

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMUNITY SUB-COMMITTEE HELD AT COUNTY HALL, LLANDRINDOD WELLS ON MONDAY 22ND JUNE 2009

PRESENT: P. Swanson (Chair)

Mrs S. Jarman, Mrs M. Harris, R. Miller, Mrs Rhydderch-Roberts, Community Councillors Ms C. Evans, H. Evans and Revd A. Jevons.

Officers in attendance: W. Richards (Scrutiny Services Manager) and Mrs L. Patterson (Committee Clerk).

1.	APOLOGIES	STCS9-2009
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Apologies were received from County Councillor K. Curry and Mr Clarence Meredith (Head of Legal, Scrutiny and Democratic Services).

2.	MINUTES	STCS10-2009
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The minutes of the meeting held on 27th April 2009 were approved as a correct record.

3.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	STCS11-2009
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No declarations of interest were received.

4.	REPORT OF THE HEAD OF LEGAL, SCRUTINY AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES - STANDARDS COMMUNITY SUB-COMMITTEE BUSINESS	STS12-2009
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The Sub-Committee received the report of the Head of Legal, Scrutiny and Democratic Services (Copy filed with signed Minutes).

The Chairman noted with regret that Community Councillor Brian Couzens had passed away on 29th May 2009.

A Members' Code of Conduct

A1 Adoption of the new Model Members' Code of Conduct by Town and Community Councils

One of the two outstanding Community Councils had submitted their papers which left only Bettws Community Council who were not known to have complied with the regulations. The Chairman had engaged the assistance of the Local Member whom it was understood had undertaken to assist in getting the relevant papers submitted. The Chairman agreed to contact the Local Member again with regard to this issue.

A2 Training of Town and Community Council Clerks

A suggestion was received from one of the Community Council representatives regarding training on Town and Community Council

appointees to local groups where they may be Directors or Trustees and how this is affected by the Code of Conduct.

It was also suggested that the Chairman should be advised that it is the role of the Chairman to remind Members of the Code of Conduct where breaches may be about to take place. This item to be included in the letter agreed by the Standards Committee to be sent to all Town and Community Council Chairmen.

RESOLVED THAT	REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION
The Chairman write to all Town and Community Council Chairman reminding them of their role in ensuring the Code of Conduct is observed.	To highlight to all Town and Community Councils the importance of both understanding and observing the Code of Conduct.

B General Training for Members

Any suggestions for training to be submitted to the Member Development Working Group.

C Referral of Councillors to the Public Services Ombudsman

C1 Town and Community Councillor Referrals

The Ombudsman continues to investigate allegations against three members of one Community Council.

One further referral has been made. The Ombudsman is deciding whether or not to investigate.

D Other Standards Issues

D1 Meetings with Town and Community Councils

The Chairman and Monitoring Officer had met with representatives of one Town or Community Council where local problems had been occurring. It is hoped that these meetings are seen as assistance to Town and Community Councils.

D2 Attendance at Meetings of Town and Community Councils

It was suggested that Members of the Standards Committee could attend meetings of Town and Community Councils to see if problems were arising. Concern was raised that the Standards Committee Members should not be seen to attend meetings to dictate how things should be run and there was a danger of creating bad feeling. Additionally there could be a conflict of interests if a committee member attended a meeting at which an issue arose which in time came before the Standards Committee. It was suggested that perhaps Members could visit a selection of Town and Community Council

meetings to observe and see if there were any recurring. Any visits would need to have clear terms of reference.

D3 Issues raised by a Member of Public

On occasion members of the public bring to officers' attention issues where Town and Community Councils are not complying with legislation for example in dealing with correspondence or giving sufficient notice for a meeting to be legal. The Chairman and Monitoring Officer would try to offer advice in these situations.

E Dispensations

E1 Applications – Town and Community Councillors

Applications for dispensation had been received from two Members of Ystradgynlais Town Council in relation to their membership of the Ystradgylais Miners Welfare and Community Hall Board. As both members had been appointed by the Town Council to sit on the Board then by virtue of paragraph 12 (2) (a) (iii) of the Members' Code on Conduct they have a personal interest but are not regarded as having a prejudicial interest in relation to matters (other than regulatory issues) concerning the Welfare and Community Hall. The Members have been advised.

F Membership of the Sub-Committee

F1 Brecknockshire Vacancy

Community Councillor Revd Alan Jevons has been appointed to fill the Brecknockshire vacancy.

F2 Independent (Lay) Member Vacancy

Independent Member Mrs Helen Rhydderch-Roberts has been appointed to fill the Independent (Lay) Member vacancy.

G Meeting Dates

The following dates for the Standards Community Sub-Committee were confirmed:

Monday 28th September 2009.

Monday 30th November 2009.

Meeting Closed 12.20pm.

P.R. SWANSON
Chairman