



**STANDARDS COMMITTEE:
19 SEPTEMBER 2023**

**COUNCIL:
18 OCTOBER 2023**

Report of: Head of Legal & Democratic Services

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**SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT OF PARISH/TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON
THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

Wards affected: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To advise Standards Committee of the two nominated Parish Councillors, to be appointed to Standards Committee.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION STANDARDS COMMITTEE and COUNCIL

2.1 To note that the Term of Appointments of Councillor Justin Stopford and Linda Webster, as Parish Council Representatives on Standards Committee, ended May 2023.

2.2 That two applications for the role of Parish Councillor Representative on the Standards Committee be considered.

2.3 That the appointment of the successful applicant(s) be endorsed at Council 18 October 2023, and term of appointments be three years, ending May 2026.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 At Annual Council on 15 May 2019 it was resolved to appoint 2 Parish Council representatives to serve on the Standards Committee,

3.2 The procedure for the nomination and appointment of those representatives was agreed at the Standards Committee on 17 September 2019 and provided for Parish/Town Councils to submit nominations and subsequently vote on the nominees.

- 3.3 Councillors Justin Stopford and Linda Webster, were appointed for the term of three years, which ended May 2023.
- 3.4 Applications for new nominations have been requested from Parish Councils across West Lancs.

- 3.5 Two nominations were received as follows:

Parish Councillor Andrew Grant – Up Holland Parish Council
Parish Councillor George Pratt – Scarisbrick Parish Council

Both applications are attached at Appendix A.

- 3.6 The procedure for the appointment of new Parish Council Representatives states the following:

"The Member nominated should not be a Borough Councillor and ideally should not be a close friend of any member or officer of the Borough Council."

- 3.7 Members are asked to consider the suitability of both applications. In particular, Members are referred to the application of Parish Councillor George Pratt in which he states the following:

"I was Treasurer of the local Conservative Party until 2018, and was a council member from 2008-2012, so I know most current councillors, although none would be classed as close personal friends"

Officers are also aware that Parish Councillor Pratt also stood as a Conservative Candidate in the May 2022 borough elections.

- 3.8 Members are asked to consider whether the above information would prevent Parish Councillor Pratt from undertaking the role of Parish Council Representative. Officers are concerned about accusations of conflict of interest or perceived conflict of interest in any future business of the Committee.

4.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no particular sustainability impacts associated with this report, and in particular, no significant impact on crime and disorder.

5.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no significant financial or resource implications arising from this report.

6.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 6.1 This item is for information only and makes no recommendations. I therefore does not require a formal risk assessment and no changes have been made to the risk register.

7.0 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no health and wellbeing implications arising from this report.

Background Documents

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

Equality Impact Assessment

The decision does not have any direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and / or stakeholders. Therefore no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

Appendices

Appendix A – Parish Council Applications.