
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE, 12.06.14

Present:-

Elected Members:- Councillors Eryl Jones-Williams and Michael Sol Owen.

Independent Members:- Mr Gwilym Ellis Evans (Chairman), Ms Linda Byrne, Miss Margaret E. Jones, Mr Sam Soysa and Dr Einir Young.

Community Committee Member:- Mr David Clay.

Also in Attendance: Sion Huws (Compliance and Language Manager) and Eirian Roberts (Member Support and Scrutiny Officer).

Apology:- Councillor Charles W. Jones.

1. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

Due to the references to disability and the use of wheelchairs in the report under item 3, the following members enquired whether they should declare an interest for the reasons noted below:-

- Councillor Eryl Jones-Williams on the grounds that his wife was disabled and that he was Vice-chair of the Meirionnydd Access Group. The Compliance and Language Manager advised that this did not constitute an interest, but the member noted that he wished to declare that he was Vice-chair of the Access Group.
- Ms Linda Byrne on the grounds that she had worked as a Disability Advisor at the University for a number of years, and that her daughter was a wheelchair user. She was advised by the Compliance and Language Manager that this did not constitute an interest.

2. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED to exclude the press and public from the meeting during the discussion on the following items because of the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 18C, Part 4, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. This paragraph applies because it concerns the deliberations of the Standards Committee in reaching a decision on a matter referred to it. It is believed that the information should not be disclosed due to the possibility that any publicity relating to the case could prejudice the councillors' situation prior to any hearings. Consequently, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

3. REPORT BY THE PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES ON AN INVESTIGATION INTO COMPLAINTS AGAINST COUNCILLOR 'A'

Submitted – the report of the Compliance and Language Manager asking the committee to consider the Ombudsman's report and to reach a decision in accordance with the requirements of the relevant regulations.

Two complaints had been received against the councillor, and they were considered separately.

RESOLVED in respect of the two complaints -

- (a) That the member who is the subject of the investigation should be given the opportunity to make representations, either orally or in writing in respect of the findings of the investigation and any allegation that he or she has failed, or may have failed, to comply with the relevant authority's code of conduct.
- (b) That a special meeting of the Standards Committee should be called to consider and decide on the matters and to authorise the officers to make the necessary arrangements
- (c) To hold the hearing on 14 July (with the 15th as a reserve date), to commence at 9.30am.
- (ch) To invite the Ombudsman to the meeting.

4. REPORT BY THE PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES ON AN INVESTIGATION INTO A COMPLAINT AGAINST COUNCILLOR 'B'

Submitted – the report of the Monitoring Officer asking the committee to consider the Ombudsman's report and to reach a decision in accordance with the requirements of the relevant regulations.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the member who is the subject of the investigation should be given the opportunity to make representations, either orally or in writing in respect of the findings of the investigation and any allegation that he or she has failed, or may have failed, to comply with the relevant authority's code of conduct.
- (b) That a special meeting of the Standards Committee should be called to consider and decide on the matter and to authorise the officers to make the necessary arrangements.
- (c) To hold the hearing on 24 July (with the 29th as a reserve date), in Room 2, Penarlâg Offices, Dolgellau if possible.
- (ch) To invite the Ombudsman to the meeting.

It was further RESOLVED that the relevant papers are sent to the two members who are the subjects of the investigations by registered post.

The meeting commenced at 2.00pm and concluded at 3.15pm.