

Meeting of:	Standards Committee
Date of Meeting:	Friday, 02 February 2024
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	No Relevant Scrutiny Committee
Report Title:	Applications for Dispensation
Purpose of Report:	To consider applications for dispensation
Report Owner:	Debbie Marles, Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services
Responsible Officer:	Karen Bowen, Principal Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	This report does not involve any consultation with other parties
Policy Framework:	This report is a matter for consideration by the Standards Committee
Executive Summary:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To consider applications for dispensation as attached at Appendix 1 to this report. 	

Recommendation

1. That the Standards Committee consider the dispensation applications on matters as set out in the completed proformas attached at Appendix 1 to this report.

Reason for Recommendation

1. To comply with the regulations and obligations for the grant of dispensations to speak and vote.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Standards Committee Grant of Dispensations (Wales) Regulations 2001 permits Members to apply to Standards Committee to speak and, if appropriate, to vote on issues which due to prejudicial interests, they may not otherwise be able to speak or vote or remain in the room.
- 1.2 In order to deal with the applications as quickly as possible, it is necessary for the Standards Committee to receive full information of the interests involved and why in the Member's opinion dispensation should be given.
- 1.3 Applicants are advised that they are also able to attend the Standards Committee meeting to present their application if they wish to do so.
- 1.4 All Vale of Glamorgan Councillors and Town and Community Councils have been advised that previous applications that had been agreed during the last term of office ceased at the time of the Local Government elections held on 5th May 2022.

2. Key Issues for Consideration

- 2.1 Committee is requested to consider and determine applications for dispensation from the following Councillors as attached at Appendix 1 to this report:
 - Vale of Glamorgan Council Councillor W.A. Hennessy to speak, vote and remain in meetings when matters relating to Community centres are to be discussed at Vale of Glamorgan Council meetings in view of recent appointment as the Chair of the Celtic Way Community Centre in Rhoose.
 - Vale of Glamorgan Council Councillor E. Goodjohn to speak, vote and remain in meetings when matters relating to Community Centres are to be discussed at Vale of Glamorgan and Barry Town Council meetings in view of his recent appointment as the Chair of Buttrills Community Centre Barry.
- 2.2 The Standards Committee agreed that when applications for dispensation are required to be considered as a matter of urgency, the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Chair of the Standards Committee be provided with the authority to consider such applications and to report to a future meeting such applications that have been agreed under this delegated authority. Since the last meeting no such applications have been received.

2.3 The Committee is requested to consider the applications attached to this report.

3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?

3.1 One of the roles and functions of the Standards Committee (as detailed in the Council's Constitution) is to consider the granting of dispensations to Councillors, Co-opted Members and Church and Parent Governor Representatives from requirements relating to interests set out in the Members' Code of Conduct.

4. Climate Change and Nature Implications

4.1 There are no direct implications as result of this report.

5. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

5.1 None as a direct result of this report.

Employment

5.2 None as a direct result of this report.

Legal (Including Equalities)

5.3 The Council is required to comply with the Standards Committee Grant of Dispensations (Wales) Regulations 2001.

6. Background Papers

Standards Committee Grant of Dispensations (Wales) Regulations 2001.

Circumstances When A Standards Committee May Grant Dispensations

The Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001 specifies that the Council's Standards Committee may grant dispensations under Section 81(4) of the Local Government Act 2000 where:

- (a) no fewer than half of the Members of the Council or of a committee of the Council (as the case may be) by which the business is to be considered has an interest which relates to that business;
- (b) no fewer than half of the Members of the Executive of the Council (i.e. Leader and Cabinet) by which the business is to be considered has an interest which relates to that business and either paragraph (d) or (e) also applies;
- (c) Members' inability to participate would upset the political balance of the Council, or any of its committees by which the business is to be considered, to such an extent that the outcome would be likely to be affected;
- (d) the nature of the Member's interest is such that the Member's participation in the business to which the interest relates would not damage public confidence in the conduct of the Council's business;
- (e) the interest is common to the Member and a significant proportion of the general public;
- (f) the participation of the Member in the business to which the interest relates is justified by the Member's particular role or expertise;
- (g) the registerable interest relates to business, which is to be considered by an Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the Council, and the Member's interest is not a pecuniary/financial interest;
- (h) the business relates to the finances or property of a voluntary organisation of whose management committee or board the Member is a member otherwise than as a representative of the Council and the Member has no other interest in that business, provided that any dispensation shall not extend to participation in any vote with respect to that business;
- (i) it appears to the Standards Committee to be in the interests of the inhabitants of the area of the Council that the disability should be removed; or
- (j) it appears to the Standards Committee to be otherwise appropriate to grant a dispensation. [If this circumstance is relied upon it will be required to be reviewed on a 12 month basis – Local Government (Standards Committees, Investigations, Dispensations and Referral) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2016 (3(1)A)]



THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Application for a Dispensation to the Standards Committee under Section 2 of the Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001

Name of Councillor	William Andrew Hennessy
Address	_____
Name of Member's relevant Authority and Ward	Rhoose Ward
Nature of Dispensation sought	To speak, vote and remain in meetings when matters relating to Community Centres are to be discussed at Vale of Glamorgan Council meetings.
Date of meeting / issue to be discussed (if known)	Whenever the matter is to be discussed at a meeting
Do you seek a dispensation just for the one meeting or for a longer period? If longer, please state a period. <i>(N.B. All dispensations granted expire at the next Council elections.)</i>	Up to the next Local Government Elections
Level of dispensation sought <i>(i.e. to speak only or to speak and vote)</i>	Speak and Vote
Relevant paragraph(s) under which dispensation can be granted <i>(See (a) to (j) overleaf)</i>	(d) and (f)

Details of the Prejudicial Interest	I have recently been appointed as the Chair of the Celtic Way Community Centre in Rhoose.
Details of any Position of responsibility / control held on your Council (e.g. <i>Chairman / Vice-Chairman / Cabinet Member</i>)	Although not appointed by the Council I am the Conservative's Group Shadow Spokesperson for the Cabinet Member portfolio for Leisure, Sport and Well-being and Community Centre Management is within that portfolio remit.
Reason(s) to support the application and why you consider the Standards Committee should grant a dispensation <i>(Use a separate sheet of paper if necessary)</i>	<p>Having had experience of working with Community Centres I feel my experience would assist when discussing and considering matters relating to Community Centres.</p> <p>In my position as Chair of the Community Centre I would be responsible for a number of aspects, in particular finances and may need to address Council meetings on such matters.</p> <p>I would also refer Standards Committee to the paragraph above under details of any position of responsibility.</p>

SIGNED: W.A. Hennessy

DATED: 9th January 2024

Each section of the form MUST be fully completed.

(N.B. If you are submitting your application form electronically, without a signature, please give written permission for the receiving officer to sign the application form on your behalf. **Failure to do this will result in the application being deemed incomplete and returned to the applicant.**)

SIGNATURE OF OFFICER (IF APPROPRIATE): Karen Bowen

*Please return completed form to:
Democratic and Scrutiny Services, Directorate of Resources, Room 26, 1st Floor,
Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, CF63 4RU*

**THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
 STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**Application for a Dispensation to the Standards Committee under Section 2 of
 the Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001**

Name of Councillor	Emma Goodjohn
Address	[REDACTED]
Name of Member's relevant Authority and Ward	Dyfan
Nature of Dispensation sought	Chair Of Buttrills Community Association (Buttrills Community Centre) Member Of Highlight Park Community Centre Committee To speak, vote and remain in meetings when matters relating to Community Centres are to be discussed at Vale of Glamorgan Council meetings.
Date of meeting / issue to be discussed (if known)	Whenever the matter is to be discussed at a meeting
Do you seek a dispensation just for the one meeting or for a longer period? If longer, please state a period. (N.B. All dispensations granted expire at the next Council elections.)	Up to the next Local Government Elections
Level of dispensation sought (i.e. to speak only or to speak and vote)	To Speak & Vote
Relevant paragraph(s) under which dispensation can be granted (See (a) to (j) overleaf)	(d) and (f)

<p>Details of the Prejudicial Interest</p>	<p>I am a volunteer in my role of Chair of Buttrills Community Association which runs Buttrills Community Centre. I help apply for grants to benefit the community & residents of Buttrills Estate. I take care of the Community Centre, help run and organise community events e.g. Warmspace and provide affordable space for the community & Community groups to use.</p>
<p>Details of any Position of responsibility / control held on your Council (e.g. Chairman / Vice-Chairman / Cabinet Member)</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Reason(s) to support the application and why you consider the Standards Committee should grant a dispensation</p> <p><i>(Use a separate sheet of paper if necessary)</i></p>	<p>As a volunteer I am not paid or take any monetary gain from my position as Chair of the Community Association. It is very important in my role as a Councillor and Chair of Buttrills Community Association that I can support the community and have the ability to apply for grants for the Community Centre.</p> <p>Having had experience of working with Community Centres I feel my experience would assist when discussing and considering matters relating to Community Centres.</p> <p>In my position as Chair I would be responsible for a number of aspects, in particular finances and may need to address Council meetings on such matters.</p>

SIGNED: E.J. Goodjohn

DATED: 22 January 2024

Each section of the form MUST be fully completed.

(N.B. If you are submitting your application form electronically, without a signature, please give written permission for the receiving officer to sign the application form on your behalf. Failure to do this will result in the application being deemed incomplete and returned to the applicant.)

SIGNATURE OF OFFICER (IF APPROPRIATE): ...K. Bowen.....

*Please return completed form to:
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