

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD IN
MEETING ROOM 2, GUILDHALL, WREXHAM ON THURSDAY, 7 SEPTEMBER
2017**

MEMBERS

Mr Michael Pugh, Chair
Mr Neil Benson, Vice-Chair

Ms Julie Adams
Mrs Claire Blanchard
Mrs Sandra Hunt

*Councillor Andrew Atkinson
Councillor I David Bithell, MBE
Councillor Kevin Hughes

Mr Geoff Edwards - Community Councillor

*Absent

11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Andrew Atkinson.

12 DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTERESTS, IF ANY

Members were reminded of their responsibility, under Article 11 of the Members' Code of Conduct, to declare any interests in relation to any of the business to be transacted at this meeting. The following declarations were made

Agenda Item 7 – Community Council Representative
Community Councillor Geoff Edwards - Personal and Prejudicial – being the current Community Council member on the Committee. The Councillor withdrew from the meeting for this item taking no part in the discussion and voting thereon.

13 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 2 March 2017 be signed as a correct record.

The Deputy Monitoring Officer informed the Committee that Code of Conduct Training for Town and Community Councillors had been arranged for 3 and 16 October at 4.00pm in the Council Chamber at the Guildhall, Wrexham. Members of the Standards Committee were encouraged to attend and participate at these training sessions.

14 PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES - ANNUAL REPORT

The Deputy Monitoring Officer submitted a report (HCCS/53/17) informing the Committee of the publication of the Annual Report and Accounts of the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales 2016/17 entitled "Innovation, Improvement, Influence".

RESOLVED – That the contents of the report be noted.

Reason for decision

To inform Members of the work undertaken by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales.

15 PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES - THE CODE OF CONDUCT CASEBOOK

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report (HCCS/37/17) to enable Members to consider the recent decisions of the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales published in the Code of Conduct Casebook.

Members said it was useful to have examples of real cases and have an understanding of the Ombudsman's approach to allegations of breaches of the Code of Conduct and the penalties imposed, in those cases which were considered by a Standards Committee or the Adjudication Panel for Wales.

RESOLVED – That the decisions reported in the Code of Conduct Casebook be noted.

Reason for decision

To inform Members of the work undertaken by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales.

16 NORTH WALES STANDARDS COMMITTEES FORUM

The Deputy Monitoring Officer reminded Members that it was this Council's turn to host the next meeting of the North Wales Standards Committees Forum and it was agreed that the meeting be held at 10.00am on Friday, 24 November 2017 in the Guildhall, Wrexham.

It was suggested that a discussion item be included on the Agenda relating to the Code of Conduct Induction Training – how it was delivered in other authorities and best practice.

17 ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIR DECIDES ARE URGENT

The Chair reminded Members of the Independent Remuneration Panel Visit to Wrexham on 19 September to which Co-opted members had been invited to attend.

18 COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

(Members declarations of interest in relation to this item are set out in Minute 12 above)

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report (HCCS/55/17) to enable the Committee to consider the reappointment of the current Community Council member on the

Standards Committee following consultation with all Town and Community Councils and One Voice Wales.

The consultation responses were noted.

RESOLVED – That the Council be recommended to reappoint Councillor Geoff Edwards, Penycae Community Council, as the Community Council representative on the Standards Committee for the period up to the date of the next Community Council elections or until the Councillor ceases to be a member of a Community Council within the County Borough area, whichever is the shorter.

Reason for decision

To ensure the Standards Committee is constituted in accordance with the Standards Committees (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2006.

Mr Michael Pugh
Chair