



STANDARDS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, TREDOMEN ON THURSDAY, 17TH NOVEMBER 2005 AT 5.15PM

PRESENT:

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

Councillors:

K. Etheridge and L.R. Rees

Community Councillor Mrs. J. Rao
Messrs. L.C. Davies and D.R. Parry

Together with:

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

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Community Councillor C. Roberts and Mrs. E.J. Rowlands

1. COUNCILLOR D.J. POTTER

The Committee expressed its sadness at the passing away of Councillor Potter and stood in silence as a mark of respect.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th October 2005 (minute nos. 1 – 10, page nos. 1 – 3) were approved and signed as a correct record.

3. BREACH OF CODE OF CONDUCT ALLEGATIONS REJECTED BY THE OMBUDSMAN (MINUTE NO. 9)

It was noted that no reply had yet been received from the Ombudsman and that details of any response would be reported to the next meeting.

4. APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION – CAERPHILLY TOWN COUNCIL

Consideration was given to the report of the Monitoring Officer.

RESOLVED that dispensation be granted to the following members of the Caerphilly Town Council, Councillors Huw Price, Phil Bevan, Una Newman, Olwen Rees, Jennifer Hibbert, Mark Newman, Ann Broughton-Pettit and Geoffrey Hibbert, declaring interests in relation to membership of the Caerphilly and District Twinning Association to continue to speak and vote at meetings of the Town Council on matters affecting the Twinning Association on the grounds that more than 50% of the membership of the Town Council has an interest which relates to that business.

5. APPLICATION FOR DISPENSATION – COUNCILLOR ANNE BLACKMAN

Consideration was given to the report of the Monitoring Officer (copies were circulated at the meeting).

RESOLVED that: -

- (i) Dispensation be granted to Councillor Anne Blackman to speak and to vote at any meeting in relation to a proposed Notice of Motion to Council for a medical exemption for the disabled for collection arrangements for domestic waste on the grounds that her interest is common to the Member and a significant proportion of the general public and that participation of the Member in the business to which the interest relates is justified by her particular role or expertise;
- (ii) The Monitoring Officer write to all Members advising them of this decision and that if any of them required a similar dispensation then they should request this as soon as possible.

6. DECISION AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ADJUDICATION PANEL

Having regard to the urgent need for this matter to be considered by the Committee before the next Council meeting, the Chairman of the Committee certified that in his opinion this was an urgent item within the terms of Section 100 (b) (4) (b) of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1995 and should be considered at this Committee meeting on 17th November 2005.

Consideration was given to the report of the Monitoring Officer (copies were circulated at the meeting).

Councillor K. Etheridge declared an interest in this item as he had represented the Councillor at the Adjudicating Panel and left the meeting.

RESOLVED to recommend to Council that: -

- (a) The outcome of the case tribunal be noted;
- (b) In relation to the recommendations from the case tribunal:-
 - (i) The Chairman of the Standards Committee and the Monitoring Officer jointly write jointly to all Councillors (including Community Councillors) to remind them of the requirements of paragraph 20 of the code; and

- (ii) In relation to the recommendations about recording discussions about declarations of interest the Council adopts a process whereby the Monitoring Officer records in writing advice given by him or on his behalf such forms to be kept by the Monitoring Officer and to be made available to the Member involved on request, and to the Ombudsman, the Adjudication Panel for Wales and this Committee, if and when a complaint is received.

The meeting closed at 6.15 pm.

CHAIRMAN