

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the special meeting of the Standards Committee held at The Pavilions, Cambrian Park, Clydach Vale on Thursday, 27 November 2014 at 5.15 p.m.

PRESENT

Independent Members

Mr.G.Smith (Chair)
Mrs.A.Jones
Mr.M.Jehu

County Borough Councillors

C.Davies
G.Stacey

Community Councillor

R.Butler

Officers in Attendance

Mr.C.B.Jones – Deputy Monitoring Officer
Mr.A.Wilkins – Head of Legal Democratic and Corporate

14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with the Code of Conduct, the following declarations of personal interests were received from:

- (1) County Borough Councillor G.Stacey in respect of Agenda Item No.3 – Initial Determination of a Report referred to the council’s Monitoring Officer by the Public Service Ombudsman for Wales under Section 71(2)(c) of the Local Government Act 2000 (Ref: 201304901) – “I am a member of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council and a member of the Development Control Committee. Councillor McDonald is known to me but is not a close friend”
- (2) County Borough Councillor C.Davies in respect of Agenda Item No.3 – Initial Determination of a Report referred to the council’s Monitoring Officer by the Public Service Ombudsman for Wales under Section 71(2)(c) of the Local Government Act 2000 (Ref: 201304901) – “I was present at the Development Control Committee meetings referred to in the report”

- (3) Community Councillor R. Butler in respect of Agenda Item No.3 – Initial Determination of a Report referred to the council's Monitoring Officer by the Public Service Ombudsman for Wales under Section 71(2)(c) of the Local Government Act 2000 (Ref: 201304901) – "I am a former member of Rhondda Cynon Taf County's Development Control Committee and known to Councillor McDonald but not as a close friend "

15 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) for the next item of business as, in the opinion of the Director of Legal and Democratic Services, it contains exempt information as defined in Paragraph 18c of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) namely, the deliberations of the Standards Committee established under the provisions of Part 3 of the Local Government Act 2000 in reaching a finding on any matter referred to it and it is considered that the information should not be disclosed so that none of the subject issues are prejudiced by any possible publicity of the case before the hearing and that consequently the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information by virtue of which the meeting is likely not to be open to the public during its consideration.

REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER CONTAINING EXEMPT INFORMATION

16 INITIAL DETERMINATION OF A REPORT REFERRED TO THE COUNCIL'S MONITORING OFFICER BY THE PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES UNDER SECTION 71(2)(c) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000 (REF: 201304901)

The Deputy Monitoring Officer advised the Standards Committee that the meeting had been convened to consider a report of the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales, under Section 69 of the Local Government Act 2000, which had been compiled following the Ombudsman's investigation into allegations that a County Borough Councillor had failed to comply with the Code of Conduct adopted by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council on 2 May 2008.

The Committee had to determine, either, that there was no evidence of any failure to comply with the Code of Conduct or that the County Borough Councillor concerned, should be given the opportunity to make representations either orally or in writing in respect of the findings of the investigation and any allegation that he had failed or may have failed to comply with the Member's Code of Conduct.

Following consideration of the contents of Ombudsman's report, it was **RESOLVED** that County Borough Councillor R.B.McDonald as the person who is the subject of the investigation, should be given the opportunity to make representations either, orally or in writing, in respect of the findings of the investigation and any allegation that he has failed or may have failed to comply with the Code of Conduct.

G.Smith
Chairman

The meeting terminated at 5.30 p.m.