

PANEL DYFARNU CYMRU
ADJUDICATION PANEL FOR WALES

NOTICE OF DECISION

TRIBUNAL REFERENCE NUMBER: APW/002/2014-015/CT

RESPONDENT: Councillor Haulwen Lewis

RELEVANT AUTHORITY: Llanfihangel ar Arth Community Council

1. A Case Tribunal convened by the President of the Adjudication Panel for Wales has considered a reference in respect of the above Respondent.
2. In a letter dated 10 September 2014 the Adjudication Panel for Wales received a referral from the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales ("the Ombudsman") in relation to allegations made against Cllr Lewis. The allegations were that Cllr Lewis had breached Llanfihangel ar Arth Community Council's Code of Conduct by failing to declare a personal and prejudicial interest at the meeting of the Community Council on 16 January 2012, during which a planning application for a wind farm on land adjacent to a farm she owns was considered and a secret ballot held in order to decide whether the Community Council would support or oppose the application.
3. At a hearing on Thursday 13 August 2015 at the Ivy Bush Royal Hotel, Carmarthen, the Case Tribunal found by unanimous decision that Cllr Lewis failed to comply with the Llanfihangel ar Arth Code of Conduct as follows:
 - 3.1 Paragraph 11(1) of the Code of Conduct states that "Where you have a personal interest in any business of your authority and you attend a meeting at which that business is considered, you must disclose orally to that meeting the existence and nature of that interest before or at the commencement of that consideration, or when the interest becomes apparent."
 - 3.2 The Case Tribunal found that Cllr Lewis on her own (albeit belated) admission had breached paragraph 11(1) of the code of conduct.
 - 3.3 Paragraph 14(1) of the Code of Conduct states that "Where you have a prejudicial interest in any business of your authority you must, unless you have obtained a dispensation from you authority's standards committee –
(a) withdraw from the room, chamber or place where a meeting considering the business is being held."
 - 3.4 The Case Tribunal found that Cllr Lewis had by her own admission (albeit belated) breached paragraph 14(1)(a) of the code of conduct.
4. The Case Tribunal decided by unanimous decision that Cllr Lewis should be suspended from acting as a member of Llanfihangel ar Arth Community Council for

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a period of 3 months or, if shorter, the remainder of her term of office, with effect from the date of this notice.

5. The Llanfihangel ar Arth Community Council and Carmarthenshire County Council and its Standards Committee are notified accordingly.

6. The Respondent has the right to seek the leave of the High Court to appeal the above decision.

Signed..........

Date.....15/8/15.....

Mr J Peter Davies
Chairperson of the Case Tribunal

Mrs Helen Cole
Panel Member

Mr R Gwyn Davies
Panel Member