

## PENSION FUND COMMITTEE

**MINUTES** of the meeting held Virtually on Thursday, 7 May 2020 commencing at 10.00 am and finishing at 10.30 am.

**Present:**

**Voting Members:** Councillor Kevin Bulmer – in the Chair

Councillor Nicholas Field-Johnson (Deputy Chairman)  
Councillor Ian Corkin  
Councillor Mark Lygo  
Councillor Charles Mathew  
Councillor John Sanders  
Councillor Roz Smith  
Councillor Lawrie Stratford  
Councillor Alan Thompson  
District Councillor Jo Robb

**Other Members in Attendance:** Councillor Bob Johnston and Mr Alistair Bastin, Local Pension Board.

**District Council Representatives:** District Councillor Jo Robb

**Officers:**

Whole of meeting Lorna Baxter, Director for Finance and Sean Collins; Deborah Miller (Law & Governance).

*The Committee considered the matters, reports and recommendations contained or referred to in the agenda for the meeting and decided as set out below. Except as insofar as otherwise specified, the reasons for the decisions are contained in the agenda and reports, copies of which are attached to the signed Minutes.*

### **99/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS**

(Agenda No. 1)

An apology for absence was received from Mr Alaa Al-Yousuf.

**100/20 ADMINISTRATION REPORT**

(Agenda No. 4)

At its meeting in March, the Committee had received a report, asking it to determine how payment of a death grant should be split.

When administrators came to make the payment, it was found that incorrect information had been provided to officers and given to members in the report, therefore, the Committee had before it an updated report seeking member's view on whether they would wish to review their decision in light of the new information set out in the report.

Mr Collins in introducing the report explained that the original report was incorrect because it stated that the deceased daughter's child was living with her aunt when in fact this has never been the case. She lives with her father.

On investigation it was understood that this misunderstanding came from a telephone conversation, but because notes of the calls were not properly taken it was impossible to establish whether this was due to wrong information being given or lack of understanding on part of the administrator. Administrators had subsequently been reminded of the importance of best practice of taking notes of telephone calls and adding these to case records.

The Chairman Councillor Bulmer indicated that it was his understanding from communications with members of the Committee that had they been in possession of the above facts at the time of making the decision, then a different decision would have been made and the Committee would have agreed to a 3 way split to include the deceased member's granddaughter. He therefore moved and Councillor Sanders seconded to agree to share the payment of the death grant between the brother and sister to sharing the death grant between brother, sister and granddaughter, of the deceased member. The Committee debated the merits of other splits, but it was generally felt that this was the fairest way forward.

**RESOLVED:** (on a motion by Councillor Kevin Bulmer, seconded by Councillor John Sanders and carried nem con) to amend their decision to share the payment of the death grant between the brother and sister to sharing the death grant between brother, sister and granddaughter, of the deceased member.

..... in the Chair

Date of signing .....