



MINUTES OF MEETING

STANDARDS MEETING

FRIDAY, 19TH MARCH, 2021

PRESENT: J Morgan (**In the Chair**)
I Cathrew (**Vice Chair**)

Councillors:
J Amos, G Richards and C Tovey

Independent Members:
D McCarthy, A L Morgan and M Veale

Community Council Representative:
(none)

Officers:
S Jones (Senior Solicitor)
K Reddy (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
487	Apologies for absence	Apologies for absence received from Richard Searl (Bedlinog Community Council Representative).
488	Declarations of Interest	No declarations of interest were made.

CLOSED SESSION

Exempt

Resolved that:

The public be excluded from the Meeting on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 12 and 13 under Part 4 of Schedule 12A Section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

489	Standards Committee Hearing	<p>Members were advised that the complainant would not be joining the meeting but that the respondent would be in attendance.</p> <p>Simon Jones, the Council's Senior Solicitor, referred to the complaint before them today and advised that the complaint would be dealt with as a local resolution in accordance with the Local Dispute Policy and Procedures.</p> <p>He took members through Stage 3 of the procedures of the Local Dispute Policy and, as the complainant was not in attendance, he also took members through the statement received from the complainant.</p> <p>The respondent then addressed the Committee on his statement.</p> <p>The respondent was then given the opportunity to ask any questions with regard to the complainant's statement and also to make further comments on his own statement.</p> <p>Questions were asked by the Committee and responded to by the respondent and, if required, the Council's Senior Solicitor.</p> <p>The respondent then left the meeting.</p> <p>As Michael McCarthy had technical problems joining the meeting and was therefore unable to take part in the debate, he was advised not to re-join the meeting as he would be unable to vote on this item.</p> <p>Following consideration of the evidence and statements, it was RESOLVED that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The respondent had breached the Members' Social Media Policy and the Members' Code of Conduct for Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council. b. No formal action was considered necessary save that the Committee recommended that the respondent undergo refresher training with regard to the Council's Social Media Policy for Members and the Council's Code of Conduct. c. Members agreed the appropriate decision would be conveyed to both the complainant and respondent separately after the meeting had closed. d. An information report be scheduled for a forthcoming Full Council meeting outlining details and the outcome of this Standards Committee's decision.
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RE-OPENED SESSION

490	Any other item deemed urgent by the Chair	The Chair advised that there was no business deemed urgent.
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