



STANDARDS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, TREDOMEN
ON THURSDAY, 9TH JUNE 2005 AT 5.15 P.M.

PRESENT:

M.G. Warrender - Chairman
K.C. Mock - Vice-Chairman

Councillors:

N. Dix
Community Councillor C. Roberts

Messrs. L.C. Davies and D.R. Parry and Mrs. E.J. Rowlands

Together with:

I.G. Medlicott (Monitoring Officer) and J.A. Fairfax (Members Services Manager)

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors K. Etheridge, D.J. Potter and L.R. Rees.

1. PROPOSED REVISION OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT

Consideration was given to the sections of the report of the Monitoring Officer deferred from the last meeting.

RESOLVED that the proposed changes to the model Code as set out below be recommended to the Council for approval as the authority's reply to the consultation exercise undertaken by the Welsh Assembly:-

- (xxiv) the Code of Conduct should include provision for the disclosure of representations by or on behalf of third parties but this should not in itself prevent a Member from speaking and/or voting on a matter;
- (xxv) the Code should make it clear that Members who exercise their representational role in this way and who also have a "*prejudicial interest*" in the matter may participate in the discussion but should withdraw before any vote or decision is taken;

- (xxvi) the provision referred to above should also relate to Members with a "*personal and prejudicial interest*" in a planning matter;
- (xxvii) the provisions relating to the registration of gifts and hospitality offered and received and the value below which registration is not required should be included in the model Code and be the function of the Standards Committee;
- (xxviii) registers of gifts and hospitality should be publicly available as part of the authorities registers under Section 81 of the 2000 Act and provision for this should be included in the model Code;
- (xxix) there should be a common Code of Conduct for all Community and Town Councils in Wales (including the obligation to complete the register of financial interests) but the Code should differ from that for other relevant authorities in Wales by having an exemption from having a prejudicial interest in respect of the award of financial assistance to local community organisations up to £500 per award.

2. COMPLAINT TO THE OMBUDSMAN - COMPLAINANT 'B'

The Monitoring Officer reported that following the decision taken at the last meeting the Ombudsman had contacted the Chief Executive requesting that the suggested level of compensation be reconsidered.

It was agreed that as the Committee had already considered this matter on two occasions it should now be referred to Council.

3. COMPLAINT REFERRED TO CHAIRMAN

The Chairman reported on correspondence he had received and this was passed to the Monitoring Officer for an appropriate response. The Committee was advised that the issue raised fell outside the jurisdiction of this Committee

4. PARTNERSHIPS

It was agreed that a report should be presented to the next meeting on the relationships between partnerships and the Code of Conduct.

The meeting closed at 6.30 p.m.

CHAIRMAN