

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Decision Notice – Remote Meeting, 26th January, 2022.

The Committee agenda is available [here](#).

The Meeting recording is available [here](#).

Present: R. Hendicott (Chair); L. Tinsley (Vice-Chair); P. Hallett and G. Watkins (Independent Members); Councillor M. Cuddy (Town and Community Council Representative) and Councillor A.R. Robertson (Vale of Glamorgan Council).

Also present: Councillors G.D.D. Carroll, V.P. Driscoll and L.O. Rowlands.

AGENDA ITEM 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –

These were received from R. Alexander (Independent Member); Councillors R.M. Birch and B.T. Gray (Vale of Glamorgan Council).

AGENDA ITEM 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations were received.

AGENDA ITEM 3. REPORT RELATING TO A COMPLAINT AGAINST COUNCILLOR L.O. ROWLANDS IN RESPECT OF THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL AND BARRY TOWN COUNCIL (DMO) –

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T Councillor L.O. Rowlands failed to comply with paragraph 6(1)(a) of the Model Code; paragraph 18.2.6(a) of the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Members' Code of Conduct; and paragraph 6(1)(a) of the Barry Town Council's Members' Code of Conduct in respect of:

- His actions relating to the opening of a coffee shop and wine bar, 'The Watering Hole', without the correct change of use planning permission being in place;
- His conduct in failing to consider the situation appropriately; and
- seeking advice about his role and position, which suggested a significant lack of judgment on his part, which had the potential to impact on the mutual relationship of trust that existed between the Council and the Town Council, its elected Members, and the public;

and that Councillor L.O Rowlands be suspended from being a Member of the Vale of Glamorgan Council and Barry Town Council for a period of one month.

(2) T H A T Councillor L.O Rowlands be advised of his right to appeal against the Committee's determination within a period of 21 days of receiving notification, by giving notice in writing to:

The Registrar
Adjudication Panel for Wales
Government Buildings
Spa Road East
Llandrindod Wells
Powys
LE1 5HA

and that the notice of appeal must specify:

- the grounds for appeal, and
- whether or not the person giving notice of the appeal consents to the appeal being conducted by way of written representations.

(3) T H A T, subject to an appeal (if any) the findings of the Standards Committee as detailed in Resolution (1) above be publicised in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Investigations (Functions of Monitoring Officers and Standards Committees) (Wales) Regulations 2001, as amended ("the Regulations").

Reasons for decisions

(1) Having regard to all the evidence submitted to the meeting of the decisions of the Committee, the mitigating factors presented by Councillor George Carroll on Councillor Rowlands' behalf and the mitigating and aggravating factors presented by the Ombudsman's representative, Ms. Sinead Cook, at the meeting, and in the interests of promoting and maintaining Ethical Standards in Public Life.

(2&3) To comply with the Local Government Investigations (Functions of Monitoring Officers and Standards Committees) (Wales) Regulations 2001 as amended.