

POWYS STANDARDS COMMITTEE / COMMUNITY SUB-COMMITTEE

APPLICATION FOR DISPENSATION BY MEMBER WITH PREJUDICIAL INTEREST

I, Councillor Helen Burns of LLANGATTOCK COMMUNITY COUNCIL hereby apply to the Powys Standards Committee/Community Sub-Committee for a Dispensation to participate, as described in Section 1 below, in that business of the Council described in Section 2 below notwithstanding that I have the Prejudicial Interest(s) detailed in Section 3 below.

I make this application on the ground(s) set out in Section 4 below which I submit apply because of the reasons detailed in Section 5 below.

SECTION 1

How you wish to participate – please tick all relevant categories below:

Attend a meeting	X
Speak at a meeting	X
Vote at a meeting	X
Seek to influence a decision on a matter	X
Make written representations	X
Make oral representations	X
Exercise Board functions (County Councillor only)	

SECTION 2

(A) Describe in the box below:

- i) the business in which you wish to participate;
- ii) how your Council will deal with the matter;
- iii) how many Members there are on your Council;
- iv) what meetings will be held to consider it, when and where they will be held; and
- v) those taking part.

Llangattock Community Benefit Society LTD (LCBS) is in the process of formation (likely formation by the end of 2024).

The objects of the Society shall be to carry on any business for the benefit of the community, to establish a community hub, to provide support and services to the residents of and visitors to the village of Llangattock, Crickhowell and surrounding areas, including but not limited to the provision of a community café, shop and meeting place, and engaging in any other ancillary activities that further community benefit for the public at large.

The intention is that LCBS will apply for grants and create a community share offer in order to fund the creation of a community hub on Council-owned land at the Recreation Ground and/or the neighbouring allotment field. Llangattock Community Council (LCC) supports this initiative, which emerged out of its recent Place Plan consultation, and attracted significant public support. LCC has already agreed this development in principle and is in the process of engaging an architect to draw up plans for public consultation.

The Society is in the process of registering its rules, but the minimum shareholding is expected to be £20 and the maximum £2,500. LCBS will pay interest on investments, as is common in these types of community enterprises, but the rules say this will be capped at 5% or no more than 3% above bank base rate. The annual interest payment will be decided at an annual meeting of members. In all other matters, the directors will have broad discretion in order to prioritise the viability of the business over interest payments.

LCBS will be run primarily by volunteers, though there is a desire to create a small number of paid part or full time posts, subject to turnover.

Cllr Helen Burns would like to be both a paid-up member of the one-member-one vote LCBS and to recruit and organise volunteers from the community who would help in the running of such a hub. Cllr Helen Burns would like dispensation to speak, vote and influence LCC on matters including the leasing of Council-owned land for the siting of the community hub.

There are 10 members of the Council. All matters relating to the lease and any other matters relating to the use of Council-owned land will be brought to Full Council for decision. It is anticipated that LCBS may apply for grant funding from LCC's small grant pot, and this decision will be taken at Full Council also.

(B) If the business relates to or affects an organisation(s) please detail below:

- how were you appointed to that organisation (i.e. by appointment by the Town or Community Council or by other means), and
- what is the nature of the business:
 - A Funding
 - B Planning – applications, building improvement/changes
 - C Licences – liquor/entertainment
 - D Land
 - E Management/operation of the organisation
 - F General matters

The draft rules of LCBS allow the Council to nominate 2 Councillors to the board of the Society. Nominations to outside bodies are approved every year at the Council's Annual Meeting. Cllr Helen Burns will put forward her name to a nomination meeting in November 2024.

The nature of the business which affects the Council are:

B - Planning as LCC would be a statutory consultee on an application to develop the community hub

D - Land as the hub would be built on Council-owned land

E - Management/operation of the organisation.

(C) Is the organisation a registered charity? If so, are you a Trustee of the charity?

No

SECTION 3

Detail the PREJUDICIAL interest(s) you have in the business referred to in Section 2 above. Please refer to the attached Guidance Notes (Attached) and include the relevant category reference e.g C.4 if the matter concerns a good friend of yours who stands to benefit as a result of a decision on the matter.

As a paid-up member of the one-member-one-vote society any increase in the profitability would benefit Cllr Helen Burns in the same way as any other member i.e. it would be more likely that the Society would pay interest.

The mitigation would be:

- 1. As an unpaid director, Cllr Burns would have a duty to put the viability of LCBS over the interest payments**
- 2. The interest payments will be capped and determined by a vote of the whole membership**
- 3. The sums involved are very small (maximum shareholding of £2,500 and maximum interest payment at 3% above bank base or 5%)**
- 4. Any decisions affecting LCC would be taken or approved at Full Council**
- 5. As an organisation with a broad community membership, LCBS is likely to be closely scrutinised, thereby diminishing the potential for anything untoward**

Cllr Burns has not determined how much she wishes to invest but does not expect to put in the maximum amount.

SECTION 4

Set out the GROUND(S) upon which you rely by placing a tick in the right-hand column against the relevant category/ies below.

Eligible Applicant	Ground		
County Councillors and Town and Community Councillors	(a) No fewer than half of the Members of the relevant Authority or of a committee of the Authority (as the case may be) by which the business is to be considered has an interest which relates to that business;	Speak and Vote Speak only	X -----
County Councillors only	(b) No fewer than half of the Members of a leader and cabinet executive of the relevant Authority by which the business is to be considered has an interest which relates to that business and either Paragraph (d) or (e) also applies;	Speak and Vote Speak only	-----
County Councillors only	(c) In the case of a County or County Borough Council, the inability of the Member to participate would upset the political balance of the relevant Authority or of the committee of the Authority by which the business is to be considered to such an extent that the outcome would be likely to be affected.	Speak and Vote Speak only	-----
County Councillors and Town and Community Councillors	(d) The nature of the Member's interest is such that the Member's participation in the business to which the interest relates would not damage public confidence in the conduct of the relevant Authority's business;	Speak and Vote Speak only	X -----
County Councillors and Town and Community Councillors	(e) The interest is common to the Member and a significant proportion of the general public;	Speak and Vote Speak only	X -----
County Councillors and Town and Community Councillors	(f) The participation of the Member in the business to which the interest relates is justified by the Member's particular role or expertise;	Speak and Vote Speak only	X -----
County Councillors only	(g) The business to which the interest relates is to be considered by an Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the relevant Authority and the Member's interest is not a pecuniary interest.	Speak and Vote Speak only	-----
County Councillors and Town and Community Councillors	(h) The business which is to be considered relates to the finances or property of a voluntary organisation of whose Management Committee or Board the Member is a Member otherwise than as a representative of the relevant Authority and the Member has no other interest in that business provided that any dispensation shall not extend to participation in any vote with respect to that business; or	Speak only	
County Councillors and Town and Community Councillors	(i) It appears to the committee to be in the interests of the inhabitants of the area of the relevant Authority that the disability should be removed provided that written notification of the grant of the dispensation is given to the National Assembly for Wales within seven days in such manner as it may specify.	Speak and Vote Speak only	x -----

SECTION 5

Detail in full the reasons why you submit the grounds selected in Section 4 apply in the case of your application and justify the grant of the dispensation you seek

The desire for a community hub/shop/café is clearly evidenced in the recent Place Plan consultation, in which Cllr Helen Burns played a substantial role. The hub/shop project is being guided by the community and has achieved significant support and offers of volunteer effort. Cllr Burns is a trustee of a community group called Llangattock Village Society, which is formed from volunteers. The group carries out litter picking and simple maintenance around the village, as well as organising two annual community events – a summer fete and a Christmas tree lights evening. In this role Cllr Burns is used to engaging with residents and volunteers, and to cooperating with other village groups and organisations (church, chapel, primary school, local businesses and other voluntary groups). Her experience in these areas would be valuable to both the Council and the Community, the potential conflict of interest would be small and controlled by the scrutiny of other councillors and the rules of the LCBS.

Applicant's home address:	
Applicant's telephone number:	
Applicant's fax number:	
Applicant's E Mail address:	

SIGNED: _____

DATED: _____ 13/11/2024 _____

This form fully completed, signed and dated should be returned to:

**Carol Johnson, Democratic Services Officer, Legal and Democratic Services,
County Hall, Llandrindod Wells, Powys, LD1 5LG**

Tel No: 01597 826206

email : carol.johnson@powys.gov.uk

MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT

GUIDANCE FOR MEMBERS MAKING WRITTEN NOTIFICATIONS/DISPENSATION APPLICATIONS

CATEGORIES OF PERSONAL INTERESTS (INCLUDING SOME NOTES ON PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS)

CATEGORY A

- A. ANY business of the Council which RELATES TO OR IS LIKELY TO AFFECT:**
- 1 any employment or business carried on by you.**
 - 2 a person who employs you**
 - 3 any person who has appointed you**
 - 4 Any firm in which you are a partner**
 - 5 Any company of which you are a paid director**
 - 6 Any person who has contributed to your election expenses**
 - 7 Any person who has contributed to your councillor expenses**
 - 8 any company in which you have shares with a face value of more than £25,000 or in which you own 1/100th of the share capital AND the company has a place of business or land in your Council's area**
 - 9 Any contract for goods, services or works made between your council and you, your firm (where you are a partner), your company (where you are a paid director) or a company of the type mentioned in 8 above.**
 - 10 Any land in the area of the Council –**
 - (i) which you own (alone or jointly with others)**
 - (ii) which is held in trust for you (alone or jointly with others)**
 - (iii) which you hold on lease/tenancy (alone or jointly with others)**
 - (iv) which you hold on licence to occupy for 28 days or longer (alone or jointly with others)**
 - 11 Any land leased by your Council to –**
 - (i) your firm (where you are a partner)**
 - (ii) your company (where you a paid director)**
 - (iii) any company of the type mentioned in 8 above**
 - 12 Any body to which you have been elected, appointed or nominated by your authority**

 - 13 Any of the following organisations in which you have membership or hold a position of general control or management**
 - (i) a public authority or body exercising functions of a public nature****
 - (ii) a company, industrial and provident society, charity, or body directed to charitable purposes**
 - (iii) a body whose principle purposes include the influence of public opinion or policy**
 - (iv) trade union or professional association**
 - (v) private club, society or association operating within your council's area (including national organisations if they operate locally)**

**** Although these are personal interests which must always be disclosed, they are not PREJUDICIAL interests and thus will NOT require a DISPENSATION - UNLESS the business relates to the DETERMINATION of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration concerning the body in question.**

NB. FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF DOUBT in those 5 cases listed below although you will always have a personal interest in Council business relating to these bodies that must always be disclosed you will NOT have a PREJUDICIAL interest (and thus will NOT require a DISPENSATION) EXCEPT where the

business relates to the DETERMINATION of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration concerning the body in question.

- 1. Another local authority (County or Town/Community Council) or a Fire and Rescue Authority or a National Park Authority of which you are also a member;**
- 2. Another public authority or body exercising functions of a public nature in which you hold a position of general control or management;**
- 3. Any body to which you have been elected, appointed, or nominated by your authority;**
- 4. A school where you are a governor***;**
- 5. A local health board of which you are also a member where you have not been appointed or nominated by your Council.**

***** If you have not been appointed a Governor by your Council you will have a PREJUDICIAL interest if the business relates particularly to the school of which you are a governor and therefore you will not be allowed to speak or vote unless you obtain a dispensation.**

CATEGORY B

- B. ANY business of the Council where a member of the public MIGHT REASONABLY PERCEIVE there to be a conflict between your ward/electoral division role and your role in representing the authority as a whole**

CATEGORY C

- C. ANY business of the Council, a decision upon which, MIGHT REASONABLY BE REGARDED as AFFECTING**

- 1. The well-being or financial position of yourself**
- 2. The well-being or financial position of a person with whom you live**
- 3. The well-being or financial position of a member of your family**
- 4. The well-being or financial position of any person with whom you have a close personal association**
- 5. Any employment or business carried on by a person mentioned in C 2, 3 or 4.**
- 6. Any person who employs or has appointed a person mentioned in C 2, 3 or 4.**
- 7. Any firm in which a person mentioned in C 2, 3 or 4 is a partner.**
- 8. Any company which a person mentioned in C 2, 3 or 4 is a director.**
- 9. Any company in which shares exceeding the face value of £5,000 are owned or held in trust on behalf of a person mentioned in C 2, 3 or 4**
- 10. Any of the organisations listed in A 13 in which a person mentioned in C 2, 3 or 4 holds a position of general control or management**

TO A GREATER EXTENT than the majority of Council Taxpayers / ratepayers inhabitants

CATEGORY D (County Councillors only)

- D1. Any business before an OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY committee of the Council (or of a sub-committee of such a committee) where:**
- (a) the business relates to a decision made (whether implemented or not) or action taken by the Board of other committee/sub-committee; and**
 - (b) at the time the decision was made or action was taken, you were a member of the Board/committee/sub-committee mentioned in (a) above and you were PRESENT when that decision was made or action was taken.)**

(NB although you must always disclose this as a personal interest you will NOT have a PREJUDICIAL interest (and thus will NOT require a DISPENSATION) where you are required by the committee/sub-committee in exercise of its statutory powers to attend a meeting of the Scrutiny committee/sub-committee)

D2. ANY business of the Council which RELATES TO:

- (a) the HOUSING FUNCTIONS of your authority where you hold a tenancy or lease with your authority,**

(NB provided that you do not have arrears of rent with your authority of more than two months, and provided that those functions do not relate particularly to your tenancy or lease you will not have a PREJUDICIAL interest (and thus will NOT require a DISPENSATION) but you must always disclose your personal interest);

- (b) the functions of your authority in respect of SCHOOL meals, transport and travelling expenses, where you are a guardian, parent, grandparent or have parental responsibility (as defined in section 3 of the Children Act 1989) of a child in full time education,**

(NB unless it relates particularly to the school which that child attends you will not have a PREJUDICIAL interest (and thus will NOT require a DISPENSATION) but you must always disclose your personal interest);

- (c) the functions of your authority in respect of STATUTORY SICK PAY under Part XI of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992, where you are in receipt of, or are entitled to the receipt of such pay from your authority**

(NB although you must always disclose this as a personal interest you will NOT have a PREJUDICIAL interest (and thus will not require a dispensation); and

- (d) the functions of your authority in respect of an ALLOWANCE or payment under sections 22(5), 24(4) and 173 to 176 of the Local Government Act 1972, an allowance or pension under section 18 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 or an allowance or payment under section 100 of the Local Government Act 2000.**

(NB although you must always disclose this as a personal interest you will NOT have a PREJUDICIAL interest (and thus will NOT require a DISPENSATION))

REMINDER FOR BOARD MEMBERS:

Unless you have a DISPENSATION you CANNOT take a decision or exercise Portfolio functions (e.g. discuss or give advice to members or officers) in respect of business where you have a personal interest which is also a PREJUDICIAL interest.

If your interest is ONLY a personal interest and NOT also a prejudicial interest you must in relation to the business in question ensure that all decisions you take as Portfolio Holder are recorded in writing which includes a statement recording the existence and nature of your interest. This is in addition to making the usual member's notification of a personal interest.

CATEGORY E
(Town/Community Councillors only)

- E1. A grant, loan or other form of financial assistance made by your Town/Community Council to community or voluntary organisations of which you are also a member.**

(NB although you must always disclose this as a personal interest you will not have a PREJUDICIAL interest (and thus will NOT require a DISPENSATION) where:

- (i) you have been elected, appointed or nominated to the organisation by your Council (irrespective of the amount involved); or**
- (ii) if you do not qualify under(i) the amount of the grant, loan etc does not exceed £500.**

A PREJUDICIAL INTEREST:

Members are reminded that there is now a single test in Paragraph 12 (1) of the Members' Code of Conduct for determining whether a PERSONAL interest is ALSO a PREJUDICIAL interest. It reads:

“where you have a personal interest in any business of your authority you also have a prejudicial interest in that business if the interest is one which a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice your judgment of the public interest”.

Unless one of the exemptions applies (as indicated at various points in the text of this guidance note) if you conclude OBJECTIVELY (it is public perception which matters not your own subjective view) that a member of the public would regard your interest as so significant that it is LIKELY to prejudice your judgement of the public interest then you will have a prejudicial interest which will curtail your participation in Council business to which the interest relates as indicated in the Members' Code of Conduct (e.g. withdraw from the meeting room, not make oral or written representations, seek to influence a decision about the business etc) unless you obtain a dispensation.

AND FINALLY:

- (1) You are only required to give WRITTEN notification about a personal interest ONCE. So, for example, if that item of business is dealt with at a succession of meetings you only need to give the written notification before or immediately after the first such meeting. You must of course ORALLY disclose the interest at every meeting. However, if after taking office you registered the interest then you will be covered and will not be required to provide written notification after every occasion you disclose the interest at meetings.**
- (2) Despite having a prejudicial interest, you will not require a dispensation to attend a MEETING only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the business in which you have the interest PROVIDED:**
 - (i) That the PUBLIC are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under a statutory right or otherwise; and**
 - (ii) That you WITHDRAW from the meeting room immediately after the period for making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating the business has ended (and in any event before further consideration of the business begins) whether or not the public are allowed to remain in attendance for such consideration.**