidence attached as appendices to the Investigation Report, the Chief Executive has determined, in accordance with Paragraph 11 of the Access to Information Rules in Part 4 of the Council's Constitution, that they are "Not for Publication" because they contain "exempt information" as defined in Schedule 12(a) of the Local Government Act 1972.

If the Committee wishes to discuss the contents of any of the appendices and agrees that the public and press should be excluded whilst they do so, it will need to pass the following resolution:

*"The public and press be excluded from the meeting whilst the contents of the appendices to the Investigation report are being considered, because they refer to exempt information as defined in category 1 (information relating to any individual) of Part 1 of Schedule 12(a) of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Variation Order 2006 and, that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information."*

- (iii) Councillor Greenough has not so far submitted a written statement as requested under the pre-hearing procedures, specifying which of the findings of fact in the investigation report that she does not accept, the reasons why and the evidence to support her claims. However, she has indicated in numerous emails and telephone calls to the Monitoring Officer and the Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager that her position is :
- that she has “not lied about any of the conversations she has heard;
  - that she does not accept any of the conclusions of the investigation report;
  - that she does not accept that she has breached the Code of Conduct; and
  - that she is not prepared to apologise to the former Clerk of Preesall Town Council.

- (d) Hearing - Stage 1: Consideration of evidence and representations on findings of fact and whether or not there has been a breach of the Code  
The Chairman will invite the Committee to follow the steps, set out in paragraphs 10 to 14 of the Hearing Procedures, subject to any variations made in accordance with paragraph 5 of the procedures.

When those steps have been completed, the members of the Committee will withdraw, with the Independent Person and the Deputy Monitoring Officer, to consider the evidence presented and reach their conclusions in private on whether or not there has been a breach of the Code (paragraphs 15 and 16 of the procedures).

When they have done so, they will return to the Chamber and the Chairman will announce the Committee’s findings.

If the Committee decides that there has been no breach of the Code the Committee will decide if it wishes to make any comments or recommendations on any issues arising from the hearing and then close the meeting.

- (e) Hearing - Stage 2 : Consideration of Sanctions  
If the Committee has decided under stage 1 of the hearing that there has been a breach of the Code, the Chairman will invite the Committee to follow the steps relating to possible sanctions, set out in paragraphs 18 of the hearing procedures

When any representations by the Investigating Officer and the Subject Member have been made, the members of the Committee will withdraw again to consider in private, with the Independent Person and the Deputy Monitoring Officer, what sanctions, if any to impose.

When they have done so, they will return to the Chamber and the Chairman will announce the Committee's decision.

The Chairman will then close the meeting.