

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

22 July 2020

Present: Mrs V Tomlinson (Deputy Chair in the Chair)
Mr John Daniels, Mr P Davies, Councillor R Owens, Councillor P Morgan, Dr R Plummer and Ms W Taylor.

(Virtual Meeting: 2.00pm – 2.30pm)

1. Election of a Chair

It was **RESOLVED** that Mr J Daniels be appointed Chair for the remainder of his term of office i.e. until 16 December 2022.

[Mr Daniels then took the Chair and presided over the remainder of the meeting.]

The Chair paid tribute to the work of the previous Chair, Mrs J Wainwright, whose term of office had come to an end last year. He also welcomed Mr Michael Kent as Monitoring Officer and those newly appointed Members of the Standards Committee.

2. Election of Deputy Chair

It was noted that the current Deputy Chair could remain in office until the end of her current term of office which was 22 September 2020.

3. Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

4. Disclosures of interest

There were no disclosures of interest.

5. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 December 2018 were presented for confirmation and authentication.

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 19 December 2018 be confirmed and authenticated.

6. Annual Report of the Monitoring Officer 2018/19

The Monitoring Officer congratulated the Chair on his appointment and looked forward to working with him. He noted that the previous Monitoring Officer, Mr Rhys Stephens had resigned in May 2019 and he had commenced his employment on 1 October 2019, with Mrs Janet Evans, the Deputy Monitoring Officer fulfilling the role in the interim.



He reported that since the last meeting there had been one report under s5 Local Government and Housing Act 1989 relating to planning issues at Newport Links golf course, a copy of which was appended to his report. Also appended was a copy of the report to the National Park Authority seeking confirmation of the appointment of two new independent Members of the Standards Committee – Mr Phillip Davies and Ms Wendy Taylor.

The Monitoring Officer went on to advise that no applications for dispensation had been made in the current year. Since the last meeting, the Public Services Ombudsman (Wales) Act 2019 had come into force and those aspects of the Act of relevance to the Authority were highlighted. The Public Services Ombudsman for Wales had also published his annual report, however none of the complaints related to the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority.

It was reported that training on the Code of Conduct had been provided to Members of the National Park Authority in December 2019 and January 2020, and that further training on best practice for virtual meetings had been delivered since the Authority was permitted to hold these by new Welsh Government Regulations introduced on 22 April 2020.

Thanking the Officer for a comprehensive report, those Members of the Authority who sat on the Committee commended the training sessions that had been held. One Member noted that at the previous meeting, the then Monitoring Officer had agreed to provide a training session for Standards Committee Members on assessing any cases, particularly applications for dispensation, that could come before them. Other Members agreed that they would find this useful and it was agreed that this should be arranged in due course.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and for those who had facilitated the meeting, and he hoped that the next meeting of the Committee might be able to take place in person.

