

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

MONDAY, 3 APRIL 2023

PRESENT: M. Dodd (Chair) (Ph);

Independent Members:

C. Davies (R), D. Evans (Ph), J. James (Ph), F. Phillips (R)

Community Member:

Councillor P. Rogers (R)

Councillors:

G.B. Thomas (R)

Also Present (In Person):

L.R. Jones, Head of Administration and Law;

E. Evans, Principal Democratic Services Officer;

S. Rees, Simultaneous Translator;

M.S. Davies, Democratic Services Officer.

[Ph = physical attendance at County Hall. R = remote attendance via Zoom]

Chamber, County Hall, Carmarthen and remotely: 11.30 am - 12.10 pm

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Betsan Jones.

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:

3.1. 27TH FEBRUARY 2023

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 27th February, 2023 be signed as a correct record subject to it being noted that the Chair was not a Councillor.

3.2. 7TH MARCH 2023

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 7th March, 2023 be signed as a correct record.

4. DISPENSATION APPLICATION BY COUNCILLOR BETSAN JONES

The Committee considered an application submitted by County Councillor Betsan Jones for the grant of a dispensation under the provisions of the Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations to speak and vote and make written representations in relation to council business at meetings of Carmarthenshire County Council regarding the Council's Modernising Education

Programme (MEP) and the review and remodelling of the footprint of primary schools across the County.

It was reported that Councillor Jones would have a personal and prejudicial interest in such business as her son was the headteacher of Ysgol Gymraeg Teilo Sant in Llandeilo and was therefore affected by both the MEP and the primary schools review.

It was reported that a dispensation was sought by Councillor Jones by virtue of Regulation 2(2)(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 and Regulation 2(2)(f) – the participation of the member in the business to which the interest relates is justified by the members particular role or expertise.

The committee was advised that if it was minded to grant Councillor Jones’s request it would also need to determine the duration of that dispensation.

Following a discussion it was

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that dispensation be granted under Regulations 2(2)(d) and (f) of the Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensation) (Wales) Regulations 2001 to Councillor Betsan Jones to speak and make written representations but NOT vote on council business at meetings of Carmarthenshire County Council regarding the Council’s Modernising Education Programme (MEP) and the review and remodelling of the footprint of primary schools across the County and the dispensation be valid until the end of the current electoral term.

5. ORDER OF BUSINESS - BUTE ENERGY TOWY USK GRID CONNECTION SCHEME DISPENSATIONS

In view of the fact that Agenda items 5, 6, 7 and 8 related to the same matter, the four applications were considered together but are minuted separately [Minutes 6,7,8 and 9 below].

Members commented on the number of dispensation applications received, and possibly yet to be received, in connection with the aforementioned scheme, and the possible implications in terms of the quorum for community council meetings. The Head of Administration and Law responded that she would be writing to the clerks of all community councils along the proposed connection route to ascertain whether further dispensation applications were likely. In this regard a report on the responses received would be submitted to the Committee at the earliest opportunity and it was not therefor necessary, at this point in time, for the Committee to consider granting her the delegated authority sought in the reports to grant any further related dispensation requests which may be received.

6. DISPENSATION APPLICATION BY COUNCILLOR CHERYL JONES

The Committee considered an application submitted by Community Councillor Cheryl Jones for the grant of a dispensation under the provisions of the Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations to speak and vote and make written representations in relation to council business at meetings of Llanarthne Community Council regarding electricity transmission from Nant Mithil Energy Park and other energy park developments to a grid

connection in Carmarthenshire. This would form part of the Bute Energy Towy Usk Grid connection scheme.

It was reported that Councillor Jones would have a personal and prejudicial interest in such business as she and close personal associates of hers would be affected by the proposals put forward by Bute Energy.

It was reported that a dispensation was sought by Councillor Jones by virtue of Regulation 2(2)(d) – the nature of the member’s interest was 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 and Regulation 2(2)(f) – the participation of the member in the business to which the interest relates is justified by the members particular role or expertise.

The committee was advised that if it was minded to grant Councillor Jones’s request it would also need to determine the duration of that dispensation.

Following a discussion it was

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that dispensation be granted under Regulations 2(2)(d) and (f) of the Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensation) (Wales) Regulations 2001 to Councillor Cheryl Jones to speak and make written representations but NOT vote on council business at meetings of Llanarthne Community Council regarding electricity transmission from Nant Mithil Energy Park and other energy park developments to a grid connection in Carmarthenshire and the dispensation be valid until the end of the current electoral term.

7. DISPENSATION APPLICATION BY COUNCILLOR DAVID JONES

The Committee considered an application submitted by Community Councillor David Jones for the grant of a dispensation under the provisions of the Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations to speak and vote and make written representations in relation to council business at meetings of Llanarthne Community Council regarding electricity transmission from Nant Mithil Energy Park and other energy park developments to a grid connection in Carmarthenshire. This would form part of the Bute Energy Towy Usk Grid connection scheme.

It was reported that Councillor Jones would have a personal and prejudicial interest in such business as he and close personal associates of his would be affected by the proposals put forward by Bute Energy.

It was reported that a dispensation was sought by Councillor Jones by virtue of Regulation 2(2)(d) – the nature of the member’s interest was 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 and Regulation 2(2)(f) – the participation of the member in the business to which the interest relates is justified by the members particular role or expertise.

The committee was advised that if it was minded to grant Councillor Jones’s request it would also need to determine the duration of that dispensation.

Following a discussion it was

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that dispensation be granted under Regulations 2(2)(d) and (f) of the Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensation) (Wales) Regulations 2001 to Councillor David Jones to speak and make written representations but NOT vote on council business at meetings of Llanarthne Community Council regarding electricity transmission from Nant Mithil Energy Park and other energy park developments to a grid connection in Carmarthenshire and the dispensation be valid until the end of the current electoral term.

8. DISPENSATION APPLICATION BY COUNCILLOR MYFANWY JONES

The Committee considered an application submitted by Community Councillor Myfanwy Jones for the grant of a dispensation under the provisions of the Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations to speak and vote and make written representations in relation to council business at meetings of Llanarthne Community Council regarding electricity transmission from Nant Mithil Energy Park and other energy park developments to a grid connection in Carmarthenshire. This would form part of the Bute Energy Towy Usk Grid connection scheme.

It was reported that Councillor Jones would have a personal and prejudicial interest in such business as she and close personal associates of hers would be affected by the proposals put forward by Bute Energy.

It was reported that a dispensation was sought by Councillor Jones by virtue of Regulation 2(2)(d) – the nature of the member’s interest was 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 and Regulation 2(2)(f) – the participation of the member in the business to which the interest relates is justified by the members particular role or expertise.

The committee was advised that if it was minded to grant Councillor Jones’s request it would also need to determine the duration of that dispensation.

Following a discussion it was

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that dispensation be granted under Regulations 2(2)(d) and (f) of the Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensation) (Wales) Regulations 2001 to Councillor Myfanwy Jones to speak and make written representations but NOT vote on council business at meetings of Llanarthne Community Council regarding electricity transmission from Nant Mithil Energy Park and other energy park developments to a grid connection in Carmarthenshire and the dispensation be valid until the end of the current electoral term.

9. DISPENSATION APPLICATION BY COUNCILLOR CHRISTOPH FISCHER

The Committee considered an application submitted by Community Councillor Christoph Fischer for the grant of a dispensation under the provisions of the Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations to speak and vote and make written representations in relation to council business at meetings of Llandeilo Town Council regarding electricity transmission from Nant

Mithil Energy Park and other energy park developments to a grid connection in Carmarthenshire. This would form part of the Bute Energy Towy Usk Grid connection scheme.

It was reported that Councillor Fischer would have a personal and prejudicial interest in such business as his property would potentially be affected by the proposals put forward by Bute Energy.

It was reported that a dispensation was sought by Councillor Fischer by virtue of Regulation 2(2)(d) – the nature of the member’s interest was 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, Regulation 2(2)(e) – the interest was common to the member and a significant proportion of the general public.and Regulation 2(2)(f) – the participation of the member in the business to which the interest relates is justified by the members particular role or expertise.

The committee was advised that if it was minded to grant Councillor Fischer’s request it would also need to determine the duration of that dispensation.

Following a discussion it was

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that dispensation be granted under Regulations 2(2)(d)(e) and (f) of the Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensation) (Wales) Regulations 2001 to Councillor Christoph Fischer to speak and make written representations but NOT vote on council business at meetings of Llandeilo Town Council regarding electricity transmission from Nant Mithil Energy Park and other energy park developments to a grid connection in Carmarthenshire and the dispensation be valid until the end of the current electoral term.

10. ANY OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES THE CHAIR DECIDES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A MATTER OF URGENCY PURSUANT TO SECTION 100B(4)(B) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

There were no items of urgent business.

CHAIR

DATE