



STANDARDS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN PARK ON MONDAY 10TH JUNE 2013 AT 10 A.M.

PRESENT:

Councillors Mrs. P. Cook and C.P. Mann

Mrs. M. Evans, Professor S. M. Griffiths, Mrs. D. Holdroyd, Mr. P. Morgan

Community Councillor C. Choo Yin

Together with:

Williams (Deputy Monitoring Officer), L. Lane (Legal Assistant), H. Morgan (Senior Committee Services Officer)

Also in attendance for agenda item number 6:

D. Street (Acting Director of Social Services), J. Morgans (Customer Services and Performance Manager), L. Curtis-Jones (Service Manager Social Services), M. Day (Team Manager - Social Services)

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

It was moved and seconded that Professor S.M. Griffiths be appointed as Chairman of the Standards Committee. By show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that Professor S.M. Griffiths be appointed as Chairman of the Standards Committee.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

It was moved and seconded that Mrs. D. Holdroyd be appointed as Vice Chairman of the Standards Committee. By show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that Mrs. D. Holdroyd be appointed as Vice - Chairman of the Standards Committee

3. BEREAVEMENT - COUNCILLOR MRS. ANNE COLLINS

The Chairman referred to the recent death of Councillor Mrs. Anne Collins and all present stood in silence as a mark of respect and extended their condolences to the bereaved family.

4. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor H. David and Community Councillor Mrs G. Davies.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received at the commencement or during the course of the meeting.

6. MINUTES - 14TH MARCH 2013

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 14th March 2013 (minute nos. 1 - 10, on page nos. 1 - 3) be approved as a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING

7. STANDARDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT (MINUTE NO. 5)

It was noted that the annual report, which outlined the general functions of the Standards Committee and provided a summary of activities for 2011 and 2012, had been presented and noted at Council on 23rd April 2013.

8. STANDARDS COMMITTEE - APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER (MINUTE NO. 9)

It was noted that the Panel, established to consider all the applications, have interviewed applicants and recommended to Council that Mr. Vincent Brickley be appointed as independent member of the Standards Committee for a period of 4 years from 12th June 2013 and that a reserve list be established with Mr. David Lewis being invited to remain on that reserve list for a period of six months from 12th June 2013.

The recommendations of the Panel are to be considered by Council on 11th June 2013 and Mr. Brickley will be invited to the next meeting.

9. STANDARDS CONFERENCE WALES 2013 (MINUTE NO. 9)

Members were advised that the Head of Legal Services had attended the Standing Conference in Llandudno on 19th April 2013. The main topic of discussion had been in relation to the informal resolution process and it was noted that further details would be presented to a future meeting.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the following reports.

10. APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

Consideration was given to the report which advised of the decision by the then Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Standards Committee of applications for dispensation made by Councillors.

The Committee were advised that Nelson Community Councillors Gillian Davies, Ann Gray, Kerry Jones, Pam Baldwin and Anne Blackman (also an elected Member of Caerphilly County Borough Council) applied to the Standards Committee for a dispensation to enable them to participate fully in the debate and vote on a report to be brought before the Community Council regarding a request for funding from the Community Council by Nelson Development Trust to finance the next phase of a project to develop the former Nelson Boys & Girls Club (the community councillors being Members of the Trust).

It was noted that at the hearing the Community Council were represented by Community Councillors Gillian Davies, Anne Blackman and Ann Gray.

Members noted the content of the report and the dispensation that had been granted to Nelson Community Councillors Pam Baldwin, Anne Blackman, Gillian Davies, Ann Gray and Kerry Jones under ground (c) and (h) of the Standards Committee (Grant of Dispensation) (Wales) Regulation 2001.

EXEMPT MATTER

Members considered the public interest test certificate from the Proper Officer and concluded that on balance the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information and it was

RESOLVED that in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting because of the likely disclosure to them of exempt information as identified in paragraph 13 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

11. REPORT FROM PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES

Consideration was given to the contents of the report from the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales on a maladministration complaint made against Caerphilly County Borough Council and sought to make a recommendation to Council.

The Committee were advised that there are two forms of report - a Section 16 which is the form of report which needs to be formally considered by the Authority and Section 21 where the Ombudsman feels that a public report is not required and the matter has been satisfactorily resolved. The report, dated 20th May 2013, was issued by the Ombudsman under Section 16 of the Public Services Ombudsman (Wales) Act 2005. Due to the sensitivity of the circumstances surrounding this case the Ombudsman has given a direction under Section 17(9) of the 2005 Act that his report is not for publication.

Officers were present to respond to the questions asked.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the report its content be noted and it be recommended to Council that the compensation detailed in paragraphs 3.8 and 3.8.1 of the report be paid to Ms. X.

The meeting closed at 10.30am

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 27th November 2013 they were signed by the Chairman.

CHAIRMAN