

Appendix 1

SUBMISSION TO THE DENBIGHSHIRE STANDARDS COMMITTEE ON BEHALF OF LLANDYRNOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

I write to apply for Dispensation for members of the Llandyrnog Community Council to actively participate in any item relating to the village Community Shop, Hub and Post Office which comes before the Council. This is on the grounds that the majority of the Community Council members are shareholders and for all to declare an interest would render the meeting inquorate.

I attach individual details but set out below the background information:

BACKGROUND

The village of Llandyrnog had, until the covid pandemic and subsequent lockdowns, a thriving village centre comprising a shop and post office, butchers shop and three public houses. After lockdown all but the post office and one of the pubs had closed. The owners of the post office premises then gave notice of their intention to sell up and move away. Unfortunately they had few potential purchasers and at this point it seemed the village would lose this facility too. A campaign was launched to raise funds to purchase the property for the community and the individuals involved were ultimately successful in securing grant funding from Welsh Government and UK Levelling Up funds.

In June 2023 further funds were sought by means of a local “share” offer. The majority of the present members of the community council purchased shares (together with over 300 other local residents). The maximum shareholding available was £7000. The shares will not pay a dividend at any time; therefore no one can gain financially on a personal level – it was a means of helping to support the project. The shares raised a total of over £50,000.

CONCLUSION

The Community Shop, Hub and Post Office opened in recent weeks and is doing really well. However the Llandyrnog Community Council is mindful of the fact that as almost every councillor is a shareholder (albeit the terms of the shareholding means that no financial gain is possible) each should declare an interest in any business relating to the village shop. This would result in the meeting being without a quorum.

The Llandyrnog Community Council therefore wish to request the Standard Committee consider granting a joint dispensation for the named councillors to participate in discussions and vote on any agenda items relating to the Llandyrnog Community Shop. This dispensation to run for their term of office or until the next Local Government election.

JOINT APPLICATION FOR DISPENSATION FOR MEMBERS OF LLANDYRNOG
COMMUNITY COUNCIL TO PARTICIPATE IN, SPEAK AND VOTE ON ITEMS RELATING
TO LLANDYRNOG SHOP POST OFFICE AND COMMUNITY HUB.

The relevant paragraph under which dispensation is sought:

(a) No fewer than half of the members of the council by which the business is to be considered has an interest which relates to that business.

Listed below are the Community Council members and details of their interest in this matter:

Mrs Gwen Butler (Chair)

Shareholder – husband also has a voluntary role in the management of the shop

Ms Jane Borthwick (vice-chair)

Shareholder

Mr Emyr Morris

Shareholder and former director

Mr Gwilym C Evans,

Shareholder

Mr Arwyn Evans,

Shareholder

Ms Elaine Williams,

Shareholder

Ms Ruth Griffith,

Shareholder

Mr Merfyn Parry

Shareholder

Mr J McGuire

Shareholder

The Members have given their consent for a joint dispensation to be sought. It would be appreciated if the dispensation (if granted) could run for the duration of the term of office or to the next Local Government election.