



STANDARDS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN ON THURSDAY, 30TH OCTOBER 2008 AT 2.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

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

Councillors:

J.B. Criddle

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

Together with:

Monitoring Officer (D. Perkins) and Members Services Manager (J.A. Fairfax).

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G.G. Hibbert and L.R. Rees M.B.E. and Community Councillor I. Racz.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was noted that all Members of the Committee had a personal interest in item 4 but the Monitoring Officer advised that it was not prejudicial.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th September 2008 (minute nos. 1-6, page nos. 1-2) were approved and signed as a correct record.

3. CODE OF CONDUCT TRAINING (MINUTES NO. 6)

Details of the training so far undertaken were reported. The Committee expressed its concern that there still remained a number of County Borough Councillors and Community/Town Councillors who had not taken the opportunity to attend the sessions arranged and it was of the view that a further session should be arranged and that all those who had not yet attended should be encouraged to do so.

RESOLVED that a further training session be arranged and all County Borough Councillors and Community/Town Councillors who had not been present at one of the previous sessions be again encouraged to attend.

4. GRANTS OF DISPENSATION

No applications had been received.

5. ALLOWANCES FOR MEMBERS OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Consideration was given to the report of the Monitoring Officer. A copy of the report presented to Council on 7th October 2008 had also been circulated and the Committee was advised that the Council had determined that this Committee should be consulted on the level of allowances to be paid to its members and that a further report would then be presented to Council.

A detailed discussion ensued following which the Committee resolved to recommend to Council that:-

- (i) taking into account the views expressed in the initial report of the Remuneration Panel for Wales, the Chairman of the Committee should be paid an annual allowance of £1,450 and that the allowance for the other lay members of the Committee and the Community Council representative should be £760 per annum;
- (ii) the payment of these allowances should be implemented retrospectively with effect from 15th May 2008, to equate with the decision taken for the payment to Councillors, but individual payments already made for meetings held since that date be deducted from the overall amount to be paid.
- (iii) the method of payment be determined by the Officers in consultation with the Chairman.

6. FUTURE MEETINGS

As previously agreed, the next meeting be held in January 2009, the Agenda to include matters highlighted within the Code of Conduct, e.g. an explanation of the "closed mind" concept and a report on the recent Conference held in Aberystwyth and attended by the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Monitoring Officer.

The meeting closed at 2.45 p.m.

CHAIRMAN