

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMUNITY SUB-COMMITTEE HELD AT COUNTY HALL, LLANDRINDOD WELLS ON MONDAY
3RD FEBRUARY 2010**

PRESENT: P. Swanson (Chair)

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

Observers: County Councillors F. Barker, Miss V. Evans and M. Hodges.

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

1.	APOLOGIES	STCS1-2010
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No apologies were received.

2.	MINUTES	STCS2-2010
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The Chair was authorised to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 30th November 2009 as a correct record.

3.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	STCS3-2010
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No declarations of interest were received.

4.	REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR – LAW AND GOVERNANCE - STANDARDS COMMUNITY SUB-COMMITTEE BUSINESS	STSC4-2010
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The Sub-Committee received the report of the Strategic Director – Law and Governance (Copy filed with signed Minutes).

A1. Adoption of new Model Member’s Code of Conduct

It was agreed that training on the Members’ Code of Conduct should again be offered to all Community Councillors via the Chairman and that it should be undertaken via workshop training rather than purely by way of a presentation.

B. Town and Community Councillor Referrals to the Ombudsman

There had been no referrals to the Ombudsman since the last meeting.

C. Other Standards Issues

C1 Supportive Action for Town and Community Councils

The Strategic Director advised that when the Ombudsman received a complaint he considered the matter by way of a two stage process. Initially he considered whether or not there was a technical breach of the Code. If he found that there was a technical breach of the Code he then considered whether or not such a breach would result in a sanction being imposed. If he found that no sanction would be imposed he would dismiss the complaint.

The Committee considered that the second test should not be applied and if a technical breach of the Code had occurred the Ombudsman should send the case to the relevant Standards Committee for determination.

RESOLVED THAT	REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION
i) The Chairman write to the Ombudsman expressing the concerns outlined above ii) A copy of this letter to be circulated to Assembly Members and Members of Parliament	To ensure that all technical breaches of the Code are dealt with appropriately

C2 One Voice Wales Presentations to Shire Committees

One Voice Wales had given a presentation on their role to Montgomeryshire Committee meeting on Wednesday 9th December 2009 which had been well received. Cllr Miss Evans explained that an alternative representative group had been set up in Montgomeryshire. The Strategic Director suggested that it was easier for the Council only to have to deal with one body and that if individual Councils felt that there were problems with One Voice Wales then these should be tackled internally rather than by joining up the alternative.

Presentations would be made to Radnorshire on Wednesday 17th February 2010 and Brecknockshire on Wednesday 24th March 2010.

Members of the Standards Committee and Standards Community Sub-Committee were invited to attend these presentations.

D. Dispensations

No applications for dispensation had been received.

E. Meeting dates

Wednesday 28th April 2010 at 10.00am
Wednesday 5th July 2010 at 10.00am
Wednesday 29th September 2010 at 10.00am
Wednesday 1st December 2010 at 10.00am

Meeting closed 12.00 midday.

P. SWANSON
Chairman