

STANDARDS COMMITTEE
20 OCTOBER 2020

Minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee of Flintshire County Council held in the Remote attendance meeting on Tuesday, 20 October 2020

PRESENT: Rob Dewey (Chairman)

Councillor: Patrick Heesom

Co-opted member: Julia Hughes

IN ATTENDANCE: Monitoring Officer, and Democratic Services Officers

9. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (INCLUDING WHIPPING DECLARATIONS)

None.

10. DISPENSATIONS

The Monitoring Officer provided background information to explain why dispensations had been submitted by Councillor Veronica Gay, Councillor Richard Lloyd, and Councillor Stephen Rodham (Saltney Town Council), for consideration in relation to applications for grant funding by Saltney Town Council.

Councillor Veronica Gay

As Councillor Gay was not present the Monitoring Officer introduced the dispensation request. He explained that an application for grant funding from Wood Memorial Primary School, Saltney, had been approved by Saltney Town Council. In addition a notice of motion proposed that equivalent grant funding be made to Saltney Town Council by St. David's High School, Saltney, and St. Anthony's Primary School, Saltney. The Monitoring Officer explained that he had advised Councillor Gay that as she did not have a personal or prejudicial interest in the funding for the other two schools she did not need to be granted a dispensation. The Monitoring Officer suggested that if the Committee agreed he would write to Councillor Gay to confirm that she did not have a personal and prejudicial interest in funding for St. David's High School or St. Anthony's Primary School by virtue of paragraph 12 (a) iv of the Code and therefore could not be granted dispensation. This was agreed by the Committee.

Councillor Richard Lloyd

As Councillor Lloyd was not present the Monitoring Officer introduced the dispensation request. He gave background information and advised that Councillor Lloyd was a school governor at St. David's High School, Saltney, and therefore had a personal and prejudicial interest in matters relating to St. David's High School when considered at Saltney Town Council.

Councillor Stephen Rodham

As Councillor Rodham was not present the Monitoring Officer introduced the dispensation request. He provided background information and advised that Councillor Rodham was a school governor, appointed by Saltney Town Council, at St. Anthony's Primary School, Saltney. He explained that Councillor Rodham did not have a prejudicial interest by virtue of paragraph 12 of the Code in relation to matters regarding St. Anthony's Primary School, when considered at Saltney Town Council. However, Councillor Rodham was also a school governor at St. David's High School, Saltney, and had a prejudicial interest when matters regarding St. David's High School were being debated at Saltney Town Council. The Monitoring Officer clarified that Councillor Rodham was a Town Councillor not an elected member of the County Council and therefore could not cite a personal interest in relation to St. David's High School.

The Committee considered the level of dispensations sought and the relevant paragraphs for which dispensation was requested by Councillor Lloyd and Councillor Rodham in their applications. The Monitoring Officer provided advice and guidance to the Committee.

Julia Hughes proposed that Councillor Richard Lloyd and Councillor Stephen Rodham be granted dispensation to write to, speak, and/or answer questions at Council/Committee meetings in relation to the notice of motion to award grant funding by Saltney Town Council to St. David's High School and St. Anthony's Primary School. It was further proposed that Councillor Lloyd and Councillor Rodham not remain in the room during any debate but be allowed to report back to answer questions arising from the debate. The dispensations to be granted for 12 months. This was agreed by the Committee.

The recommendations were moved by Julia Hughes and seconded by Councillor Patrick Heesom.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Monitoring Officer writes to Councillor Veronica Gay to inform her that she did not have a personal and prejudicial interest in the notice of motion to award grant funding to St. David's High School, Saltney, and St. Anthony's Primary School, Saltney, by virtue of paragraph 12 (a) iv of the Code and therefore could not be granted dispensation;
- (b) That Flintshire County Councillor Richard Lloyd be granted dispensation under paragraph (f) of the Standards Committee (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001 to write to, speak and/or answer questions at Council/Committee meetings in relation to the notice of motion to award grant funding to St. David's High School, Saltney by Saltney Town Council. Councillor Lloyd is not to remain at the meeting during consideration of the application but be able to report back to answer questions arising from the debate. The dispensation to be granted for 12 months ceasing on 19 October 2021 and to extend to any application which, in the opinion of the Monitoring Officer, was substantially similar; and

- (c) That Councillor Stephen Rodham, Saltney Town Council, be granted dispensation under paragraph (f) of the Standards Committee (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001 to write to, speak and/or answer questions at Council/Committee meetings in relation the notice of motion to award grant funding to St. Anthony's Primary School, Saltney, and St. David's High School, Saltney, by Saltney Town Council.. Councillor Rodham is not to remain at the meeting during consideration of the applications but be able to report back to answer questions arising from debate. The dispensation to be granted for 12 months ceasing on 19 October 2021 and to extend to any application which, in the opinion of the Monitoring Officer, was substantially similar.

11. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

There were no members of the press or public in attendance.

(The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 6.23 pm)

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Chairman