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Note: These Minutes will remain DRAFT until approved at the next meeting of the Committee

SPECIAL GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 20 OCTOBER 2022

Councillors Present: Jeff Cant (Chairman), Jeremy Cottam (Vice-Chairman), Jeff Beck, David Marsh, Geoff Mayes, Andy Moore, Bill Graham, Claire Rowles (Substitute) (In place of Rick Jones) and Anne Budd (Substitute) (In place of David Southgate)

Also Present: Sarah Clarke (Service Director (Strategy and Governance)), Sharon Armour (Solicitor), Stephen Chard (Democratic Services Manager), Councillor Tom Marino, Councillor Jeff Brooks and Councillor Richard Somner

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting: Councillor Rick Jones, Councillor Tony Linden, Councillor Biyi Oloko and Parish Councillor David Southgate

PART I

24 Declarations of Interest

All West Berkshire District Councillors declared an interest in Agenda Item 4, but reported that, as their interest was a personal or an other registrable interest, but not a disclosable pecuniary interest, they determined to remain to take part in the debate and vote on the matter.

25 Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED that members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the under-mentioned item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as contained in Paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the [Local Government \(Access to Information\)\(Variation\) Order 2006](#). [Rule 8.10.4 of the Constitution](#) also refers.

26 NDC2121 and NDC2221

(Paragraph 1 – information relating to an individual)

(All West Berkshire District Councillors declared a personal interest in Agenda item 4 by virtue of the fact that the Subject Member was a fellow Councillor. As their interest was personal and not prejudicial they were permitted to take part in the debate and vote on the matter).

(Councillor Jeff Beck added to his declaration by advising that he had responded to an e-mail of apology sent by the Subject Member).

(Councillor Andy Moore declared a personal interest in Agenda item 4 by virtue of the fact that he was the Chair of the Newbury and West Berkshire Liberal Democrats at the time of the complaint. The matter was referred to the group's Local Party Executive (Councillor Moore did not sit on this) who considered that West Berkshire Council was best placed to resolve the issue. As his interest was personal and not prejudicial he was permitted to take part in the debate and vote on the matter).

(Councillor Claire Rowles declared a personal interest in Agenda item 4 by virtue of the fact that she knew the Independent Investigator on a non-professional basis. As her

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interest was personal and not prejudicial she was permitted to take part in the debate and vote on the matter).

The Committee considered an exempt report (Agenda Item 4) concerning a complaint regarding an alleged breach of the Code of Conduct.

The Committee's resolutions were recorded in the exempt Decision Notice.

(The meeting commenced at 2.00pm and closed at 3.50pm)

CHAIRMAN

Date of Signature