

# STANDARDS COMMITTEE

16<sup>th</sup> June 2010

Present: Mr G Wright (Chair)  
Messrs R Barrett-Evans, JA Brinsden, M Howells and R Howells.

(NPA Offices, Llanion Park, Pembroke Dock: 12noon – 12.35p.m.)

## 1. Apology

An apology for absence was received from Cllr RR Evans.

## 2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> January and the Extraordinary Meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> February 2010 were presented for confirmation and signature.

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meetings held on the 20<sup>th</sup> January and the 5<sup>th</sup> February 2010 be confirmed and signed.

## 3. Matters arising

### Section 5 Reports and Complaints – Minute 4 (5<sup>th</sup> February 2010)

Referring to the above-mentioned minute, the Monitoring Officer stated that a Public Inquiry was being held in October into the Bettws Newydd, Newport matter, and the National Park Authority's refusal of planning permission and subsequent Enforcement Notice that was served on the applicant. The Chairman hoped that a strong message would be conveyed to the public that the Authority did not tolerate the flouting of planning permission in the National Park.

**NOTED.**

## 4. Code of Conduct: Guidance for Members

It was reported that the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales had now published his much awaited guidance on the Code of Conduct. The guidance had been substantially revised from the previous draft document, and had taken into account many of the representations made by consultees, one of which was the National Park Authority.

The Monitoring Officer stated that he had been in discussion with his counterpart in Pembrokeshire County Council concerning the possibility of holding a joint training session on the guidance, but this was proving difficult due to his colleague's diary commitments. In order to avoid unnecessary delay, the Monitoring Officer suggested that he press on with the arrangements for a training session for the Authority's Members only. Members were of the opinion that a joint training session would prove extremely useful and informative, and asked the Monitoring Officer



to identify mutually convenient dates. However, should this not prove possible, the Monitoring Officer was asked to arrange a session for the Authority's Members only before the end of July 2010.

It was **RESOLVED** that the report on the Code of Conduct be noted and that the Monitoring Officer be tasked with arranging a training session (jointly with Pembrokeshire County Council if possible) before the end of July 2010.

#### **5. Enforcement review**

The Monitoring Officer informed Members that the Head of Development Management was in the process of undertaking a thorough and wide ranging review of the Enforcement service. The review would involve the input of a number of officers who had only recently taken up post with the Authority and a report would be presented to the National Park Authority in due course.

Members were of the opinion that the officers concerned should present their report by the end of September.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Monitoring Officer convey the Members' views to the officers concerned, and that the matter be placed before the next meeting of the Standards Committee for consideration.

#### **6. 2010 All Wales Standards Committee Annual Conference**

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to the National Park Authority that three Members be authorised to attend the forthcoming All Wales Standards Committee Annual Conference.



**STANDARDS COMMITTEE  
(Extraordinary Meeting)**

**29<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

Present: Mr G Wright (Chair)  
Mr R Barrett-Evans, Mrs G Hayward and Councillor M James.

(NPA Offices, Llanion Park, Pembroke Dock: 10a.m. – 11.00a.m.)

**1. Apology**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor SL Hancock.

**2. Disclosures of interest**

No disclosures of interest were made.

**3. Exclusion of the public**

It was **RESOLVED** that the public be excluded from the meeting as exempt information, as defined in Paragraphs 12, 13 and 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, would be disclosed.

**4. Request for indemnity**

The Monitoring Officer reminded the Committee that they had, at their meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> February 2010, considered a request from a Member seeking an indemnity in relation to costs likely to be incurred in defending themselves in relation to an allegation of a breach of the Code of Conduct currently being investigated by the Ombudsman. A supporting letter giving an indication of costs had been provided at the time, but the information contained therein was considered not to be sufficient to determine a course of action, therefore the decision was deferred until further information could be provided.

The Monitoring Officer went on to say that he was now in a position to report further on the matter, and he tabled a document for Members' consideration.

It was **RESOLVED**:

- (a) that the Standards Committee agree to indemnify the Member concerned by supporting their application to the National Park Authority's Insurers for consideration, and
- (b) that, in the event of any party wishing to raise/clarify an issue, they be allowed to make representations to the Standards Committee.

