

**MTC177/2019**

**Internal Matters:**

To receive information on the following items and decide any action where necessary.

1. To receive the decision of the Kirklees Monitoring Officer following a Code of Conduct complaint and decide any action/recommendations and sanctions necessary – It was resolved to take this item after MTC174. 7.35pm Cllr Guy left the room. The Clerk confirms that MTC adopted Kirklees Code of Conduct in May 2019 and as such has to comply with sanctions set by Kirklees following a complaint. She reads out the complaint made to Kirklees Monitoring Officer by Cllr Guy regarding Cllr Benson and the findings/decision and sanctions recommended by the Kirklees Monitoring Officer (See appendix below). Kirklees Monitoring Officer recommendations; the apology could be sent via a third party, Cllr Kath Taylor stated she disagreed and it should come direct from Cllr Benson, Cllrs were all in agreement. Cllr Lees-Hamilton stated that she was disappointed that Kirklees standards hadn't taken a stronger view as the comments made by Cllr Benson could have impacted on Cllr Guy's livelihood and RBL membership. Cllrs are in agreement with Cllr Lees-Hamilton. Cllr Nottingham **Proposed** MTC accepts the findings of Kirklees Monitoring Officer and the sanctions suggested imposed Cllr Connell **Seconded Vote: All in favour** Cllr Lees-Hamilton **Proposed** the following wording from Cllr Benson: Cllr S Benson: I apologise unreservedly for my inaccurate comments made about Cllr Guy. I fully accept the findings of the decision makers. I will publicise this apology on my own social media feeds & other communications in my control. I understand and acknowledge that Kirklees Council and Mirfield Town Council will also publicise the decision, findings and apology. Signed S Benson. Cllr Naisbett **Seconded Vote: All in favour**. Cllr Lees-Hamilton **Proposed** the Clerk send a letter with the sanctions and motions to Cllr Benson, delivered by Cllr Kath Taylor's hand. The apology to be sent to Cllr Guy and a copy to the Clerk with full apology on social media no later than 4th February. As confirmed by the Clerk, failure to do so will result in a further breach of the Code of Conduct, which shall be reported to the Kirklees Monitoring Officer Cllr Roberts **Seconded Vote: All in favour**. Cllr Connell who is Chair of the local Conservative branch, stated that he did not agree with the panels comments that this may have been a by-product of issues that had arisen within MTC following the defection of Cllr Benson from the Conservative Party to the Green Party. He stated that the branch bore no ill will to Cllr Benson. 7.50pm Cllr Guy returned.