

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

9 November 2016

Present: Mr R Barrett-Evans (Chair)
Mr A Archer, Councillor R Kilmister, Councillor R Owens, Mrs V Tomlinson and Mrs J Wainwright

(NPA Offices, Llanion Park, Pembroke Dock: 11.10am – 11.50am)

1. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Disclosures

There were no disclosures of interest.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2016 were presented for confirmation and signature.

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held 12 October 2016 be confirmed and signed.

4. Application for Dispensation

The Monitoring Officer reported that an application had been received from Councillor Paul Harries of Newport for dispensation from the Standards Committee which would enable him to participate in the forthcoming debate to be held on the future provision of information to visitors, particularly in Newport and Tenby. His application related purely to Newport and had been circulated to the Committee. A copy of an email subsequently submitted by Councillor Harries containing supplemental information was also distributed.

Members considered the application and sympathised that having taken the precautionary approach and disclosed an interest as he owned property in the town, the Member was not now able to represent the interests of his constituents. He was also not able to contribute to the debate in meetings of the Authority even though he was best placed to do so.

The Monitoring Officer suggested that, if Members were minded to grant a dispensation, the Member could be advised, in the interests of clarity, to preface any remarks with a statement to the effect that he had declared a prejudicial interest but was speaking as a result of a dispensation granted by the Standards Committee.



There followed some discussion over the potential scope and duration of any dispensation and it was suggested that Councillor Harries could participate in discussions regarding the overall strategy relating to visitor information, however if specific sites within Newport were discussed, he would have to reconsider his position. It was also noted that although a dispensation had been sought until 30 November 2017, the situation may not be resolved by that date and a longer timeframe might therefore be more appropriate.

It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor P Harries be granted a dispensation until 31/03/2018 to participate in debates, meetings and discussions of the National Park Authority on the consultation regarding future provision of information to visitors and thereafter in any agreement as to the strategy in regard to the Newport Visitor Centre.

