

**At a meeting of the STANDARDS COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on FRIDAY, 16<sup>th</sup> MAY, 2014 at 2.00 p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor H. Trueman in the Chair

Councillors Forbes, MacKnight, Mordey, Price and D. Richardson together with Councillors Hepple and Wilkinson (Hetton Town Council) and Mrs. S. Joseph Independent Person.

**Also Present**

Councillor Philip Tye

Ms. Frances Randle representing Councillor Tye

Ms. Julianne Collinson, Assistant Head of Law and Governance and the Investigating Officer

Mr. Jonathan Rowson, Assistant Head of Law and Governance, representing the Council's Monitoring Officer and providing procedural advice to the Committee

Mrs Christine Tilley, Team Leader, Governance Services, clerk for the hearing

**Witnesses**

Councillor E. Gibson

Mrs. Dawn Cook

**Observers**

Mr. David Banks, Officer of Tunstall Allotments Association

Mr. Nick Pearson, Officer of Tunstall Allotments Association

**Part 1**

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillor Shattock and Mr. A. Atkinson, Independent Person.

**Welcome and Introductions**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited all those present to introduce themselves.

The Chairman outlined the procedure that the Committee was going to follow for the hearing.

## **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made.

## **Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation Order) 2006**

The Committee considered whether to hold the meeting in public or in private.

The Committee received advice from Jonathan Rowson, Assistant Head of Law and Governance that whilst the presumption is that wherever possible hearings should be held in public, in this particular case the documents before the Committee contain personal information relating to those third parties as identified on the first page of the investigation report. Mr Rowson advised that this personal information relating to third parties is exempt information and forms an important part of the factual background to the complaint against which the relevant Member's actions must be assessed. It was not possible to properly and fully consider the complaint without disclosing this exempt information. Therefore, in these circumstances it was appropriate on this occasion for the hearing to proceed in private to ensure that this exempt information is not disclosed to the public.

Having considered this advice, it was:-

1. RESOLVED that in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, the public be excluded during consideration of the remaining business as it contains information relating to individuals and information which is likely to reveal the identity of individuals (Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A, Part 1, Paragraph 1).

(Signed) H. TRUEMAN,  
Chairman.

### **Note:-**

The above minutes comprise only those relating to items during which the meeting was open to members of the public.

An additional minute in respect of a further item is included in Part II.