

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Remote Meeting held on 4th June 2026.

The meeting papers are available [here](#).

The recording of the meeting is available [here](#).

To view the presentation and subsequent discussion for any Part I agenda item, please click the hyperlink contained in its title below.

Present: Councillors R.M. Birch, J.E. Charles and C.P. Franks; R. Alexander, J. Evans, R. Hendicott, and G. Watkins (Independent Members) and Councillor P. Summers (Town and Community Council Representative).

48 ANNOUNCEMENT –

Prior to the commencement of the business of the Committee, the Principal Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer read the following statement: “May I remind everyone present that the meeting will be live streamed as well as recorded via the internet and this recording archived for future viewing”.

49 [APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR](#) –

RESOLVED – T H A T R. Hendicott be appointed Chair for the 2026/27 Municipal year.

50 [APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR](#) –

RESOLVED – T H A T G. Watkins be appointed Vice-Chair for the 2026/27 Municipal year.

51 [APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE](#) –

This was received from G. Olphert (Independent Member).

52 [MINUTES](#) –

RESOLVED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 26th March 2026 be approved as a correct record.

Mr. Watkins raised a query in relation to previous minute section 783, specifically parts three and four of the resolution, and sought an update on any progress made. The Monitoring Officer advised that the proposed changes to Section 19 of the Council’s Constitution arising from the previous meeting had been shared with

political group leaders and that feedback was currently awaited. Following this clarification, Mr. Watkins confirmed he was satisfied, and the minutes were approved as a true record.

53 [DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST](#) –

No declarations of interest were received.

54 [APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION \(MO / HLDS\)](#) –

The purpose of the report was to consider applications for dispensation received from Councillors C.E.A. Champion and H.M. Payne of the Vale of Glamorgan Council, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

The Monitoring Officer apprised the Committee on the applications presented and confirmed their agreement of the paragraphs under which dispensation may be granted, as applied for, in line with the Standards Committee (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001.

Following careful consideration of the applications and having regard to the Monitoring Officer's advice above, it was

RESOLVED – T H A T the dispensations as set out in the schedule below be granted up to the date of the next Local Government Elections:

Member Requesting Dispensation	Paragraph(s) of the Standards Committee (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001 Under Which Dispensation is Granted and as applied for	Decision
C.E.A. Champion	(d)	<p>To speak and vote on matters relating to the Vale of Glamorgan Council Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) at both Vale of Glamorgan Council and Cowbridge Town Council meetings.</p> <p>In respect of any matter specifically relating to the parcel of land subject to planning application 2022/00958/FUL, in which</p>

		the applicant had a personal and prejudicial interest due to a family financial interest, the dispensation was restricted as follows: Councillor Champion may speak only on such item; Councillor Champion must not vote on the matter.
H.M. Payne	(d)	To speak, vote and remain in meetings where matters relating to the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Telecare Service are discussed at both Vale of Glamorgan Council and Barry Town Council meetings.

Reason for decision

Having regard to the applications submitted and discussions held at the meeting.

55 [MONITORING OFFICER MEETING WITH CLERKS OF TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS \(MO / HLDS\)](#) –

The report updated Committee on the meeting held on 5th March 2026 between the Monitoring Officer and Clerks of Town and Community Councils.

Following consideration of the report, it was

RESOLVED – T H A T the content of the report, including the matters discussed at the Monitoring Officer meeting with Town and Community Council Clerks held on 5th March 2026 be noted.

Reason for decision

Having regard to the contents of the report to ensure the Committee was informed of recent engagement with Town and Community Councils, including any emerging issues, themes, and guidance provided in relation to the Code of Conduct, in support of its oversight role.

56 [FINDINGS OF THE PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES AND ADJUDICATION PANEL FOR WALES \(MO / HLDS\)](#) –

The report provided Members with an overview of recent findings and decisions issued by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales and the Adjudication Panel for

Wales, particularly those arising from Code of Conduct investigations and referrals. It outlined the respective roles of both bodies within the ethical standards framework, highlighted the Monitoring Officer's consideration of published decisions, and presented appended case summaries to enable the Committee to identify key themes, lessons learned, and any implications for promoting high standards of conduct, member awareness, and future training.

Following consideration of the report, it was

RESOLVED – T H A T the decisions of the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales and the Adjudication Panel for Wales, as appended to the report, be noted.

Reason for decision

Having regard to the contents of the report to support the Committee in its role of promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by enabling consideration of recent findings and decisions.

57 [CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES \(MO / HLDS\)](#) –

The Monitoring Officer advised that the report before the Committee was a standard item on the Committee's Forward Work Programme and set out the communications that they had received from the Public Service Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW). A Part II version of the report had also been provided to the Committee and therefore, the Monitoring Officer would provide an update to the Standards Committee at the meeting under Part II of the agenda in relation to recent confidential correspondence and matters arising.

Following consideration of the report, it was

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the Part I content of the report and the correspondence received from the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales be noted.
- (2) T H A T the Part II version of the report be considered in private session.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) Having regard to the contents of the report to ensure the Committee was informed of relevant correspondence and could fulfil its role in overseeing standards of conduct and the ethical framework within the Council.
- (2) To ensure that confidential or sensitive information was handled appropriately in accordance with statutory requirements and the Council's procedures.

58 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC –

RESOLVED – T H A T under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 4 of Schedule 12A (as amended) of the Act, the relevant paragraphs of the Schedule being referred to in brackets after the minute heading.

59 CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES (MO / HLDS) (EXEMPT INFORMATION – PARAGRAPHS 12, 13 AND 14) –

As outlined at Part I of the agenda, it had been agreed by the Standards Committee that a standing item appear on the Committee's agenda in order that the Monitoring Officer would be able to apprise Standards Committee Members of correspondence received from the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (the Ombudsman) on any matters arising, the items being confidential in nature in line with the Ombudsman's procedure.

The Monitoring Officer therefore provided the Committee with a verbal update in respect of any recent correspondence with the Ombudsman.

RESOLVED – T H A T the Part II content of the report and verbal update provided by the Monitoring Officer be noted.

Reason for decision

Having regard to the contents of the report to ensure the Committee was informed of relevant correspondence and could fulfil its role in overseeing standards of conduct and the ethical framework within the Council.