

No.

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Remote Meeting held on 8th March, 2024.

The Committee agenda is available [here](#).

Present: R. Hendicott (Chair), L. Tinsley (Vice-Chair), R. Alexander, G. Watkins (Independent Members); Councillor P. Summers (Town and Community Council Representative); Councillors R.M. Birch, J.E. Charles and C.P. Franks.

906 ANNOUNCEMENT –

Prior to the commencement of the business of the Committee, the Principal Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer read the following statement: “May I remind everyone present that the meeting will be live streamed as well as recorded via the internet and this recording archived for future viewing”.

907 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE –

This was received from Mrs. P. Hallett (Independent Member).

908 MINUTES –

RESOLVED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd February, 2024 be approved as a correct record, subject to the word “the” in the first sentence of the last paragraph on page 4 of the minutes being amended to read “they” and the word “agenda” in the first sentence on page 6 being amended to read “agendad”.

909 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

Mrs. Tinsley enquired as to whether any Elected Members on the Committee may be considered to have an interest in relation to the Part II reports on the agenda being Elected Members of the Vale of Glamorgan Council. The Deputy Monitoring Officer advised that under the Code of Conduct this was a matter for the Elected Member themselves to consider.

No declarations of interest were received.

910 STANDARDS COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME (MO / HLDS) –

The Standards Committee had previously agreed in March 2018 to establish a Forward Work Programme for the Committee for each Municipal Year. Attached as Appendix 1 to the report was a suggested Forward Work Programme for the Municipal Year 2024/25 for the Committee's consideration. In noting that the

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meeting date for 18th July was referring to the year 2028 it was accepted that this was an error and should have read 2024. The Principal Democratic Services Officer also advised that no applications for dispensation had been received for the March meeting but that a number of applications were anticipated for the May meeting.

Following consideration of the report, it was subsequently

RESOLVED – T H A T the Forward Work Programme attached at Appendix 1 to the report be agreed.

Reason for decision

To discuss and agree a Forward Work Programme

911 REPORT RELATING TO A COMPLAINT AGAINST COUNCILLOR A IN RESPECT OF THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL (DMO/OMLS) –

The Public Services Ombudsman for Wales ('the Ombudsman') had received a complaint that a Member of the Vale of Glamorgan Council had breached the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Members' Code of Conduct. The Ombudsman had investigated the complaint under Section 69(1)(a) of the Local Government Act 2000 made findings in relation to the complaint and had referred the matter to the Council's Deputy Monitoring Officer for consideration by the Council's Standards Committee.

RESOLVED – T H A T the report be noted and considered in connection with the Part II report later on the agenda.

Reason for decision

To allow the Part I and II reports to be considered together.

912 REPORT RELATING TO A COMPLAINT AGAINST COUNCILLOR A IN RESPECT OF A TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL (DMO/OMLS) –

The Public Services Ombudsman for Wales ('the Ombudsman') had received a complaint that a Member of a Town and Community Council had breached that Council's Members' Code of Conduct. The Ombudsman had investigated the complaint under Section 69(1)(a) of the Local Government Act 2000 made findings in relation to the complaint and had referred the matter to the Council's Deputy Monitoring Officer for consideration by the Council's Standards Committee.

RESOLVED – T H A T the report be noted and considered in connection with the Part II report later on the agenda.

Reason for decision

To allow the Part I and II reports to be considered together.

913 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC –

RESOLVED – T H A T under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 4 of Schedule 12A (as amended) of the Act, the relevant paragraphs of the Schedule being referred to in brackets after the minute heading.

914 REPORT RELATING TO A COMPLAINT AGAINST COUNCILLOR A IN RESPECT OF THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL (DMO/OMLS) (EXEMPT INFORMATION – PARAGRAPHS 12, 13 AND 18C) –

The Public Services Ombudsman for Wales ('the Ombudsman') had received a complaint on 4th May, 2022 that Councillor A of the Vale of Glamorgan Council had breached the Members' Code of Conduct. The complaint was that Councillor A may have failed to observe the Code of Conduct for Members of the Vale of Glamorgan Council insofar as Councillor A had breached the Code of Conduct for Members.

The Ombudsman had investigated the complaint under Section 69(1)(a) of the Local Government Act 2000. The Ombudsman had made findings in relation to the complaint received and had referred the matter on to the Council's Deputy Monitoring Officer for consideration by the Council's Standards Committee. The Committee was therefore being requested to consider and determine in line with regulations the following –

1. THAT there was no evidence of any failure to comply with the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Members' Code of Conduct and to notify the Councillor and any person who made any complaint which gave rise to the investigation and the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales accordingly; or
2. THAT the Councillor be given the opportunity to make representations at a future meeting of the Standards Committee, either orally or in writing in respect of the findings of the investigation and any complaint that they have as failed, or may have failed, to comply with the Council's Members' Code of Conduct; and
3. THAT if the Standards Committee made a recommendation in line with Recommendation (2) above, to determine whether the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales' investigating officer is requested to attend the Standards Committee in line with Regulations 8 (3A) and 8 (3C) of the Local Government Investigations (Functions of Monitoring Officers and Standards Committees) (Wales) Regulations 2001.

Having considered the report, Committee subsequently

No.

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T Councillor A be given the opportunity to make representations at a future meeting of the Standards Committee, either orally or in writing in respect of the findings of the investigation and any complaint that they had failed, or may have failed, to comply with the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Members' Code of Conduct.

(2) T H A T the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales' investigating officer be requested to attend the Standards Committee in line with Regulations 8(3A) and 8 (3C) of the Local Government Investigations (Functions of Monitoring Officers and Standards Committees) (Wales) Regulations 2001.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To comply with the provisions of the Local Government Investigations (Functions of Monitoring Officers and Standards Committees) (Wales) Regulations 2001 ("the 2001 Regulations).

(2) In line with the provisions of the 2001 Regulations.

915 REPORT RELATING TO A COMPLAINT AGAINST COUNCILLOR A IN RESPECT OF A TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL (DMO/OMLS) (EXEMPT INFORMATION – PARAGRAPHS 12, 13 AND 18C) –

The Public Service Ombudsman for Wales ('the Ombudsman') had received a complaint on 11th October, 2021 that Councillor A of a Town and Community Council had breached the Members' Code of Conduct. The complaint was that Councillor A may have failed to observe the Code of Conduct for Members of the Town and Community Council insofar as Councillor A had breached the Code of Conduct for Members.

The Ombudsman had investigated the complaint under Section 69(1)(a) of the Local Government Act 2000 and made findings in relation to the complaint received and referred the matter on to the Council's Deputy Monitoring Officer for consideration by the Council's Standards Committee. The Committee was therefore being requested to consider and determine in line with regulations the following -

1. THAT there was no evidence of any failure to comply with the said Town and Community Council's Members' Code of Conduct and to notify the Councillor and any person who made any complaint which gave rise to the investigation and the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales accordingly; or
2. THAT the Councillor be given the opportunity to make representations at a future meeting of the Standards Committee, either orally or in writing in respect of the findings of the investigation and any complaint that they had failed, or may have failed, to comply with the said Town and Community Council's Members' Code of Conduct; and
3. THAT if the Standards Committee made a recommendation in line with Recommendation (2) above, to determine whether the Public Services

No.

Ombudsman for Wales' investigating officer is requested to attend the Standards Committee in line with Regulations 8 (3A) and 8 (3C) of the Local Government Investigations (Functions of Monitoring Officers and Standards Committees) (Wales) Regulations 2001.

Having considered the report, it subsequently

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T Councillor A be given the opportunity to make representations at a future meeting of the Standards Committee, either orally or in writing in respect of the findings of the investigation and any complaint that they had failed, or may have failed, to comply with the Town and Community Council's Members' Code of Conduct.

(2) T H A T the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales' investigating officer be requested to attend the Standards Committee in line with Regulations 8(3A) and 8 (3C) of the Local Government Investigations (Functions of Monitoring Officers and Standards Committees) (Wales) Regulations 2001.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To comply with the provisions of the Local Government Investigations (Functions of Monitoring Officers and Standards Committees) (Wales) Regulations 2001 ("the 2001 Regulations).

(2) In line with the provisions of the 2001 Regulations.