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Gwasanaeth Democraidd
Democratic Service
Swyddfa'r Cyngor
CAERNARFON
Gwynedd
LL55 1SH

Cyfarfod / Meeting

PWYLLGOR SAFONAU
STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Dyddiad ac Amser / Date and Time

11.00am, DYDD LLUN, 26 IONAWR, 2015

11.00am, MONDAY, 26 JANUARY, 2015

Lleoliad / Location

Ystafell Gwyrfai,
Swyddfa'r Cyngor / Council Offices,
Stryd y Jêl / Shirehall Street,
Caernarfon

Pwynt Cyswllt / Contact Point

Eirian Roberts

(01286) 679018

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Dosbarthwyd/Distributed 16/01/15

**PWYLLGOR SAFONAU
STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

Aelodaeth/Membership

Aelodau Etholedig / Elected Members (3)

Y Cynghorwyr/Councillors
Lesley Day
Eryl Jones-Williams
Michael Sol Owen

**Aelodau Annibynnol (hefo pleidlais) / Independent Members (with a vote)
(5)**

Ms Linda Byrne
Mr Gwilym Ellis Evans
Miss Margaret E Jones
Mr Sam W Soysa
Dr Einir Young

**Aelod Pwyllgor Cymuned (hefo pleidlais) / Community Committee
Member (with a vote) (1)**

Y Cynghorydd / Councillor David Clay

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

To receive any declaration of personal interest.

3. URGENT ITEMS

To note any items that are a matter of urgency in the view of the Chairman for consideration.

4. MINUTES

The Chairman shall propose that the minutes of the last meeting of this committee held on 29 September, 2014 be signed as a true record (attached).

5. APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

To consider the report of the Monitoring Officer (attached)

6. MEMBERSHIP OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

To consider the report of the Monitoring Officer (attached)

7. TRAINING FOR COMMUNITY COUNCILS

To consider the report of the Monitoring Officer (attached)

8. ALLEGATIONS AGAINST MEMBERS

To consider the report of the Monitoring Officer (attached)

9. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Chairman shall propose that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the discussion on the following item due to the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 18C, Part 4, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. This paragraph should apply because it concerns the deliberations of the Standards Committee in reaching a finding on a matter referred to it. It is believed that the information should not be disclosed so that the councillor is not prejudiced by any possible publicity of the case before any hearing. Consequently the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

10. REPORT BY THE MONITORING OFFICER ON AN INVESTIGATION INTO A COMPLAINT AGAINST COUNCILLOR 'A'

To consider the report of the Monitoring Officer (separate copy for committee members only).

STANDARDS COMMITTEE, 29.09.14

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 W. Soysa and Dr Einir Young.

Community Committee Member:- Mr David Clay.

Also Present: Iwan Evans (Monitoring Officer), Sion Huws (Senior Solicitor) and Eirian Roberts (Members Support and Scrutiny Officer).

Iwan Evans was welcomed to the meeting following his appointment to the post of Monitoring Officer.

1. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

No declarations of personal interest were received from any members present.

2. MINUTES

The Chairman signed the minutes of the previous committee meetings held on 30 June, 14 July and 29 July as a true record.

Matter arising from the minutes of 14 July, 2014

Item 2 – Complaints against Councillor Christopher O’Neal, Gwynedd Council

In response to an enquiry, it was noted that a letter had been sent to the Adjudication Panel for Wales asking them to confirm whether the appeal was submitted in this case.

Matter arising from the minutes of 29 July, 2014

Item 2 – A complaint against Councillor Nancy Clarke, Tywyn Town Council

In response to an enquiry, it was noted that in this case, an appeal had not yet been submitted to the Adjudication Panel for Wales.

3. AN UPDATE ON RESTRUCTURING THE LEGAL SERVICES

Submitted - verbal update from the Monitoring Officer on the recent changes to the service. He explained that he begun in his post of Monitoring Officer on 1 September, and that Rhun ap Gareth, Senior Solicitor had been appointed to the post of Deputy Monitoring Officer. Sion Huws, Senior Solicitor, would continue to work on propriety matters and support the Standards Committee. The new Team, which was getting started with its work programme, included the Legal, Elections, Coroner and Propriety Services.

RESOLVED to note the information.

4. APPLICATION FOR DISPENSATION BY COUNCILLOR MIKE STEVENS

Submitted – the Monitoring Officer's report asking the committee to consider the application by Councillor Mike Stevens, Tywyn Town Council, who was also the Chairman of the Tywyn Chamber of Tourism and Commerce (CTC), for general dispensation to speak and vote at meetings of the Town Council if an issue involving the CTC's banner were to arise.

During the discussion:-

- It was noted that the application concerned putting up one flag only and that it was not a matter of huge significance from the public interest standpoint.
- Some members noted their concern that this was a theoretical application and that it was not clear in what context the matter would arise, if at all. On the other hand, others noted that it was better for members to submit an application if they foresaw a matter arising as it could be difficult to convene the committee to discuss an application at short notice.
- It was suggested to allow the councillor to speak but not to vote, in the Town Council meetings, based on the fact that the Councillor was chairman of the CTC and that the voice of the CTC needed to be heard as it could be a beneficial addition to the Town Council's discussion should this specific matter arise.
- Due to the fact that circumstances could change, but so that the Town Council could implement their plans for 2015, it was suggested to restrict the dispensation for a period of 18 months (until the Annual Meeting of the Town Council in May 2016).

RESOLVED to approve the application for dispensation for Councillor Mike Stevens to speak, but not vote, in Tywyn Town Council meetings if a discussion arose involving what flag should be flown on the CTC pole on Tywyn promenade from now until the Annual Meeting of the Town Council in May 2016.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Submitted – the report of the Monitoring Officer reporting on the work programme and on adaptations that need the committee's consideration.

Further to the content of the report, the Monitoring Officer noted:-

- That the Annual Report of the Adjudication Panel for Wales was not yet to hand.
- It was suggested to contact Community Councils in the first place to see what their needs were in terms of support, by reporting on the response to the January meeting.
- It was noted that not all training offered attracted support and the Monitoring Officer suggested that it would be beneficial to discuss the requirements and the best way of presenting training packages.

RESOLVED to adapt the work programme to include the following items on the agenda for 26 January, 2015:-

- **Annual Report of the Adjudication Panel for Wales**
- **Community Council's needs in terms of support**
- **Identify an alternative system for offering training**

6. ALLEGATIONS AGAINST MEMBERS

Submitted – For information, the report of the Monitoring Officer on formal complaints made against members.

It was noted that the decision in number 2.1 Case 201300346 needed to be corrected to read as follows:-

“Decision

The member should receive a reprimand, delete the video clip and the post from his Facebook page at once and receive training on the Behavioural Code and all of the Council’s protocols relating to the behaviour of councillors.”

Further to the content of the report, it was noted that papers were expected from the Ombudsman concerning number 2.8 Case 201402810

RESOLVED to note the report.

7. THE OMBUDSMAN’S ANNUAL REPORT 2013/14

Submitted – the report of the Monitoring Officer appending a copy of those parts of the Ombudsman's Annual Report 2013/14 relevant to code of conduct complaints.

The Monitoring Officer had noted that the message on page 16 of the report was very central, and that it suggested that the local resolution arrangements across Wales had an effect of fewer complaints being referred to the Ombudsman.

The importance of reporting back to this committee on cases that were dealt with locally was emphasised.

RESOLVED to note the report.

8. WEBCASTING

Submitted – the Monitoring Officer's report appending the Head of Democratic Services' report to the Democratic Services Committee on 9 September involving the webcasting developments. The committee were asked for their comments on the subject.

The Senior Manager of the Corporate Commissioning Service expanded on the content of the report and the appended guidelines for councillors about webcasting.

During the discussion:-

- It was suggested that the hearings of the Standards Committees would be interesting to webcast. The Monitoring Officer noted that broadcasting hearings was a different matter to broadcasting the Council's standard committees as the dynamic of quasi-judicial meetings were different to that of general committees.
- It was suggested that it would be beneficial if the independent members on the Standards Committee received an invitation to the training session for all the Council's members on the webcasting arrangement.

Members of the committee were invited to note points that should be focused on in the training.

RESOLVED

(a) To submit the following observations on the subject:-

- That members had to consider how something looks, rather than the actual situation.
 - That it is possible that webcasting could resolve a dispute and that it could also be evidence in a case of an allegation of breaking the Behavioural Code or behaving contrary to Gwynedd Standard principles.
 - That webcasting helps to train the public about democracy.
- (b) To invite independent members of the Standards Committee to the training session (on the afternoon of 26 November) for all of the Council's members on the webcasting arrangements.
- (c) To ask the Senior Manager of the Corporate Commissioning Service to discuss the considerations involved with webcasting quasi-judicial committees with the Monitoring Officer and the Senior Solicitor.

The meeting commenced at 11.00am and concluded at 12.15pm

Committee:	Standards Committee
Date:	25 January 2015
Title:	Applications for dispensation
Author:	Monitoring Officer
Action:	To decide upon the application

Background

1. I enclose an application from Councillor John Pughe Roberts, member for Corris/Mawddwy on Gwynedd Council relating to the reorganisation of education in the catchment area of Ysgol y Gader, Dolgellau, together with an application by Councillor Dilwyn Morgan, member for Y Bala on Gwynedd Council, in connection with the catchment area of Ysgol y Berwyn, Y Bala.

2. The Standards Committee may grant a dispensation of the situation comes within one (or more) of those listed in the relevant regulations (see Appendix).

4. The Committee has also developed guidelines to consider in applications relating to school reorganisation:

“a father/mother, grandfather/grandmother, grandson/granddaughter, husband or wife, children, brother or sister would amount to too close a connection to allow dispensation in terms of a specific school, since it would be difficult for the public to gain confidence in the way a decision would be reached.”

5. The Ombudsman’s Guidelines on the code of Conduct note the following in relation to granting dispensations in general:

“The standards committee will need to balance the public interest in preventing members with prejudicial interests from taking part in decisions, against the public interest in decisions being taken by a reasonably representative group of members of the authority. If failure to grant a dispensation will result in an authority or committee not achieving a quorum, this may well constitute grounds for granting a dispensation.”

6. Any further information received in relation to the applications will be presented at the meeting.

Recommendation

7. The Committee is requested to consider and decide upon the applications.

Application to the Standards Committee for a Dispensation

YOUR APPLICATION WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED UNLESS EVERY PART OF THIS FORM IS COMPLETED

1. PERSONAL DETAILS

1.1 Your name JOHN PUGHE ROBERTS

1.2 Your council GWYNEDD

1.3 Your address and contact telephone no.

2. DETAILS OF YOUR INTEREST

2.1 What is the item in question?

Ysgol y Gader catchment area schools..

2.2 How does your interest in the item arise?

Daughter at Ysgol y Gader
Sister working at Ysgol y Gader

3. DETAILS OF YOUR APPLICATION

3.1 Are you applying for a dispensation to (a) speak and vote or, (b) to speak only?
Yes

3.2 Are you requesting:

(a) a dispensation for a particular meeting? If so please provide details below:

No

or

(b) a general dispensation so that you can take part whenever the matters arises?

Yes

Please return to the Monitoring Officer, Gwynedd Council, Caernarfon, LL55 1SH.

*If you have any questions regarding this form, contact the Senior Solicitor (Corporate):
Tel. 01286 679168 e-mail - sionH@gwynedd.gov.uk*

www.gwynedd.gov.uk



4. Regulations prescribe the circumstances in which the Standards Committee may grant a dispensation. These grounds for granting a dispensation are summarised below and are set out in full in the attached guidance notes. On which of the following grounds do you believe that a dispensation should be granted in this case? Please tick the appropriate box(es).

• at least half of the members considering the business has an interest	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• my inability to participate would upset the political balance of the meeting to such an extent that the outcome would be likely to be affected	<input type="checkbox"/>
• my participation would not damage public confidence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• the interest is common to me and a significant proportion of the general public;	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• my participation in the business is justified by my particular role or expertise;	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• the business is to be considered by a scrutiny committee and my interest is not pecuniary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• the business relates to the finances or property of a voluntary organisation of whose management committee or board I am a member and I have no other interest	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. Please explain below why you believe the Standards Committee should grant your application.

I represent the Dinas Mawddwy Ward on the Council and if I do not receive permission, I cannot represent my ward.

(please continue on a separate sheet if necessary)

Signed _____ Dated _____ 1/12/14 _____

Please return to the Monitoring Officer, Gwynedd Council, Caernarfon, LL55 1SH.

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Guidance Notes

1. This is the form for submitting an application for a dispensation, i.e. permission to take part in a discussion even though you have a 'prejudicial interest' under the Code of Conduct. Further information regarding interests can be found in the Code of Conduct itself, the Ombudsman's Guidance and the Gwynedd Council 'Interests' leaflet.

2. Circumstances in which dispensations may be granted

The Standards Committee may grant a dispensation if the application comes within one or more of the circumstances listed in *The Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001*:

“(a) no fewer than half of the members of the relevant authority or of a committee of the authority (as the case may be) by which the business is to be considered has an interest which relates to that business;

(b) no fewer than half of the members of a leader and cabinet executive of the relevant authority by which the business is to be considered has an interest which relates to that business and either paragraph (d) or (e) also applies;

(c) in the case of a county or county borough council, the inability of the member to participate would upset the political balance of the relevant authority or of the committee of the authority by which the business is to be considered to such an extent that the outcome would be likely to be affected;

(d) the nature of the member's interest is such that the member's participation in the business to which the interest relates would not damage public confidence in the conduct of the relevant authority's business;

(e) the interest is common to the member and a significant proportion of the general public;

(f) the participation of the member in the business to which the interest relates is justified by the member's particular role or expertise;

(g) the business to which the interest relates is to be considered by an overview and scrutiny committee of the relevant authority and the member's interest is not a pecuniary interest;

(h) the business which is to be considered relates to the finances or property of a voluntary organisation of whose management committee or board the member is a member otherwise than as a representative of the relevant authority and the member has no other interest in that business provided that any dispensation shall not extend to participation in any vote with respect to that business; or

(i) it appears to the committee to be in the interests of the inhabitants of the area of the relevant authority that the disability should be removed provided that written notification of the grant of the dispensation is given to the National Assembly for Wales within seven days in such manner as it may specify.”

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Application to the Standards Committee for a Dispensation

YOUR APPLICATION WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED UNLESS EVERY PART OF THIS FORM IS COMPLETED

1. PERSONAL DETAILS

1.1 Your name DILWYN MORGAN

1.2 Your council GWYNEDD

1.3 Your address and contact telephone no.

2. DETAILS OF YOUR INTEREST

2.1 What is the item in question?

Re-organisation of education in the catchment area for Ysgol y Berwyn.

2.2 How does your interest in the item arise?

1. My wife carries out occasional supply work in the catchment area's schools.
2. My wife provides music lessons in schools on behalf of Williams Mathias Music Centre
3. I am a governor at Ysgol y Berwyn

3. DETAILS OF YOUR APPLICATION

3.1 Are you applying for a dispensation to (a) speak and vote or, (b) to speak only?

3.2 Are you requesting:

(a) a dispensation for a particular meeting? If so please provide details below:

All meetings relating to re-organisation

or

(b) a general dispensation so that you can take part whenever the matters arises?

Please return to the Monitoring Officer, Gwynedd Council, Caernarfon, LL55 1SH.

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(b) no fewer than half of the members of a leader and cabinet executive of the relevant authority by which the business is to be considered has an interest which relates to that business and either paragraph (d) or (e) also applies;

(c) in the case of a county or county borough council, the inability of the member to participate would upset the political balance of the relevant authority or of the committee of the authority by which the business is to be considered to such an extent that the outcome would be likely to be affected;

(d) the nature of the member's interest is such that the member's participation in the business to which the interest relates would not damage public confidence in the conduct of the relevant authority's business;

(e) the interest is common to the member and a significant proportion of the general public;

(f) the participation of the member in the business to which the interest relates is justified by the member's particular role or expertise;

(g) the business to which the interest relates is to be considered by an overview and scrutiny committee of the relevant authority and the member's interest is not a pecuniary interest;

(h) the business which is to be considered relates to the finances or property of a voluntary organisation of whose management committee or board the member is a member otherwise than as a representative of the relevant authority and the member has no other interest in that business provided that any dispensation shall not extend to participation in any vote with respect to that business; or

(i) it appears to the committee to be in the interests of the inhabitants of the area of the relevant authority that the disability should be removed provided that written notification of the grant of the dispensation is given to the National Assembly for Wales within seven days in such manner as it may specify.”

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Committee :	STANDARDS COMMITTEE
Date:	26 January 2015
Title	Membership of the Standards Committee
Author:	Monitoring Officer
Action:	For Information

Background

1. The terms of office of two independent members of the Committee, Gwilym Ellis Evans and Sam Soysa (the current Chair and Vice-chair) will come to an end in February this year. As both have served two terms they are not eligible to be re-appointed for a further term.

2. The steps that will have to be taken to appoint new independent members are:

- Advertise in not less than two newspapers circulating in the authority's area.
- Establish a Consultative Panel.
- The Panel to consider the applications (this is usually done through interviews)
- The Panel's recommendations presented to a meeting of the Full Council, which will make the appointments. The next meeting is on 05/03/15.

3. The Full Council has delegated to the Monitoring Officer the power to establish a Consultative Panel whenever a vacancy arises. The Panel must consist of no more than five members and one must be a lay member (with no direct connection with local government) and one member of a community council.

4. The last time a Panel was convened it consisted of the Chair of the Standards Committee, the Chair of the Democratic Services Committee, the Standards Committee's Community Committee Member and two lay members.

5. Applicants must be considered against the criteria set down by the Council when the Committee was established. These criteria are set out, for information, in the appendix to this report.

Recommendation

6. Members are asked to note the information and for any comments they may have on the process.

Appendix

Criteria for appointing members to the Standards Committee

Applicants will be required to demonstrate independence and impartiality in assisting the Standards Committee in promoting, maintaining and improving ethical arrangements within Gwynedd Council and the county's community/town councils.

The work of the Committee will require the members to possess the following qualities and skills:-

- Listening skills;
- Ability to understand and weigh up evidence;
- Ability to come to an objective view and explain that view by reference to the evidence;
- Team working skills;
- Respect for others and an understanding of diversity issues;
- Discretion;
- Personal integrity.

Additional Criteria for Independent members

A detailed knowledge of local government is not necessary although it would be an advantage if potential candidates were interested in matters relating to public life and services. In addition, independent members must: -

- Be eligible for selection as an independent;
- Be well respected in the community;
- Be able to meet the time commitment involved and be available at short notice;
- Be able to provide two references.

The ability to speak Welsh will be considered to be an advantage and the need to achieve a balance of skills, qualities and expertise on the Committee as well as the need to represent the community as a whole and achieve a geographical spread will all be taken into account.

Committee :	STANDARDS COMMITTEE
Date:	26 January 2015
Title	Training for Community Councils
Author:	Monitoring Officer
Action:	For Information

Background

1. In its previous meeting the Committee decided that training should once again be offered to community and town councils. However it also wished to consider the best way to provide such training, and to find out what the councils wanted.
2. I enclose a copy of a letter sent to the councils, the contents of which are self-explanatory. The responses received to date will be reported at the meeting, but up to now it has been favourable.
3. More detailed, direct discussions have also been opened to find out what kind of problems face community councils and what kind of support and advice can be provided, such as guidelines or protocols etc.

Recommendation

4. The Committee's views on the suggestions made in the letter are requested, together with any suggestions as to the kind of support that could be offered to community and town councils.

Gwasanaeth Cyfreithiol Legal Service

Rheolwr/ Manager - Iwan G. D. Evans

Gofynnwch am/Ask for: **Sion Huws**

☎ (01286) 679168

Ein Cyf / Our Ref: PDB/14/11/SH

Eich Cyf / Your Ref:

At: Clercod y Cynghorau Cymuned a Thref
To: Clerks of Community/Town Councils



09/01/15

Annwyl Glerc,

Y Cod Ymddygiad i Aelodau

Mae'r Pwyllgor Safonau yn awyddus i barhau i gynnis cymorth a chefnogaeth i gynghorau cymuned a thref ar faterion yn ymwneud â'r Cod Ymddygiad.

Un ffordd y mae wedi gwneud hyn yn y gorffennol yw drwy drefnu sesiynau i aelodau a chlercod lle cyflwynir hyfforddiant gan y Swyddog Monitro a chyfreithwyr y Cyngor. Teimlir ei bod yn amserol cynnal sesiynau tebyg unwaith eto, ond mae'r Pwyllgor yn awyddus i sicrhau fod unrhyw gymorth sy'n cael ei gynnis yn cyfarch eich gofynion chi. Mae wedi gofyn i mi felly gysylltu i gael eich barn, fel cyngor, ar gynnwys a ffurf yr hyfforddiant a ellir ei gynnis.

O'm safbwynt i, teimlaf y dylai unrhyw hyfforddiant ganolbwyntio ar y sefyllfaoedd 'go iawn' hynny yr ydych yn gorfod delio â nhw. Hoffwn felly awgrymu cynnal sesiynau/gweithdai i drafod y sefyllfaoedd hynny, lle gallwn gynnis cyngor ymarferol ar sut i fynd i'r afael â nhw.

Byddai'r drafodaeth yn cael ei arwain gan yr hyn yr hoffech chi ei drafod ond ar sail ein profiad o'r mathau o sefyllfaoedd y cawn gwestiynau yn eu cylch, awgrymaf y penawdau cyffredinol canlynol:

Dear Clerk,

The Code of Conduct for Members

The Standards Committee is eager to continue to offer guidance and support to community and town councils on matters relating to the Code of Conduct.

One of the ways it has done this in the past is by arranging training sessions for members and clerks in which training is provided by the Monitoring Officer and solicitors from the Council. It is felt that such sessions should be arranged again, but the Committee is anxious to ensure that any assistance offered addresses your needs. It has therefore asked me to contact you for your views on the content and form of the training.

From my point of view, I feel that any training should concentrate on those 'real life' situations that you have to deal with. I would therefore like to suggest holding sessions/workshops where those situations can be discussed, and where we can offer practical advice on how to tackle them.

The discussion would be led by the issues you would like to raise but, on the basis of the kind of questions we are asked regularly, I would suggest the following general headings:



✉ SionH@gwynedd.gov.uk
DX 713561 CAERNARFON 5
☎ Ffacs / Fax 01286 679466

Swyddfa Cyngor
Caernarfon,
Gwynedd. LL55 1SH
☎ 01766 771000
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Parch • Gwasanaethu • Positif • Gweithio fel tîm • Gwerth am arian
Respect • Serving • Positive • Working as a team • Value for money

- Buddiannau personol - pryd ddylai cynghorwyr adael a phryd mae'n iawn iddynt aros?
- Creu a chynnal diwylliant priodol. Rôl y Clerc a'r Aelod.
- Trafodaethau a phenderfyniadau – sut i sicrhau eu bod yn drefnus a phriodol ac na fyddant yn arwain at broblemau ymddygiad ?
- Goddefebau gan y Pwyllgor Safonau.
- Personal interests – when should councillors leave and when can they stay?
- Creating and maintaining the appropriate culture. The rôle of the Clerk and the Councillor.
- Discussions and decisions – how to ensure that they are orderly and properly conducted and that they do not lead to conduct problems?
- Dispensations by the Standards Committee.

Byddwn yn ddiolchgar o wybod os ydych yn cytuno gyda'r awgrym uchod neu os oes yna gymorth gwahanol neu ychwanegol y gallem ei gynnig.

I would be grateful to know if you agree with this suggestion or whether there is any different or additional assistance that we could offer.

Yn draddodiadol mae'r cyfarfodydd wedi eu cynnal gyda'r nos ym Mhwlheli, Dolgellau, Trawsfynydd a Chaernarfon (gan gynnwys sesiwn drwy'r Saesneg), ond eto hoffem gael eich barn chi am y trefniant yma.

In the past, meetings have been held in the evenings in Pwllheli, Dolgellau, Trawsfynydd and Caernarfon (including a session held in English), but again we would welcome your views on this arrangement.

Byddwn yn ddiolchgar iawn felly o glywed os ydych yn dymuno i ni gynnal sesiynau o'r fath, os oes cwestiynau neu faterion penodol yr hoffech i ni eu trafod ac os yw'r trefniadau arfaethedig yn dderbyniol.

I would therefore be very grateful to hear from you as to whether or not you would like us to arrange sessions on the Code of Conduct, if there are any particular issues or questions you would like to raise and if the proposed arrangements would be acceptable.

Yn gywir / Yours faithfully,

pp. **Iwan G D Evans**
Swyddog Monitro / Monitoring Officer

Committee :	STANDARDS COMMITTEE
Date:	26 January 2015
Title	Allegations against members
Author:	Monitoring Officer
Action:	For Information

1. Background

The purpose of this report is to present information to the Committee regarding formal complaints made against members. The report is based on information received from the Ombudsman and the case references are his.

2. Complaints

2.1 Case No.201300346

Date received: 23/04/13

Complaint

That a county councillor had secretly filmed and recorded a conversation and then put it on his Facebook page.

Decision

Reprimand, film to be taken off Facebook, training.

2.2 Case No.201301307

Date received: 06/06/13

Complaint

That a county councillor had behaved in a threatening manner towards the complainant.

Decision

Member suspended for 2 months by Standards Committee. No appeal submitted. Suspension came to an end on 15/12/14.

2.3 Case No. 201301629

Date received: 17/06/13

Complaint

That a town councillor had failed to declare an interest at a meeting of the council.

Decision

Member suspended for three months by Standards Committee. No appeal submitted. Suspension came to an end on 18/12/14

2.4 Case No. 6141/201400682

Date received: 29/04/14

Complaint

Complaint by fellow member that a town councillor had misused his position for financial gain.

Decision

Ombudsman investigating aspects of complaint.

2.5 Case No. 201402810

Date received: 28/07/14

Complaint

Member had sent an e-mail to a local organisation, purporting to express the community council's views, without its authorisation.

Decision

Referred to Monitoring Officer for investigation and to report to the Standards Committee.

2.6 Case No. 201403279

Date received: 14/08/14

Complaint

Complaint by member of the public that a county councillor had breached a number of the code's principles in dealing with a local matter.

Decision

No investigation. Although a member should respond fully and promptly to correspondence, failure to do so was not serious enough to be a breach of the code. No evidence that the member had refused to discuss the matter with the complainant or that she had tried to cause him a disadvantage.

2.7 Case No. 5847/201402641 & 201402642 & 201403463

Date received: 18/07/14

Complaint

Complaint by a town councillor that three of his fellow members had failed to declare an interest.

Decision

5847/201402641 & 201402642 No evidence of failure to comply with the code – the members may have had a personal interest and they had declared that interest in the meeting. However the interest was not a prejudicial one.

201403463 Investigation continuing.

2.8 Case No. 6769/201402621

Date received: 18/07/14

Complaint

Complaint by a town councillor that a fellow member had behaved in an inappropriate manner.

Decision

No investigation. No evidence to support the allegation. Did not appear that behaviour would have been a breach even if proved...

2.9 Case No. 20140314

Date received: 29/09/14

Complaint

Complaint that a community councillor failed to declare an interest.

Decision

Considering whether to investigate.

2.10 Case No. 5847/201404989 & 5847/201404990

Date received: 21/10/14

Complaint

That a town council member had behaved in a manner that would bring the council into disrepute.

Decision

Considering whether to investigate.

2.11 Case No. 5847/201404533

Date received: 06/10/14

Complaint

That a community council member had failed to declare an interest and had behaved in an inappropriate manner

Decision

Investigation of certain aspects as part of an investigation already underway into complaints against the same member.

2.12 Case No. 5847/201405385

Date received: 14/11/14

Complaint

Complaint by a fellow member that town council member, in his role as Chair, had behaved unfairly towards him.

Decision

No investigation. No evidence that the behaviour was rude or offensive or that it constituted harassment under the code.

3. Recommendation

The Committee is asked to note the information.