

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMUNITY SUB-COMMITTEE HELD AT COUNTY HALL, LLANDRINDOD WELLS ON 23RD JUNE 2011

PRESENT: P. Swanson (Chair)

Mrs M. Harris and Mrs S. Jarman, Community Councillors Ms C. Evans, Revd A. Jevons and H. Evans and County Councillor. M. Hodges.

Observers: County Councillors F. Barker and Miss V. E. Evans.

Officers in attendance: C. Meredith (Strategic Director – Law and Governance), Ms J Kealey (Head of Legal, Scrutiny and Democratic Services), Ms L. Coughlan (Principal Solicitor – Shire), Ms S. Tamboo (Solicitor – Corporate), A. Southerby (Senior Manager – Development Management), W. Richards (Scrutiny Services Manager) and Mrs E. Patterson (Committee Clerk).

Also in attendance: County Councillor Mrs J. G. Shearer.

1.	APOLOGIES	STCS11-2011
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Apologies were received from R. Miller, Mrs H. Rhydderch-Roberts and County Councillor K. Curry.

2.	MINUTES	STCS12-2011
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The Chair was authorised to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 27th April 2011 as a correct record.

3.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	STCS13-2011
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Cllr Miss Evans declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in Item 5 in relation to the Scottish Power Energy Network proposal to connect the windfarms to the National Grid on the grounds that one of the proposed routes for the pylons passes through her ward which will also be affected by construction traffic if the Cefn Coch site is chosen for the Hub. Cllr Miss Evans is also a Town Councillor for Llanfair Caereinion.

4.	CORRESPONDENCE	STCS14-2011
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No correspondence was received.

5.	REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR – LAW AND GOVERNANCE - STANDARDS COMMUNITY SUB-COMMITTEE BUSINESS	STSC15-2011
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The Sub-Committee received the report of the Strategic Director – Law and Governance (Copy filed with signed Minutes).

A. Referral of Councillors to Public Services Ombudsman

No new referrals had been received.

B. Dispensations

B1.1 Applications – Town and Community Councillors

An application had been received from Mrs P Smith from Llandiloes Town Council. A copy of her application and notes are filed with the signed minutes.

Mrs Smith is employed by Powys County Council and works in Llanidloes Museum. She is an unpaid Director of Llani Ltd. The granting of a dispensation was considered under grounds (d) and (h) of the 2001 Regulations.

RESOLVED that	REASON for decision
a) that Councillor Smith be granted a dispensation to speak and vote on all matters relating to Powys County Council excluding those specifically relating to Llanidloes Museum (paragraph d)	a) to allow Councillor Smith to speak on all matters relating to Powys County Council except those relating directly to her place of work.
b) that Councillor Smith be granted a dispensation to speak but not vote on all matters relating to Llani Ltd except those matters relating to grant funding by the Town Council to Llani Ltd of over £500 (paragraph h)	b) that granting Councillor Smith a dispensation to speak and vote on matters relating to Llani Ltd would not damage public confidence.
c) any change in circumstances to be notified immediately to the Community Sub-Committee	c) to ensure that the dispensation is reviewed should circumstances change
d) the dispensations (in paragraphs (a) and (b) above) not applying where the business relates to the determination of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration as referred to in paragraph 12 (3) of the Members' Code of Conduct.	d) that the code does not allow dispensations relating to regulatory type functions

B2 Renewable Energy Issues (Electricity Sub Station, Pylons, Overhead Power Lines, Windfarms etc)

At the last meeting of the Standards Community Sub-Committee a dispensation was granted to all Town and Community Councillors with personal and prejudicial interests in the electricity hub, power lines and pylons development in North Powys to speak and vote on matters relating to the hub/pylons, subject to the disclosure of the nature of the interest and of the reliance of a dispensation to be able to speak and vote.

Since the last meeting the extent to which the proposals will affect the community has become more apparent including matters relating to wind farm applications, road network issues, community benefits and policy matters (including TAN8).

RESOLVED:	REASON FOR RESOLUTION
<p>(i) That the blanket dispensation granted to Town and Community Councillors at the last meeting be extended as recommended in the report, that is to say that such Councillors be granted a blanket dispensation in relation to all prejudicial interests under the Members' Code of Conduct to attend and speak at meetings (including both formal meetings and meetings under the Members' Code of Conduct involving another Member/Officer); to make representations in writing and orally and to generally play a full role in representing their constituents in relation to all matters and issues concerning renewable energy in Powys including:</p> <p>(a) the proposed Electricity Sub-Station, Pylons and overhead lines in North Powys;</p> <p>(b) all wind farm developments in Powys;</p> <p>(c) all road and other infrastructure issues concerning renewable energy;</p> <p>(d) policy issues concerning</p>	<p>(i) That the grant of such dispensations are made on the grounds that:</p> <p>(a) they would not damage public confidence in the conduct of the Council's business;</p> <p>(b) the nature of the interest is common to the members and a significant proportion of the general public;</p> <p>(c) the participation of the Member is justified by the Member's particular role or expertise.</p>

<p>renewable energy including TAN 8 and the County Council's Local Development plan;</p> <p>(e) Community benefits arising out of wind farms / renewable energy projects.</p>	
<p>(ii) That the Sub-Committee noted that their decisions in relation to these dispensations would apply to councillors involved in the administration or management of community benefits schemes.</p>	<p>(ii) To clarify the effect of the Committee's decisions.</p>
<p>(iii) That Members be reminded of the requirement that notwithstanding any dispensation granted by the Sub-Committee a Councillor is required to disclose at a meeting a personal interest in any business to be discussed at that meeting, and to indicate the nature of that interest, and that if that interest is prejudicial and the Councillor is able to participate in the meeting in reliance upon a dispensation granted by the Standards Committee to state that fact at the meeting.</p>	<p>(iii) To provide Members with appropriate advice.</p>

D. Standards Conference

This item to be discussed at the Standards Committee.

E. Meeting dates

Wednesday 7th September, 2011
Wednesday 30th November, 2011

1st February 2012
4th April 2012
4th July 2012
5th September 2012
5th December 2012

P. SWANSON
Chairman