

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

16 JANUARY 2024

PRESENT: M. Dodd (Chair) (In Person)

Councillors (Virtually):

G.B. Thomas and B.W. Jones

Independent Members (In Person):

D. Evans and J. James

Independent Members (Virtually):

C. Davies and F. Phillips

Community Member (Virtually):

Councillor P. Rogers

Also Present (In Person):

R. Edgecombe, Legal Services Manager;

A. Eynon, Principal Translator;

M. Runeckles, Member Support Officer;

J. Owen, Democratic Services Officer.

Also Present (Virtually):

D. Hall-Jones, Member Support Officer.

Chamber, County Hall, Carmarthen, SA31 1JP and remotely: 1:30pm - 1:53pm

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

There were no apologies for absence received.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST.

There were no declarations of personal interest.

3. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 11TH DECEMBER 2023

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on the 11th December, 2023 be signed as a correct record.

4. DISPENSATION APPLICATION BY COUNCILLOR ALED DAVIES, COUNCILLOR ALUN DAVIES, COUNCILLOR ARWEL DAVIES, COUNCILLOR MARK HARRIES, COUNCILLOR ANDREW THOMAS

The Committee considered an application submitted by Cllrs Aled Davies, Alun Davies, Arwel Davies, Mark Harris, Andrew Thomas of Manordeilo and Salem Community Council to speak and vote and make written representations in relation to council business regarding the Bute Energy Towy Usk Energy Scheme.

It was reported that a dispensation was sought by 5 Councillors each of which had a prejudicial interest in the matters relating to the Bute Energy Towy Usk Energy Scheme. Members considered the list of personal interests appended to the report.

The Legal Services Manager highlighted that the application referenced that that the 5 councillors made up 41% of the total membership of the Council.

In noting that previously granted dispensations to other councillors had been made in respect of similar interests, as stated in the report, Members were minded that consistency and fairness be applied to this application in terms of not voting.

Following a discussion it was

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that dispensation be granted under Regulation 2 (2)(d) and (f) of the Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensation) (Wales) Regulations 2001 to Councillors Aled Davies, Alun Davies, Arwel Davies, Mark Harris, Andrew Thomas to SPEAK AND MAKE WRITTEN REPRESENTATIONS ONLY at meetings in relation to matters regarding Bute Energy Towy Usk Energy Scheme and that these dispensations be valid until the end of the respective Councillors current term in office.

5. DISPENSATION APPLICATION BY COUNCILLOR PETER COMLEY

The Committee considered an application submitted by Councillor Peter Comley of Betws Community Council for the grant of a dispensation under the provisions of the Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations to speak and make written representations in relation to council business regarding Betws RFC in respect of the following personal and prejudicial interests:

- Betws RFC – Councillor Comley is a Member of the Committee, the Secretary, the Treasurer and a Licensee for Betws RFC

It was reported that a dispensation was sought as Councillor Comley had a personal and prejudicial interest in these matters by virtue of paragraph 10(2)(ix)(ee) of the Code of Conduct.

Following a discussion it was

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that dispensation be granted under Regulation 2 (2)(f) and (h) of the Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensation) (Wales) Regulations 2001 to Councillor Peter Comley to **SPEAK AND MAKE WRITTEN REPRESENTATIONS ONLY** at meetings in relation to matters regarding Betws RFC and that the dispensation be valid until the end of his current term in office.

6. ANY OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business.

CHAIR

DATE