

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Standards Committee held in the Conference Room, Ty Nant, Prestatyn on Friday, 17th December, 2010 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT

Mr C.B. Halliday (Chair), Councillor G.A. Green and Ms M.E. Medley and Mrs P. White.

ALSO PRESENT

The Monitoring Officer, the prospective Deputy Monitoring Officer and Administrative Officer (C.I. Williams).

1. APOLOGIES

Councillor H.LI. Jones and Mr G.F. Roberts.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

***RESOLVED** – that no Members declared any personal or prejudicial interests in any business identified to be considered at this meeting.*

3. URGENT MATTERS

In accordance with the requirements of Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chair declared that he intended to include for discussion the following matter requiring urgent attention:-

1. Adjudication Panel for Wales – Annual Report.
2. List of Community and Town Council Clerks.
3. Letter from Rhyl Town Council.
4. Standards Committee Members Details.

4. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Standards Committee held on Friday, 5th November, 2010 were submitted.

***RESOLVED** – that the Minutes be received and approved as a correct record.*

5. ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

The Monitoring Officer informed the Committee that there were no written reports relating to the attendance by Members of the Standards Committee at County, Town or Community Council meetings.

The Chair informed the Standards Committee that he had attended a meeting of the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee, held on Thursday, 25th November, 2010 in County Hall, Ruthin. Councillor G.A. Green and the Monitoring Officer explained that they had attended a meeting of Prestatyn Town Council and verbal reports were provided in relation to the proceedings of the respective meetings.

Following discussion on the meetings attended Members of the Standards Committee requested that the officers pursue the provision of further training for Chairs and Vice Chairs of Town and Community Councils. In response to a question from the Chair, the Monitoring Officer explained that training would be undertaken as part of the County's training programme and would probably take place following the County Council elections. It was explained that a thorough survey would be undertaken to ascertain Members requirements and needs, and a further report on this matter would be submitted to the Standards Committee highlighting the findings of the survey.

RESOLVED – *that the report be received and the position be noted.*

6. TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEMBER VACANCY

The Monitoring Officer explained that, as agreed at the meeting of the Standards Committee held on the 5th November, 2010, he had re-consulted Town and Community Councils and their Associations to seek nominations and supporting statements for the vacancy of Town and Community Council Member. He informed Members that responses were awaited and a further report would be submitted to a future meeting of the Standards Committee.

Following a brief discussion, it was:-

RESOLVED –*that the Standards Committee note the position.*

7. STANDARDS CONFERENCE IN WALES

Members of the Standards Committee were informed that the 2011 Standards Conference Wales would be hosted by Powys County Council and further details would be circulated following the finalisation of arrangements.

The Monitoring Officer explained that representatives of Conwy County Borough Council Standards Committee had suggested arranging a meeting of the North Wales Standards Committees, which would provide an opportunity for the local

membership of the Standards Committees to meet and consider issues relating to North Wales.

RESOLVED – *that the Standards Committee note that:-*

- (a) *the 2011 Standards Conference Wales would be hosted by Powys County Council, and*
- (b) *Conwy County Borough Council Standards Committee arrange a meeting of the North Wales Standards Committees.*

8. URGENT ITEMS

1. Adjudication Panel for Wales – Annual Report

The Monitoring Officer circulated a copy of the Adjudication Panel for Wales – Annual Report at the meeting. Members agreed that an item be included on the Agenda for the next meeting of the Standards Committee to consider the contents of the Annual Report.

RESOLVED – *that the Adjudication Panel for Wales – Annual Report be considered at the next meeting of the Standards Committee.*

2. List of Community and Town Council Clerks

A copy of a list of Town and Community Council Clerks, and their respective telephone numbers, was circulated to Members of the Standards Committee at the meeting. The Monitoring Officer explained that a list pertaining to the times, dates and venues of Town and Community Council meetings was being considered by the Engagement and Consultation Manager in the Policy Unit but to-date due to the number of Councils and their individual arrangements this had not so far been possible.

RESOLVED – *that the list of Town and Community Clerks be received.*

3. Letter from Rhyl Town Council.

It was reported by the Monitoring Officer that he had received a letter from the Clerk of Rhyl Town Council, which related to the Standards Committee's consideration of the request to amend the level for dispensation granted to those Members who had an interest in the Clwyd Coast Credit Union.

The Monitoring Officer explained that Rhyl Town Council had been informed of the decision taken by the Standards Committee, following an in-depth discussion, not to amend the dispensation for those Members of the Town Council who had an investment, either debit or credit, with the Clwyd Coast Credit Union.

Members were informed that the letter from the Clerk of the Town Council had contained an offer from the Clwyd Coast Credit Union to provide a demonstration on the work it undertakes with Denbighshire's communities. The Monitoring Officer explained that the dispensations granted would run only to the next Local Government elections in May, 2012, when it would be open for Rhyl Town Council Members to make a fresh request having regard to the circumstances then prevailing. Members supported the views expressed by the Monitoring Officer, and it was:-

RESOLVED –that the Standards Committee receives the report and the position be noted.

4. Standards Committee Members Details

The Committee agreed that a list containing personal information, such as the addresses and telephone numbers of Members of the Committee, be compiled and circulated to all Members of the Standards Committee for information purposes.

RESOLVED – that a list of personal details pertaining to Members of the Standards Committee be compiled and circulated to Members of the Standards Committee.

The Chair referred to the pending retirement of the Monitoring Officer and thanked him for the assistance and guidance he had provided to the Standards Committee since its inception. The Chair and Members of the Standards Committee wished the Monitoring Officer well and a long and happy retirement.

Meeting ended at 11.25 a.m.