

STANDARDS COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
29TH JULY 2015

PRESENT: Mr P. Stait (Chair)

Independent Members:-

M. Dodd, M.A. Morgan and A. Williams

County Council Members:-

Councillors S.M. Allen, B.A.L. Roberts and G.B. Thomas

The following officers were also in attendance:-

Mr R. Edgecombe – Legal Services Manager

Mrs M. Evans Thomas – Democratic Services Officer

(Chamber, County Hall, Carmarthen: 10.00 a.m. – 10.50 a.m.)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Mr C. Downward and Community Councillor J. Gilasbey.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTERESTS

Name of Member	Minute No	Nature of Interest
Councillor G.B. Thomas	6 – Application for Dispensation by Councillors Gareth Thomas and Jean Lewis	He is one of the applicants

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on the 12th June, 2015 be signed as a correct record.

4. APPLICATION FOR DISPENSATION BY COMMUNITY COUNCILLOR G.E. WRIGHT

The Committee considered an application submitted by the Clerk to Llandovery Town Council on behalf of Councillor G.E. Wright, a member of Llandovery Town Council, for the grant of a dispensation under the provisions of the Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001 to speak at meetings of Llandovery Town Council on issues relating to the future of the Pantycelyn School site in Llandovery.

It was reported that a dispensation was sought as Councillor Wright is a member and former Director of the Calon Cymru project which aims to revitalise communities on the Heart of Wales line through the purchase of land for use by the

STANDARDS COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
29TH JULY 2015

community via Community Land Trusts. The Pantycelyn School site was a site which would potentially be of interest to the project.

Councillor Wright would have a personal interest in relation to any discussions regarding the school site by virtue of paragraph 10(2)(ix)(ee) of the Code as the matter under discussion would be likely to affect a society or association operating in the county in which she is a member. Councillor Wright's interest would be prejudicial as, by her own admission, she wished to promote the views of the project in those discussions.

Following a detailed discussion, it was

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that dispensation be granted under Regulation 2(f) of the Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001 to Councillor G.E. Wright to SPEAK BUT NOT VOTE at meetings of Llandovery Town Council on any issues relating to the future of the Pantycelyn School site in Llandovery, until 4th December, 2015.

5. APPLICATION FOR DISPENSATION BY COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS LYN DAVIES, JOHN REES, N. THOMAS, S. THOMAS, J. GIBBIN, H. PHILLIPS, D. PHILLIPS, R. WILLIAMS AND R. DAVIES

The Committee considered an application submitted by the Clerk to Llanboidy Community Council on behalf of Councillors Lyn Davies, John Rees, N. Thomas, S. Thomas, J. Gibbin, H. Phillips, D. Phillips, R. Williams and R. Davies, members of Llanboidy Community Council, for the grant of a dispensation under the provisions of the Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001 to speak and vote at meetings of Llanboidy Community Council in respect of their involvement with the Market Hall, Llanboidy. The Council receives requests for financial assistance from the Hall.

It was reported that a dispensation was sought as all nine councillors were members of the Hall Committee. One is also the Treasurer and another Chairman. Their role as Committee Members gives rise to a personal interest under 10(2)(a)(ix)(ee) of the Code i.e. membership of a private club, society or association operating within the Authority's area. This interest was also prejudicial as a member of the public with knowledge of the facts would reasonably regard it as so significant that it was likely to prejudice the Councillor's judgement of the public interest.

There was no suggestion that the Councillors would themselves gain financially as a result of their involvement with the hall. The application was silent as to whether any of the Councillors were appointed to the Committee by the Council.

Although the application made specific reference to a meeting on the 1st July, 2015, the interest was a continuing one.

Following a detailed discussion, it was

STANDARDS COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
29TH JULY 2015

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that dispensation be granted under Regulation 2(a) of the Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensation) (Wales) Regulations 2001, to Councillors Lyn Davies, John Rees, N. Thomas, S. Thomas, J. Gibbin, H. Phillips, D. Phillips, R. Williams and R. Davies to **SPEAK AND VOTE** at meetings of the Llanboidy Community Council in relation to any discussions regarding the Market Hall, Llanboidy until 4th December, 2015.

6. APPLICATION FOR DISPENSATION BY COUNTY COUNCILLORS GARETH THOMAS AND JEAN LEWIS

[NOTE: Councillor G.B. Thomas, having earlier declared a personal interest in this item, left the meeting prior to the consideration and determination thereof.]

The Committee considered an application submitted by County Councillors Gareth Thomas and Jean Lewis for the grant of a dispensation under the provisions of the Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001 to speak and make written representations at meetings of Carmarthenshire County Council and its Committees on any matters relating to dairy farming. Both Councillors are actively engaged in the dairy farming industry.

It was reported that a dispensation was sought as their role in the dairy farming industry gives rise to a personal interest under paragraph 10(2)(a)(i) of the Code i.e. any employment or business carried on by them. This interest was also prejudicial as a member of the public with knowledge of the facts would reasonably regard it was so significant that it was likely to prejudice the Councillor's judgement of the wider public interest.

Matters relating to dairy farming are regularly discussed at meetings of the Council and its Committees. The application gave an example of where the Councillors were forced to declare an interest and absent themselves from a meeting in which they could have otherwise made a valuable contribution due to their expertise.

Following a detailed discussion, it was

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that dispensation be granted under Regulation 2(f) of the Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001 to County Councillors Gareth Thomas and Jean Lewis to **SPEAK BUT NOT VOTE AND TO MAKE WRITTEN REPRESENTATIONS** at meetings of Carmarthenshire County Council and its Committees in relation to any discussions regarding dairy farming until 4th December, 2015.

7. CODE OF CONDUCT TRAINING FOR TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS

Further to minute no. 8 of the meeting held on 12th June, 2015 the Committee received a further update report on the Code of Conduct training sessions held in early June for representatives of local Town and Community Councils.

A consultation questionnaire was provided for all delegates seeking feedback on the training sessions and members considered a schedule of the feedback

STANDARDS COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
29TH JULY 2015

responses together with a summary of the main points. Out of the 106 delegates who attended, 98 returned their questionnaires and the Committee noted that the response to the training was overwhelmingly positive.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the report be noted.

SIGNED: **DATE:**