

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held at the County Borough Council Offices, The Pavilions, Clydach Vale on Friday, 13 February 2015 at 10 a.m.

PRESENT

Independent Members

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

County Borough Councillors C.Davies and 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

20 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

In accordance with the Code of Conduct, Community Councillor R.Butler declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda Item No.4 – Initial Determination of a Report Referred to the Council's Monitoring Officer by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales under Section 71(2) of the Local Government Act 2000 (Ref: 201304589) – stating - "The Councillor named in the report is a family member-in-law and I will leave the meeting for this item and take no part in the matter".

21 MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve as accurate records, the minutes of the meetings of the Standards Committee held on 4 November 2014, 27 November 2014 and 20 January 2015.

22 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, Legal & Democratic Services, it contains exempt information as defined in Paragraph 13 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Act, namely, information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual 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.

(**Note:** At this point in the proceedings, having declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following matter (Minute No.20 refers), Community Councillor R.Butler left the meeting)

REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER CONTAINING EXEMPT INFORMATION

23 INITIAL DETERMINATION REGARDING 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: 201304589)

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 Members were advised that they 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 Members' Code of Conduct.

Following consideration of the Ombudsman's report, it was **RESOLVED** that County Borough Councillor K.Privett 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.

24 CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

(**Note:** At this point in the proceedings, Community Councillor R.Butler returned to the meeting).

Before closing the meeting, the Chairman informed the Standards Committee that, at its next meeting, the Monitoring Officer would present a report on the workload of the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales in relation to Rhondda Cynon Taf and also, a report seeking the Committee's views on the `Devolution, Democracy and Delivery White

Paper - Reforming Local Government: Power to Local People' in respect of the future of local government in Wales which was currently out to consultation.

**G.SMITH
CHAIRMAN**

The meeting terminated at 10.20 a.m.