

MERTHYR TYDFIL COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL



MINUTES OF MEETING

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING**

MONDAY, 9TH JULY, 2012

**PRESENT:** Professor M Aylward (In the Chair)

Councillors John Harvey, Mike Harbinson, Peter Young,  
C T Jones and S P Brown

Carys Kennedy (Head of Legal and Democratic Services) and  
Amelia England

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
150	Apologies for absence	Apologies were received from Councillor C Tovey, Yvonne Wood and Elizabeth Martin-Jones and the Chair advised that Elizabeth Martin-Jones had broken her hip.
151	Declarations of Interest	Declarations of interest were received from Councillor C Jones and Councillor P Brown in respect of item 3 - To reconsider previous Dispensations granted to Councillors. Councillor P Brown declared an interest in item 7.
152	To reconsider previous Dispensations granted to Councillors during their 2008 - 2012 term of office	The Monitoring Officer led Standards Committee through the report.  Questions were raised and were answered by the Monitoring Officer.

		<p><b>RESOLVED that:</b></p> <p>Councillor A Jones be entitled to speak and vote on any matter which may affect him as the General Secretary of the Merthyr Tydfil Association Football League except where any financial and/or funding matters are being discussed.</p> <p>Councillor B Toomey be entitled to speak and vote on any matters which may affect the South Wales Fire Authority except where any financial and/or funding matters are being discussed.</p> <p>Councillor C.J. Barry be entitled to speak and vote on any matter relating to Merthyr Tydfil Football Club except where any financial and/or funding matters are being discussed.</p> <p>Councillor C. Tovey be entitled to speak and vote on any matter relating to Cwm Taf Local Health Board except where any financial implications are being discussed.</p> <p>Councillor C Jones be entitled to speak and vote on any matter relating to Merthyr Tydfil Football Club except where financial and/or funding matters are being discussed.</p> <p>Councillor C Jones be entitled to speak and vote on any matter relating to Cwm Taf Local Health Board except where any financial and/or funding matters are being discussed.</p> <p>Councillor L Elliott be entitled to speak and vote on any matter relating to Merthyr Village Ltd and the Local Development Plan</p> <p>Councillor S.P. Brown be entitled to speak and vote on any matter relating to Merthyr Village Ltd. and the Local Development Plan.</p> <p>Councillor S.P. Brown's previously granted dispensation relating to the Planning Application for housing on Winchfawr Road, Heolgerrig be removed as it is no longer applicable.</p> <p>Councillor G. Jones be entitled to speak and vote on any matter relating to Housing except where any financial and/or funding matters are being discussed.</p> <p>Councillor Richard Thomas' previously granted dispensation relating to the Planning Application at Ty Llwyd Farm, Quakers Yard, Treharris be removed as it is no longer applicable.</p> <p>Councillor C.J. Barry be entitled to speak and vote on any matters which affect the Cwm Taf Local Health Board except when financial implications are being discussed.</p> <p>Councillor C Jones be entitled to speak and vote on matters relating to Cwm Taf Crossroads for Carers and Merthyr and the Valley MIND (Mental Health Charity) except where any</p>
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		<p>financial and/or funding matters are being discussed.</p> <p>Councillor S.P. Brown's previously granted dispensation relating to all highway and traffic matters within Cyfarthfa Electoral division be removed.</p> <p>Councillor G. Jones be entitled to speak but not vote on any matter relating to the topic of "Sleeping Policemen/Speed Bumps" within the Bedlinog Electoral Division subject to whether or not this matter has been resolved.</p> <p>Councillor G Jones be entitled to speak but not vote on any matter relating to the Co-op Fields in the village of Bedlinog.</p> <p>Councillor H. Barrett be entitled to speak and vote on matters relating to the new Community School to replace Ysgol-y-Graig, Cefn Coed, Merthyr Tydfil.</p> <p>Councillor L. Mytton be entitled to speak and vote on matters relating to the new Community School to replace Ysgol-y-Graig, Cefn Coed, Merthyr Tydfil.</p> <p>Any Councillor who is nominated or appointed as the Local Authority School Governor on a School Governing Body shall, after declaring their interest, be allowed to speak and vote on any issue regarding the High School Review and Lifelong Learning Agenda.</p> <p>Any Councillor who is nominated or appointed to a body as the Authority Representative shall, after declaring their interest, be allowed to speak and vote on any matter relating to that body or where that body has made representation except where financial and/or funding issues are being discussed where the Councillor will only have the right to speak (as granted by the Code) but not the right to vote.</p> <p>All Councillors be entitled to speak and vote on any matters relating to Communities First Programme that affects their electoral division except where any financial and or funding matters are being discussed.</p> <p>All Councillors be entitled to speak and vote on any matter relating to the Local Development Plan where they would have had to declare an interest as Council Representative on an Outside Body. The Dispensation did not cover "personal interest".</p> <p>All Councillors be entitled to speak and vote at any meeting when the Holistic Area Regeneration Plan for the County Borough to the Heads of the Valleys programme is being discussed.</p>
153	Code of Conduct for Members and Co-opted Members - Request for	<p>The Monitoring Officer led Standard Committee through the report.</p> <p>Questions were raised and were answered by the</p>

	Dispensation	Monitoring Officer  <b>RESOLVED that:</b>  This matter be deferred to request further information and clarification of circumstances for dispensation from Councillor A Jones, and reconvene as soon as possible.
154	Code of Conduct for Members and Co-opted Members - Request for Dispensation	The Monitoring Officer led Standard Committee through the report.  Questions were raised and were answered by the Monitoring Officer.  <b>RESOLVED that:</b>  This matter be deferred to request further information and clarification of circumstances for dispensation from Councillor G. Davies  It was noted from Councillor G Davies' letter that his membership of the Cyfarthfa Museum and Heritage Group was not listed for dispensation.
155	Code of Conduct for Members and Co-opted Members - Request for Dispensation	The Monitoring Officer led Standard Committee through the report.  Questions were raised and were answered by the Monitoring Officer.  <b>RESOLVED that:</b>  Councillor R Braithwaite's request for dispensation not granted on a vote of 5 – 1.
156	Code of Conduct for Members and Co-opted Members - Request for Dispensation	Councillor P Brown left the meeting while this item was discussed.  The Monitoring Officer led Standard Committee through the report.  Questions were raised and were answered by the Monitoring Officer.  <b>RESOLVED that:</b>  Councillor T Chaplin be granted dispensation to speak and vote: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• on any housing matter except those pertaining to, impacting on or involving Wales and West Housing.</li> <li>• on any matter relating to the natural heritage of Merthyr Tydfil.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• on any matter relating to the historic environment of Merthyr Tydfil.</li> </ul> <p>To seek further information and clarification in respect of his continued membership as a 'lay person' and company nominee on the Ffos-y-Fran Liaison Committee.</p> <p>To seek further information and clarification in respect of the Merthyr Tydfil Local Access Forum.</p>
157	Any other item deemed urgent by the Chair	<p>Councillor P Brown returned to the meeting.</p> <p>a) Questions were raised by Co-opted Members with regard to attendance allowance, expenses and NICs.</p> <p>The Monitoring Officer will obtain the required information and write formally to Co-opted Members.</p> <p>b) The Chair requested an update on the disciplinary.</p> <p>The Monitoring Officer advised that a Sanction was imposed that the member should be Censured and that this was reported to Full Council.</p> <p>c) It was agreed to arrange a further meeting as soon as possible.</p>