

## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE, HELD AT COUNTY HALL, LLANDRINDOD WELLS ON WEDNESDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER 2014.

**PRESENT:** H. Rhydderch-Roberts (Chair)  
J. Evans, C. Jackson, S. Jarman, R. Miller, County Councillors M. Mackenzie, S. Hayes, P. Medicott and G. Williams.

**Observers:** Community Councillors C. Evans, H. Patrick, D. Pugh.

**Officers in Attendance:** C. Pinney (Solicitor to the Council), W. Richards (Scrutiny Manager and Head of Democratic Services) and E Patterson (Scrutiny Officer).

<b>1.</b>	<b>APOLOGIES</b>	<b>S17 – 2014</b>
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No apologies were received.

<b>2.</b>	<b>MINUTES</b>	<b>S18 – 2014</b>
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The Chair was authorised to sign the minutes of the previous meeting held 24<sup>th</sup> September 2014 as a correct record subject to amendments to the resolution relating to Council Tax Discount dispensation to reflect what was circulated to the Council meeting in October 2014 namely:

- (i) ***A dispensation be granted to a Member who personally has (or has a close relative, person living with him/her or a close personal associate who has) a property in Powys available or potentially available to see of let to make written representation to the Monitoring Officer by 5.00pm on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2014. Such Representations may not attempt to persuade Members on the outcome of the debate but may give information or scenarios that should be taken into account. Any representations received to be made available to Members eligible to participate in the debate.***

<b>3.</b>	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>	<b>S19 – 2014</b>
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No declarations of interest were received.

<b>4.</b>	<b>REPORT OF THE SOLICITOR TO THE COUNCIL</b>	<b>S20 – 2014</b>
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The Committee received the report of the Solicitor to the Council. (Copy filed with signed minutes)

### **A General Standards Issues for County Councillors and Co-opted Members**

#### **A1 Code of Conduct Training**

Mid-term refresher training on the Code of Conduct was held on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2014. 55 County Councillors and 9 Co-opted Members attended which leaves 18 County Councillors and 3 Co-opted Members still to receive this training. A further date will be arranged in the New Year.

## **A2 Member Development**

The Democratic Services Committee accepted the recommendations from the Standards Committee regarding Mandatory Training. An implementation process will be developed which will be implemented from the Annual Meeting in May 2015.

It has recently been confirmed that the Council has retained the Charter for Member Support and Development for a further three years. This is assessed on a three yearly basis.

## **A3 Approval of Mandatory Training**

A training session has been arranged for all Members on Web-casting following the lengthy County Council meeting in October 2014. It was proposed, with the Chairs support that this training should be Mandatory. The training has been arranged for 8<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> December 2014 and it is intended to record the session as a part of a process for assessing the potential for e-learning.

**Members noted the inclusion of web-casting as a Mandatory training session.**

## **B Referral of Councillors to Public Services Ombudsman**

### **B1 County Councillor Referrals**

**B1.1** Since the last meeting the Ombudsman has advised of the following Code of Conduct complaints:

7/14/CC      decided not to investigate

A further case was received:

8/14/CC      decided not to investigate

## **C Other Standards Issues**

### **C1.1 Local Resolution Process**

The draft Local Resolution Process agreed at the last meeting was approved by the Democratic Services Committee in July and County Council in October 2014. The Protocol will be included in both the current and new Constitutions.

## D Dispensations

### D1.1 Applications - County Councillors

#### Application from County Councillor Dai Davies

County Councillor Davies attended the committee to apply for dispensation to attend a meeting (but not to speak or vote) where the matter of Leisure Centre transfers was being discussed. His interest was that he knew the Managers of The Flash and Maldwyn Leisure Centres through their common membership of the Lakeside Golf Club Committee.

A copy of his application and commentary thereon are filed with the signed minutes.

The Committee considered that his close involvement with two senior employees within the service was such that it would be safer for him to stand clear of any discussions. He would be able to access the decisions of such meetings in any minutes produced and the information gained by listening to the debate did not outweigh concerns regarding the public perception regarding this matter.

RESOLVED THAT	REASON FOR RESOLUTION
<b>That no dispensation be granted to Cllr Dai Davies regarding matters relating to Leisure Centre transfers.</b>	<b>That his relationship with two Leisure Centre managers was such that no dispensation could be granted.</b>

## E Late payment of expenses

An application for late payment of expenses was received in Democratic Services after the papers had been published however, the Chair allowed consideration of the application.

Community Councillor C. Evans declared a personal and prejudicial interest and left the room.

Councillor David Evans – a claim for broadband submitted on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2014 for May 2012 - August 2014.

The Committee requested additional information regarding the communications that Members had received regarding the claiming of the broadband allowance and a summary of late payment claims and the decisions that had been made since May 2012.

**It was decided to defer the application by Cllr D Evans until the next meeting of Standards Committee.**

**F Unacceptable Behaviour by Service Users Policy**

This policy was considered by County Council in October 2014 and approved subject to some minor amendments and consideration by Management Team as to how to implement and monitor the policy.

**G Whistleblowing Policy**

The Solicitor to the Council apologised that it had not been possible to circulate this policy but that he undertook to make it available before Christmas.

**H Standards Conference**

Cardiff Council have agreed to host this conference in September 2015. Confirmation of the date will be provided when it has been agreed.

**I Meeting Dates**

The following dates for the Standards Committee were confirmed:

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2015

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2015 NB This date is subject to confirmation

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2015

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2015

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2015

All meetings to commence at 10.00am with the option of training available afterwards.

**H Rhydderch-Roberts  
Chair**