



STANDARDS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT DYFFRYN HOUSE, DYFFRYN BUSINESS PARK,
YSTRAD MYNACH, ON WEDNESDAY, 18TH MARCH 2008 AT 3.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

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

Councillors:

A.J. Pritchard and L.R. Rees

Community Councillor C. Roberts
L.C. Davies, D.R.G. Parry

Together with:

Monitoring Officer (D. Perkins), Deputy Monitoring Officer (Mrs. G. Williams) and Members Services Manager (J.A. Fairfax).

APOLOGY

An apology for absence was received from Mrs. E.J. Rowlands.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th February 2008 (minute nos. 1-7, page nos. 1-3) were approved and signed as a correct record.

3. Complaints To The Ombudsman

The Members Services Manager reported details of eighteen complaints made to the Ombudsman which had been rejected as not accepted for formal investigation or that he was satisfied with the action taken.

4. GRANTS OF DISPENSATION

No applications had been received.

5. THE REVISED CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS

Consideration was given to the report of the Monitoring Officer on the content of the proposed new and revised Code of Conduct for Elected Members which was currently in its final draft stage. Changes from the current Code were highlighted.

It was noted that the new Code would not be in operation until 2nd May 2008 and that it would be necessary for all County Borough and Community Council Members to again sign that they would continue to abide by the current code.

A detailed discussion ensued and the Committee commented under Part 2 of the Schedule that:-

- (a) Section 2(d) – Members should not make vexatious, malicious or frivolous complaints;
- (b) relating to gifts and hospitality – if Members are offered a gift and decline, they should also report this to the Monitoring Officer.

RECOMMENDED that:-

- (i) taking into account the above, the final version of the revised Code of Conduct be adopted;
- (ii) the Monitoring Officer be instructed to secure that training on the final version of the revised Code of Conduct is made available to all Members and Co-opted Members;
- (iii) all Members and Co-opted Members be provided with a copy of the final version of the revised Code of Conduct;
- (iv) the Monitoring Officer ensure that the necessary undertakings to abide by the final version of the revised Code of Conduct and (if necessary) to renew their registrations of interest under the Code.

The meeting closed at the 4.15 pm.

CHAIRMAN