

CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

HELD AT COMMITTEE ROOM 3, CIVIC CENTRE, SWANSEA ON FRIDAY 21
FEBRUARY 2014 AT 9.30 A.M.

PRESENT: A Novis (Chair) presided

Councillor(s): **Councillor(s):**

R A Clay P Downing

Independent Members:

J Burgess M Howells C G Walton
J Gomes

Officers:

J Hooper - Directorate Lawyer
H Evans - Head of Democratic Services
G Borsden - Democratic Services Officer

60. **WELCOME**

The Chair welcomed Councillor R A Clay to his first meeting of the Committee.

61. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C E Lloyd and L G Thomas.

62. **DISCLOSURES OF PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS**

In accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the City and County of Swansea, the following interest was declared:

Clive Walton declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Minute 67 (1) and 67 (3) as he used to be a neighbour of Councillor W Evans. He left prior to discussion on these items.

63. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 17 January 2014 be accepted as a correct record.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Standards Committee (21.02.2014) Cont'd

64. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Minute 54 - Meeting with Group Leaders

The Head of Democratic Services reported back on the responses from the Political Group Leaders about meeting with the Standards Committee.

He indicated that the Leader of the Council was unavailable on 18 March 2014 however the other 3 Political Group Leaders were able to attend.

Members of the Standards Committee agreed that the three Opposition Group Leaders be invited to individually attend the meeting on 18 March 2014 at 2.15, 2.45 and 3.15 and that a date be arranged for individual meetings with the Leader of Council and Chief Executive at a future meeting of the Committee.

65. **UPDATE ON CASES**

The Head of Democratic Services provided an update on current breach of the Code of Conduct investigations.

66. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

The Committee were requested to exclude the public during consideration of the items of business identified in the recommendation to the report on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as set out in the Exclusion paragraph of Schedule 12A of the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007, relevant to the items of business as set out in the report.

The Committee considered the Public Interest Test in deciding whether to exclude the public from the meeting for the items of business where the Public Interest Test is relevant as set out in the report.

RESOLVED that the public be excluded for the following items of business.

(CLOSED SESSION)

67. **APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION**

The Monitoring Officer's report submitted considered applications for dispensation from various Councillors under the Standards (Grant of Dispensation) (Wales) Regulations 2001.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Standards Committee (21.02.2014) Cont'd

RESOLVED that:

- (1) Councillor W Evans be granted dispensation under paragraph 2(d) and 2(f) of the Standards Committee (Grant of Dispensation) (Wales) Regulations 2001 to stay, speak but not vote on matters relating to the disposal of surplus land at Tre Uchaf Primary School and to the disposal of surplus land at any school.
- (2) Councillor J C Richards be granted dispensation under paragraphs 2(d) and 2(f) of the Standards Committee (Grant of Dispensation) (Wales) Regulations 2001 to stay, speak and vote on any item relating to general staff employment, on budget matters and any other matters other than those that directly affect her sister-in-law and husband's cousin by specific reference to their posts;
- (3) Councillor D Phillips, J C Richards, N S Bradley, J E Burtonshaw, M C Child, S E Crouch, C R Doyle, W Evans, R C Stewart and M Theaker be granted dispensation under paragraphs 2(d) and 2(f) of the Standards Committee (Grant of Dispensation) (Wales) Regulations 2001 to stay, speak and vote on Local Authority (LA) School Governor Appointments unless they have a close personal relationship with any of the applicants under consideration;
- (4) Councillors J E Burtonshaw, C R Doyle and J C Richards be granted dispensation under paragraphs 2(d) and 2(f) of the Standards Committee (Grant of Dispensation) (Wales) Regulations 2001 to stay, speak but not vote on matters relating to the disposal of surplus land at any school.

The meeting ended at 10.35 p.m.

CHAIR