

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

(Civic Centre, Port Talbot)

Members Present:

29th May, 2009

Chairman: Mr.G.T.Pullen

Vice Chairman: Mrs.L.J.Rees

Independent Member: Mrs.J.E.Howells

NPTCBC Members: Councillors E.Loaring and Mrs L.H.James

**Community
Committee Member:** Councillor M.Evans

Officers in Attendance: D.Michael and Miss A.M.Farrell

1. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Members of the Committee made declarations of interest at the commencement of the meeting in relation to the undermentioned matters:

Mrs.L.J.Rees - Item No. 2 re: Grant of Dispensations - in respect of Councillor J.Rogers, due to her acquaintance with that Councillor.

Cllr Mrs L.H.James - Item No. 2 re: Grant of Dispensations – in respect of her own application and that of her son-in-law Councillor I.B.James.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting of the 3rd April, 2009 be accepted as a true record.

Report of the Monitoring Officer

3. **SEMINARS CODE OF CONDUCT TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS**

Committee received an update on the training offered by the Monitoring Officer to local Town and Community Councils. Three seminars had been arranged in May, two at Neath and one at Pontardawe and the level of attendance was considered reasonable. In addition to Community Councillors, some Clerks of Councils had attended the Seminars.

Members noted that further training would be arranged to catch other Community Councils who had not attended the above Seminars. Consideration would also be given to setting aside a special session for Clerks to the Councils.

The Committee endorsed the above action and the proposed further seminars. Members reiterated the importance of this training and the need to ensure as many as possible attend.

RESOLVED: that the Monitoring Officer liaises with One Voice Wales in relation to the Seminars and that future sessions be arranged in 2009/10 both for Members and Clerks of Town and Community Council.

4. **GRANT OF DISPENSATION UNDER SECTION 81(4) LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000 – NPT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEMBERS IN RESPECT OF MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILY EMPLOYED BY THE COUNCIL**

(The Vice Chairman, Mrs L.J. Rees and Councillor Mrs L.H.James had previously declared their interests in certain applications at the commencement of the meeting and left the room during the discussion and voting thereon).

RESOLVED: that the list of Member dispensations set out in the circulated report, as given as Appendix 1 hereto, be extended to 5th June, 2010 and that the Members listed in that Appendix be granted dispensation to speak and vote at meetings of the Council and its Committees, in respect of the matters given in the above circulated report, subject to the terms and conditions set out in the circulated report.

5. **MISCELLANEOUS DISPENSATIONS**

RESOLVED: that the applications for dispensation set out in the circulated report and as given in Appendix 2 hereto, be approved in the circumstances set out in Regulations 2(d) of the Standards Committee (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001 - to speak and vote, or to speak only if appropriate, these dispensations to expire on 5th June, 2010.

6. **GENERAL GRANT OF DISPENSATIONS - SCHOOL GOVERNORS**

The Monitoring Officer referred to the decision of this Committee on 3rd April, 2009 to grant the above dispensation to School Governors and recommended that this general dispensation be further granted for 2009/10.

RESOLVED: that the general dispensation previously granted to all Members who are school governors under Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001 to speak and vote on education issues including the Strategic Schools Improvement Programme, be extended to 5th June, 2010.

7. **GOVERNANCE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

The Monitoring Officer informed Members that the Welsh Assembly Government was consulting local authorities on the adoption of Accounting Regulations.

The Wales Audit Office would shortly visit the Authority on this matter and a report had been prepared by the Monitoring Officer for the purpose. The Committee considered the circulated report and made comments on the content.

RESOLVED: that the above report and the amendments made at the meeting, be supported.

CHAIRMAN

APPENDIX 1

Grant of Dispensations under Section 81(4) Local Government Act 2000:
Employment – Applications

Councillor	Employment Dispensation
D. W. Davies	His sister-in-law is employed as a Nursery Nurse.
Mrs. J. Hopkins	Her husband is employed as an ICT Research Officer.
I. B. James	His wife is employed as a permanent parking attendant.
Mrs. L. H. James	Her daughter-in-law is employed as a Traffic Warden.
Mrs. O. Jones	Her niece is employed as a Teacher.
E. V. Latham	His son is employed as a Parks Attendant.
Mrs. M. A. Lewis	1) Her niece is employed as a PE Teacher. 2) Her daughter-in-law is employed as a Support Teacher.
A. Llewelyn	His wife is employed as a Teacher.
J. D. Morgan	His wife is employed as a Teaching Assistant.
W. E. Morgan	His daughter is employed as a Clerk in Blaengwrach School.
L. Purcell	Her ex-husband is employed in Social Services, Health and Housing.
P. A. Rees	His daughter-in-law is employed as a School Clerk.
Mrs. B. Richards	Her son and his partner are employed as Accounts Clerks.
C. E. Richards	His wife is employed as a Nursery Nurse.
P. D. Richards	His wife is employed as a Specialist Behavioural Outreach Worker.
J. Rogers	1) His daughter is employed as a Teaching Assistant. 2) His son is employed as an Admin Officer.
A. N. Woolcock	His niece is employed as a modern apprentice.

APPENDIX 2

Applications for Dispensations: Miscellaneous

**Circumstances set out in Regulation 2(d) of the Standards Committee
(Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001**

Councillor	Subject of Dispensation	Extent of Requested Dispensation
H. Bebell	Extension to building at Elba Crescent and Baldwins Avenue Crymlyn Burrows.	Speak only
C. Morgan *	Membership of Local Health Board	Speak and Vote
A. P. H. Davies	One Voice Wales matters.	Speak and Vote – NPT and Coedffranc C. C.
J. Dinham *	Integrated Children’s Centre	Speak and Vote
A. Llewelyn	Ystalyfera Development Trust. Strategic housing matters even when they relate to housing associations.	Speak and Vote Speak only
J. Miller	Melyn Community Conference. NHS matters including Local Health Board and Trust– of which he is employed. Limited by condition.	Speak and Vote Speak only
Mrs. S. Miller	Melyn Community Conference. NHS matters including Local Health Board and Trust– of which he is employed. Limited by condition.	Speak and Vote Speak only
P. A. Rees *	Swansea Bay Racial Equality Council	Speak and Vote
P. D. Richards	Matters relating to Youth Offending Panel of Neath Port Talbot CVS	Speak and Vote
A. Woolcock *	Membership of Local Health Board	Speak and Vote

**denotes Members who are appointed to these bodies by the Council and therefore already have a partial exemption by virtue of the provisions of the Code of Conduct*