

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMUNITY SUB-COMMITTEE HELD AT COUNTY HALL, LLANDRINDOD WELLS ON MONDAY 28TH APRIL 2010

PRESENT: P. Swanson (Chair)

Mrs M Harris, Mrs S. Jarman, R. Miller, Mrs H. Rhydderch-Roberts and County Councillor K. Curry.

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) and Mrs E. Patterson (Committee Clerk).

1.	APOLOGIES	STCS6-2010
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Apologies were received from Community Councillors Ms C. Evans, H. Evans and Revd A. Jevons and Ms S Tamboo (Solicitor).

2.	MINUTES	STCS7-2010
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The Chair was authorised to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd February 2010 as a correct record subject to confirmation that the date of the next meeting is Monday 5th July 2010.

3.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	STCS8-2010
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No declarations of interest were received.

4.	REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR – LAW AND GOVERNANCE - STANDARDS COMMUNITY SUB-COMMITTEE BUSINESS	STSC9-2010
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The Sub-Committee received the report of the Strategic Director – Law and Governance (Copy filed with signed Minutes).

A. Members' Code of Conduct

Refresher training later in the year for Community Councillors on the Members' Code of Conduct will be considered following the publication of the Ombudsman's Guidance which was expected shortly.

B. Referral of Councillors to Public Services Ombudsman

The Ombudsman has determined the outstanding case he was considering and had decided not to investigate.

There has been one further referral to the Ombudsman which he has decided to investigate. The outcome of this investigation will be reported when it has been received.

C. Other Standards Issues

C1 Supportive Action for Town and Community Councils

A Town/Community Council had approached the Council requesting that a Member of the Standards Committee attend a meeting of the Council as an observer.

Members agreed that this would only be undertaken at the invitation of the Chairman and that any visit would be unannounced. Two Members would attend to observe and these two Members would consist of the Chairman and one other Member invited by the Chairman.

It was suggested that Town and Community Councils could record meetings which would assist the Clerk in preparing the minutes and could also be utilised by the Council in training and awareness raising in the area of meeting procedures and protocol. This would be a matter for individual Town and Community Councils to consider.

D. Dispensations

D1. Applications Town and Community Councillors

Two applications from Community Councillors from Llangattock had been received since the last meeting.

It was agreed to defer these until the next meeting of the Standards Community Sub-Committee when the applicants could attend to answer queries on their applications.

The possibility of contacting Local County Council Members regarding applications for dispensations was raised. It was suggested that Local Members may have background knowledge on matters which could help in determining applications for dispensation. It was agreed that the Local Member would be approached in this case to initially assess the potential value of consulting Local Members.

E. Meeting dates

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

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

P. SWANSON
Chairman