

## STANDARDS COMMITTEE

(Committee Room 3 - Port Talbot Civic Centre)

**Members Present:**

**13 July 2018**

**Chairperson:** C.Jones

**Vice Chairperson:** B.Richards

**Independent Members:** L.Fleet

**NPTCBC Members:** Councillors A.L.Thomas and S.E.Freeguard

**Community Committee Members:** A.Carter

**Officers In Attendance:** C.Griffiths and N.Headon

**Apologies:** T.Ward

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1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON**

Prior to the election of the Chair and Vice Chair, Mr.C.Griffiths opened the meeting.

**RESOLVED:** that Cliff Jones be appointed Chair of the Standards Committee for Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council.

2. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRPERSON**

**RESOLVED:** that Barbara Richards be appointed Vice Chair of the Standards Committee for Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following Members made a declaration of interest at the commencement of the meeting:

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|------------------------|---|
| Councillor A.Thomas    | - Report of the Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer – Item 6 – Grant of Dispensations Under Section 81 (4) Local Government Act 2000 – as he is a beneficiary of general dispensation for governors of Neath Port Talbot Schools.   |
| Councillor S.Freeguard | - Report of the Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer – Item 6 – Grant of Dispensations Under Section 81 (4) Local Government Act 2000 – as her sister-in-law works for Cleaning Services and member of Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board, Community Health Council. |
| Clifford Jones         | - Report of the Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer – Item 3<br>Councillor D. Cawsey is his wife's Nephew.  |
| Alan Carter            | - Report of the Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer – Item 6<br>School Governor, Crynallt Primary School.   |

4. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**RESOLVED:** that the Minutes of the previous meeting held on the 16 March, 2018 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

5. **THE REMIT OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED:** That the remit of the Standards Committee and the legislative background in which the Standards Committee operates, as detailed within the circulated report, be noted.

6. **GRANT OF DISPENSATIONS AND RENEWAL OF GRANTS UNDER SECTION 81(4) LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000**

Members considered renewals and applications received for Employment Dispensations, Miscellaneous Dispensations, Dispensations regarding School Governors, Standard Dispensations for School Reorganisation and Dispensations for Voluntary Sector Funding, as detailed in the circulated report.

**RESOLVED:** (a) that the Applications for Employment Dispensation as set out in paragraph 1.2.8. of the report, be approved in the circumstances set out in Regulation 2 (d) of the Standards Committee (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001 in the standard form as set out in Paragraph 1.2.6. to speak and vote and that the dispensations run to the Standards Committee which follows the Annual Meeting of Council 2019;

(Councillor S.Freeguard and C.Jones left the meeting before the commencement of this item)

(b) that the new applications and the applications for renewals of Miscellaneous Dispensations, as set out in paragraph 1.3.2. of the report, be approved in the circumstances set out in Regulation 2 (d) of the Standards Committee (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001 to speak or to speak and vote as set out in the Schedule as detailed within the

circulated report, and that the dispensations run to the Standards Committee which follows the Annual Meeting of Council 2019;

(Councillor S.Freeguard remained outside the meeting for this item)

- (c) that the Grant of General Dispensations: School Governors, to speak and vote, as detailed in the report, be further granted until the Standards Committee which follows the Annual Meeting of Council 2019;

(Councillor A.Thomas and A.Carter left the meeting before the commencement of this item)

- (d) that the Applications for School Reorganisation Dispensation as set out in paragraph 1.5.4 of the report, be approved in the circumstances set out in Regulation 2 (d) of the Standards Committee (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001 in the standard form as set out in Paragraph 1.5.2. to speak but not vote and that the dispensations run to the Standards Committee which follows the Annual Meeting of Council 2019;

- (e) that Standards Committee Application for Voluntary Sector Funding Dispensation, as set out in paragraph 1.6.4 of the circulated report be approved in the circumstances set out in Regulation 2 (c), (d), (g) and (h) of the Standards Committee (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001 to speak only and that the dispensations cover all matters relating to the funding for the voluntary/third sector, and that the dispensations run to the Standards

Committee which follows the Annual Meeting of Council 2019.

7. **OMBUDSMAN CODE OF CONDUCT CASEBOOK**

**RESOLVED:** That the findings in the Public Service Ombudsman for Wales Code of Conduct Casebook, as detailed within the circulated report, be noted.

8. **RECENT DECISION OF THE ADJUDICATION PANEL FOR WALES**

**RESOLVED:** That the report of the Adjudication Panel for Wales regarding compliance with the Members Code of Conduct, as detailed within the circulated report, be noted.

9. **HIGH COURT DECISION CONCERNING STANDARDS COMMITTEES**

**RESOLVED:** That the decision of the High Court in the recent judgement relating to the role of a Standards Committee, as detailed in the circulated report, be noted.

10. **FORWARD WORK PLAN**

**RESOLVED:** That the following items be included in the Standards Committee Forward Work Programme:

<b>Standards Committee</b>	<b>Matters for Agenda</b>
23 November 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ombudsman Annual Report</li><li>• Code of Conduct Update</li><li>• Discussion of training regime undertaken by County Borough Councillors</li></ul>

	<p>and to identify areas of need that should be recommended to the Council's Democratic Services Section</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Discussion of training regime that should be provided to Town and Community Councillors and Clerks on Code of Conduct issues</li><li>• How Committee relates to Town and Community Councils.</li><li>• Whistleblowing Policy</li><li>• Code of Conduct</li></ul>
29 March 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Code of Conduct Update</li><li>• Feedback on training regimes for County Borough Councillors and Town and Community Councillors</li></ul>

**CHAIRPERSON**