

STANDARDS COMMITTEE
5 DECEMBER 2022

Minutes of the Standards Committee of Flintshire County Council held as a remote attendance meeting on Monday, 5 December 2022

PRESENT: Julia Hughes (Chair)

Councillors: Teresa Carberry, Andrew Parkhurst and Antony Wren

Co-opted members: David Wynn Davies, Jacqueline Guest, Mark Morgan, Gill Murgatroyd and Councillor Ian Papworth

APOLOGY: Monitoring Officer

IN ATTENDANCE: Deputy Monitoring Officer and Democratic Services Officer

37. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (INCLUDING WHIPPING DECLARATIONS)

On minute 40, Councillor Andrew Parkhurst advised that whilst he attended meetings of Cilcain Community Council in his capacity as the local elected Member, he was not a member of the Community Council and had no close connections with the membership.

38. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 November 2022 were approved, as moved and seconded by Jacqueline Guest and Councillor Ian Papworth.

Matters Arising

Minute 30 - it was confirmed that written feedback from the visits had been shared with the Town and Community Councils.

Minute 31 - the Chair advised that the first meeting of the National Forum had been moved to 27 January 2023 at 2pm. She provided an overview of the agenda items for that meeting to which the Chairs of Standards Committees across Wales would be invited, along with the Chairs of National Park Authorities and Fire & Rescue Authorities.

Minute 33 - Councillor Andrew Parkhurst asked about the timing of the next review of the Flintshire Standard to which the Deputy Monitoring Officer would seek clarification. It was noted that this formed part of the rolling review of the Members' Code of Conduct which was being deferred from July 2023.

Minute 34 - confirmation that the agreed action had been completed by the Monitoring Officer to be given at the next meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be approved as a correct record.

39. DISPENSATIONS

The Deputy Monitoring Officer confirmed that no dispensation requests had been received.

40. REPORTS FROM INDEPENDENT MEMBER VISITS TO TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS

The Chair clarified the purpose of the item and invited verbal feedback on the following visits:

Argoed Community Council on 1 November 2022 and Saltney Town Council on 9 November 2022 (Mark Morgan).

Caerwys Town Council on 18 October 2022 and Brynford Community Council on 8 November 2022 (Gill Murgatroyd).

Cilcain Community Council on 17 October 2022 (Chair).

The following points were raised which were to be fed back to support Town and Community Councils in their procedures:

- Areas of good practice - independent members were pleased to observe that 'declarations of interest' was a standing item on all agendas and that all meetings were well chaired with good support from Clerks and ample opportunities for everyone to participate.
- That the following would be seen as good practice:
 - Chairs/Clerks to verbally invite declarations of interest under that specific item noting that participants could declare interests as required throughout the meeting.
 - To clarify amounts of money to be given to community groups (as mentioned at a particular meeting) to show transparency and to assist members, should an issue arise on potential interests.
 - To ensure that unspecified items raised by members are listed on agendas where possible and are discussed with the Chair and Clerk in advance to help prepare accordingly, to assist members with potential interests and to avoid any delay in the business being discussed.

The recommendation was moved and seconded by Gill Murgatroyd and Mark Morgan.

RESOLVED:

That the verbal reports be received and feedback given to the Town and Community Councils.

41. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

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

(The meeting started at 6.00pm and ended at 6.50pm)

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Chair