

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD AT COUNTY HALL, LLANDRINDOD WELLS ON WEDNESDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER 2010

PRESENT: P. Swanson (Chair)

Mrs M Harris, Mrs S. Jarman, R. Miller, Mrs H. Rhydderch-Roberts, County Councillors, K. Curry, Miss V. E. Evans and M. Hodges

Observers: Community Councillors Revd A. Jevons, Ms C. Evans and H. Evans

Officers in attendance: C. Meredith (Strategic Director – Law and Governance), Ms S. Tamboo (Solicitor), W. Richards (Scrutiny Services Manager) and Mrs E. Patterson (Committee Clerk).

1.	APOLOGIES	S16– 2010
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Apologies were received from County Councillor F. Barker.

2.	MINUTES	S17– 2010
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The Chair was authorised to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 5th July 2010 as a correct record.

Members were advised that attendances were now being recorded electronically and that it was possible for attendances to be recorded where a Member was absent on Council business. It would be the Member's responsibility to advise the Clerk when they would not be attending a Council meeting because they were absent on Council business and the definition of Council business for the purpose of calculating attendance would need to be determined, but should exclude casework and meetings of School Governors. It was also suggested that attendance figures for Members were attending Statutory Outside Bodies namely the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, the Police Authority and Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority be recorded and presented to the Committee on the same basis as other attendance figures.

RESOLVED THAT	REASON FOR RESOLUTION
Attendance figures for Members undertaking Council duties be recorded. Attendance figures for Statutory Outside Bodies be recorded.	To monitor attendance.

3.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	S18 – 2010
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No declarations of interest were received.

4.	CORRESPONDENCE	S19 – 2010
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No correspondence was received.

5.	REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR – LAW AND GOVERNANCE	S20 – 2010
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The Committee received the report of the Strategic Director – Law and Governance. (Copy filed with signed minutes).

A. Members' Code of Conduct

A1 Training of Standards Committee in respect of Members' Code of Conduct

Training had been provided at the Shire Meetings in July. 71% of Members had attended this training.

B. General Training for Members

B1 Training of County Council Members – Member Development Strategy/Programme

The notes of the meeting of the Member Development Working Group held on the 17th June 2010 and 26th July 2010 were received for information. (Copy filed with signed minutes).

C. Referral of Councillors to the Public Services Ombudsman

C1 County Councillor referrals

Two new referrals had been received by the Ombudsman who had decided to investigate the complaints.

D. Other Standards Issues

D2 Liaison with the Brecon Beacons National Park Standards Committee.

A date for this meeting has been arranged for 2.00pm on Wednesday 1st December 2010. This meeting would be to discuss matters of standards and ethics common to both Standards Committees including the Planning Protocols of both authorities.

D3 Social Media

It was confirmed that the Member Development Working Group would draft a Social Media Protocol for consideration by the Standards Committee and then Council.

E. Recording of Members Interests

E1 Placing the Register on the Council's Public Website

The Register had been compiled and was in the process of being translated.

F Meeting of Chairs and Vice Chairs of Scrutiny, Audit and Standards Committees

The notes of the meeting held on 3rd September 2010 were received.

G. Dispensations

G1. Applications – County Councillors

No applications had been received.

G2. Blanket Dispersations

It was confirmed that 62 Members had submitted their declaration of interests in respect of school modernisation and a summary of the declarations had been compiled. The remaining Members had received reminders to submit their forms.

Members reported that there was evidence that the blanket dispensation granted for matters relating to the School Modernisation process was being used by Members in relation to any matters relating to schools. The Committee confirmed that the blanket dispensation related only to the School Modernisation process.

RESOLVED THAT	REASON FOR RESOLUTION
The Chair write to the Chairs of Council, the Board, People Scrutiny and Corporate Scrutiny Committee reminding them of the extent of the dispensation on School Modernisation	To ensure that dispensation to speak is correctly used.

H. Raising the profile of the Standards Committee/Sub-Committee

Members were asked to confirm the Pen portraits submitted and photographs had been taken of the Chair and Vice-Chair and the Committee for the document Standards in Powys.

I. Standards Conference

It was confirmed that County Councillor M. Hodges, Independent Members R Miller, Mrs H. Roberts-Jones, Town Council Member Ms C. Evans and C. Meredith and Ms S. Tamboo would be attending the Annual Standards Conference Wales 10 in Cardiff. Attendees were asked to report back to the next meeting of the Standards Committee.

J. Meeting dates

The following dates for the Standards Committee were confirmed:

Wednesday 1st December 2010 at 10.00am and 2.00pm (joint meeting with Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Standards Committee).

Wednesday 2nd February, 2011

Wednesday 27th April, 2011

Wednesday 29th June, 2011

Wednesday 7th September, 2011

Wednesday 30th November, 2011

P.SWANSON
Chairman