

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE
FEEDBACK ON OBSERVATIONS OF COUNTY COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Meeting:	County Council
Date:	7 March 2024
Format of meeting	Delete as appropriate: In County Hall / Online only / Hybrid [online and in County Hall]
Independent member observing:	Russell Stafford-Tolley

Please provide feedback on the following issues relating to standards and conduct.

<p>Declarations of interest made at the start of the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numbers made and type – personal or prejudicial • If prejudicial interests made did the councillor leave the room/virtual meeting
<p>Questions were raised about the declaration of interest and interpretation. Items 14 and 16 (School Holidays and Sustainable Farming Scheme) were causing the problem. Advice offered that members may speak and debate but not vote. Many not happy. If advice not heeded may be in breach of Code of Conduct – individual decision. Much confusion. Suggested the ruling goes back to the Standards Committee to review the ruling for clarity. This was agreed. There were 36 declarations of interest raised at this point. None were declared as either personal or prejudicial. Most but not all left the room when voting took place on these two items.</p>

<p>Declarations made during the meeting when they come to light:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numbers made and type – personal or prejudicial • If prejudicial interests made did the councillor leave the room/virtual meeting
<p>Declarations made on Item 11 and 13. No type of declaration offered. Not all left the chamber.</p> <p>The names of those who declared an interest on Item 16 (29) were read out.</p>

<p>Dispensations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Were any dispensations relied on? • State which dispensation
<p>None</p>

Code of Conduct, Standards and Ethic issues: Selflessness / Honesty / Integrity and Propriety / Duty to Uphold the Law / Stewardship / Objectivity and Decision-making / Equality and Respect / Openness / Accountability / Leadership

Comment on any issues observed during the meeting:

None

Other general observations:

Trouble with the translation system delayed the start of the meeting. Checks were made with the online members from 10.25. Staff were assisting with some computer issues in the chamber. Online connectivity was sorted but the translation system was still troublesome at 10.36. Legally translation is required although those opting to speak in Welsh were happy to proceed in English. Translation sorted for those online (at home) but not in the chamber. Finally, headphones were plugged into laptops to see if the problem would be solved. Solved the problem at 10.48. Meeting started.

There was a break from 13.00 until 13.45 for lunch. The meeting finished at 15.29

This feedback will be considered at the next Standards Committee. However, any major concerns should be discussed with the Standards Committee Chair, Vice Chair and Monitoring Officer. Any action taken by the Monitoring Officer will be reported to the Standards Committee, as appropriate.

Email the completed form to: Carol Johnson, Democratic Services Officer
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