

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMUNITY SUB-COMMITTEE
HELD AT HYBRID MEETING - ZOOM - COUNTY HALL ON WEDNESDAY, 25
OCTOBER 2023**

PRESENT: Mr S Hays (Chair)

Independent Members: Mrs C Moore, Mr R Stafford-Tolley and Mr N Steward

Town and Community Council representatives: Councillors K Coldrick, S Deeks-D'Silva and R White

1.	APOLOGIES
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Apologies for absence were received from Mr J Goolden [Independent Member] and County Councillor I McIntosh.

2.	MINUTES
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The Chair was authorised to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 21 June 2023 as a correct record.

It was noted that Newtown Town Council had signed up to the Civility and Respect Pledge referred to at the last meeting by One Voice Wales.

3.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
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There were no declarations of interest.

4.	REPORT OF THE HEAD OF LEGAL AND MONITORING OFFICER
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The Committee received the report of the Head of Legal and Monitoring Officer (copy filed with signed minutes).

A Referral of Councillors to Public Services Ombudsman

A1. Town and Community Councillor Referrals

The current position regarding matters with the Ombudsman is detailed below. It was noted that in the report 03/22 gave only one date and no other details. Officers agreed to look into this and the table below shows the correct details.

The abbreviations used in the headings are as follows:

MO – Monitoring Officer

OW – Ombudsman Wales

Stds – Standards Community Sub-Committee

APW - Adjudication Panel for Wales

Ref	Date OW notified MO of complaint	Date OW advised investigating or not investigating	Date OW's decision	Date considered by Stds	Date considered by APW

11/21	20/12/21	01/02/22 investigating	Referred to APW	N/A	Hearing 04/07/23 - Former councillor Donald Jenkins - disqualified for 15 months
03/22		26/09/22 investigating	N/A	N/A	N/A
01/23		26/06/23 not investigating	N/A	N/A	N/A
02/23		14/08/23 not investigating	N/A	N/A	N/A

B. Dispensations

B1. Applications - Town and Community Councillors

No applications for dispensation had been received from Town or Community Councillors.

C. Ombudsman Wales – Our Findings

The Community Sub-Committee noted that details of cases are available in Ombudsman Wales - Our Findings. The Sub-Committee was advised that at a recent meeting of the Monitoring Officers in Wales, the Ombudsman's office was asked to consider re-instating the "Casebook", which was considered to be more helpful.

D. Adjudication Panel for Wales

Details of cases considered by the APW are available on its website.

E. Meeting Dates

Meetings in 2024 would take place on the following dates at 2pm:

7 February
12 June
30 October

It was noted that meetings are scheduled for Wednesdays and in response to a question the Chair agreed that the Council diary would be reviewed to see if an alternative day could be found.

Mr S Hays (Chair)