

STANDARDS COMMITTEE
30TH SEPTEMBER 2024

Minutes of the meeting of Standards Committee held as a hybrid meeting on Monday 30th September.

PRESENT: **Julia Hughes (Chair)**
Councillor: Ian Hodge
Co-opted Members: David Davies, Councillor Ros Griffiths, Mark Morgan, Gill Murgatroyd

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Carol Ellis acting on behalf of Councillor Charles Cordery
Councillors Mike Peers and Richard Jones as witnesses
Mr Gareth Owens, Monitoring Officer as a witness

APOLOGIES: Councillor Teresa Carberry, Councillor Antony Wren and Jacqueline Guest

CONTRIBUTORS: Matthew Powell, Legal Services Manager
Claire Hardy from Geldards Solicitors
Gwydion Hughes, Barrister for the Ombudsman
Louise Morland, representative of the Ombudsman

IN ATTENDANCE: Democratic Services Manager and Team Leader – Democratic Services

30. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

31. HEARING INTO AN ALLEGED BREACH OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT
[\(link to recording\)](#)

The Chair opened the meeting and explained the process for the hearing into an alleged breach of the code of conduct. She introduced everybody who was present.

A report from the Legal Services Manager explained the background to the hearing.

She explained that there would be times during the meeting where the Committee would need to go into private session, at which point, the live streaming of the meeting would be paused.

Councillor Ellis referred to some handwritten notes that had been made available to her from the former Clerk's PA, and asked if they could be shared with the Committee and the Ombudsman. The Barrister for the Ombudsman said that the Ombudsman's report had been prepared a year previous to the hearing and Councillor Cordery had been invited to submit any relevant information over the previous two years. He added that the document was from an unknown source and there was no statement from the PA. Councillor Ellis explained that Councillor

Cordery believed that the document had been sent to the Ombudsman but had been lost.

After an adjournment it was the decision of the Committee to not accept the document produced at the meeting. At this point Councillor Cordery withdrew from the meeting and said he would like Councillor Ellis to represent him.

The Committee heard representations from Councillor Ellis and the Barrister for the Ombudsman. Witness statements were heard from Mr Gareth Owens, the Council's Monitoring Officer and Buckley Town Councillors, Mike Peers and Richard Jones.

Following the witness statements being heard, Councillor Cordery indicated that he wished to be present in the room to be cross examined by the Barrister.

During the cross-examination Councillor Cordery withdrew from the meeting.

Following a discussion it was agreed that the meeting should be adjourned and re-convened on 21st October.

RESOLVED:

That the meeting be re-convened on 21st October.

32. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

There were two members of the public in attendance.

(The meeting commenced at 9.15am and ended at 6 p.m.)

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Chair