

Meeting of:	<b>Standards Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>Monday, 10 June 2024</b>
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	No Relevant Scrutiny Committee
Report Title:	Applications for Dispensation
Purpose of Report:	To consider applications for dispensation
Report Owner:	Debbie Marles, Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services
Responsible Officer:	Karen Bowen, Principal Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	This report does not involve any consultation with other parties
Policy Framework:	This report is a matter for consideration by the Standards Committee
Executive Summary:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To consider applications for dispensation as attached at Appendix 1 to this report.</li> </ul>	

## **Recommendation**

1. That the Standards Committee consider the dispensation applications on matters as set out in the completed proformas attached at Appendix 1 to this report.

## **Reason for Recommendation**

1. To comply with the regulations and obligations for the grant of dispensations to speak and vote.

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 The Standards Committee Grant of Dispensations (Wales) Regulations 2001 permits Members to apply to Standards Committee to speak and, if appropriate, to vote on issues which due to prejudicial interests, they may not otherwise be able to speak or vote or remain in the room.
- 1.2 In order to deal with the applications as quickly as possible, it is necessary for the Standards Committee to receive full information of the interests involved and why in the Member's opinion dispensation should be given.
- 1.3 Applicants are advised that they are also able to attend the Standards Committee meeting to present their application if they wish to do so.
- 1.4 All Vale of Glamorgan Councillors and Town and Community Councils have been advised that previous applications that had been agreed during the last term of office ceased at the time of the Local Government elections held on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

## **2. Key Issues for Consideration**

- 2.1 Committee is requested to consider and determine applications for dispensation from the following Councillors as attached at Appendix 1 to this report:
  - Vale of Glamorgan Council Councillor C.E.A. Champion to speak and vote on matters relating to the review of Council employment, employee terms and conditions, in view of a family member being employed by the Authority.
  - Vale of Glamorgan Council Councillor J. Lynch-Wilson to speak, vote and remain in meetings when matters relating to Community Centres are to be discussed at Vale of Glamorgan Council meetings.
  - Vale of Glamorgan Council Councillor I.R. Buckley to speak and vote on matters relating to the review of Council employment, employee terms and conditions, in view of a family member being employed by the Authority.
  - Dinas Powys Community Councillor J. Cowpe, to speak only on matters related to Dinas Powys Music Festival and Dinas Powys Library Activity Centre (DiLAC) are to be discussed at both Vale of Glamorgan Council and Dinas Powys Community Council meetings.

- Vale of Glamorgan and Dinas Powys Community Council Councillor C.P. Franks to speak and vote on matters relating to Seel Park, Dinas Powys.
  - Vale of Glamorgan Council Councillor S. Campbell to Dispensation to speak, vote and remain in meetings where issues are raised at meetings of the Council (including budgets) in respect of South Point Primary and Ysgol St Baruc.
- 2.2** The Standards Committee agreed that when applications for dispensation are required to be considered as a matter of urgency, the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Chair of the Standards Committee be provided with the authority to consider such applications and to report to a future meeting such applications that have been agreed under this delegated authority. Since the last meeting no such applications have been received.
- 2.3** The Committee is requested to consider the applications attached to this report.

### **3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?**

- 3.1** One of the roles and functions of the Standards Committee (as detailed in the Council's Constitution) is to consider the granting of dispensations to Councillors, Co-opted Members and Church and Parent Governor Representatives from requirements relating to interests set out in the Members' Code of Conduct.

### **4. Climate Change and Nature Implications**

- 4.1** There are no direct implications as result of this report.

### **5. Resources and Legal Considerations**

#### **Financial**

- 5.1** None as a direct result of this report.

#### **Employment**

- 5.2** None as a direct result of this report.

#### **Legal (Including Equalities)**

- 5.3** The Council is required to comply with the Standards Committee Grant of Dispensations (Wales) Regulations 2001.

## **6. Background Papers**

Standards Committee Grant of Dispensations (Wales) Regulations 2001.

## **Circumstances When A Standards Committee May Grant Dispensations**

The Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001 specifies that the Council's Standards Committee may grant dispensations under Section 81(4) of the Local Government Act 2000 where:

- (a) no fewer than half of the Members of the Council or of a committee of the Council (as the case may be) by which the business is to be considered has an interest which relates to that business;
- (b) no fewer than half of the Members of the Executive of the Council (i.e. Leader and Cabinet) by which the business is to be considered has an interest which relates to that business and either paragraph (d) or (e) also applies;
- (c) Members' inability to participate would upset the political balance of the Council, or any of its committees by which the business is to be considered, to such an extent that the outcome would be likely to be affected;
- (d) the nature of the Member's interest is such that the Member's participation in the business to which the interest relates would not damage public confidence in the conduct of the Council's business;
- (e) the interest is common to the Member and a significant proportion of the general public;
- (f) the participation of the Member in the business to which the interest relates is justified by the Member's particular role or expertise;
- (g) the registerable interest relates to business, which is to be considered by an Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the Council, and the Member's interest is not a pecuniary/financial interest;
- (h) the business relates to the finances or property of a voluntary organisation of whose management committee or board the Member is a member otherwise than as a representative of the Council and the Member has no other interest in that business, provided that any dispensation shall not extend to participation in any vote with respect to that business;
- (i) it appears to the Standards Committee to be in the interests of the inhabitants of the area of the Council that the disability should be removed; or
- (j) it appears to the Standards Committee to be otherwise appropriate to grant a dispensation. [If this circumstance is relied upon it will be required to be reviewed on a 12 month basis – Local Government (Standards Committees, Investigations, Dispensations and Referral) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2016 (3(1)A)]

**THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL  
STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**Application for a Dispensation to the Standards Committee under Section 2 of  
the Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001**

Name of Councillor	Charles Champion
Address	██
Name of Member's relevant Authority and Ward	Vale of Glamorgan Council Ward - Cowbridge
Nature of Dispensation sought	To Speak and Vote on matters relating to the review of Council employment, employee terms and conditions, in view of a family member being employed by the authority.
Date of meeting / issue to be discussed (if known)	Ongoing
Do you seek a dispensation just for the one meeting or for a longer period? If longer, please state a period. <i>(N.B. All dispensations granted expire at the next Council elections.)</i>	Until the Next Local Government Elections
Level of dispensation sought <i>(i.e. to speak only or to speak and vote)</i>	To Speak and Vote
Relevant paragraph(s) under which dispensation can be granted <i>(See (a) to (j) overleaf)</i>	(a), (e) and (f)

Details of the Prejudicial Interest	<b>Member of Family works for the Council</b>
Details of any Position of responsibility / control held on your Council (e.g. Chairman / Vice-Chairman / Cabinet Member)	<b>None</b>
Reason(s) to support the application and why you consider the Standards Committee should grant a dispensation  <i>(Use a separate sheet of paper if necessary)</i>	<b>To fulfil my roll, I do not have predetermined views</b>

SIGNED C.E.A. Champion

DATED: 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2024

**Each section of the form MUST be fully completed.**

**(N.B.** If you are submitting your application form electronically, without a signature, please give written permission for the receiving officer to sign the application form on your behalf. **Failure to do this will result in the application being deemed incomplete and returned to the applicant.)**

SIGNATURE OF OFFICER (IF APPROPRIATE):

*Please return completed form to:  
Democratic and Scrutiny Services, Directorate of Resources, Room 26, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor,  
Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, CF63 4RU*

**THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL  
STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**Application for a Dispensation to the Standards Committee under Section 2 of  
the Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001**

Name of Councillor	Julie Lynch-Wilson
Address	[REDACTED]
Name of Member's relevant Authority and Ward	Vale of Glamorgan Council St Athan Ward
Nature of Dispensation sought	To speak, vote and remain in meetings when matters relating to Community Centres are to be discussed at Vale of Glamorgan Council meetings.
Date of meeting / issue to be discussed (if known)	Whenever the matter is to be discussed at a meeting
Do you seek a dispensation just for the one meeting or for a longer period? If longer, please state a period. <i>(N.B. All dispensations granted expire at the next Council elections.)</i>	Up to the next Local Government Elections
Level of dispensation sought <i>(i.e. to speak only or to speak and vote)</i>	Speak and Vote
Relevant paragraph(s) under which dispensation can be granted <i>(See (a) to (j) overleaf)</i>	(d) and (f)



Details of the Prejudicial Interest	I am the Chair of Paul Lewis Community Centre, St Athan
Details of any Position of responsibility / control held on your Council (e.g. <i>Chairman / Vice-Chairman / Cabinet Member</i> )	
Reason(s) to support the application and why you consider the Standards Committee should grant a dispensation  <i>(Use a separate sheet of paper if necessary)</i>	Having had experience of working with Community Centres I feel my experience would assist when discussing and considering matters relating to Community Centres.  In my position as Chair of the Community Centre I would be responsible for a number of aspects, in particular finances, and may need to address Council meetings on such matters.

SIGNED: J.A. Lynch-Wilson

DATED: 12/3/2024

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**THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL  
STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**Application for a Dispensation to the Standards Committee under Section 2 of  
the Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001**

Name of Councillor	Ian Buckley
Address	████████████████████
Name of Member's relevant Authority and Ward	Vale of Glamorgan Council Ward
Nature of Dispensation sought	To Speak and Vote on matters relating to the review of Council employment, employee terms and conditions, in view of a family member being employed by the authority.
Date of meeting / issue to be discussed (if known)	Ongoing
Do you seek a dispensation just for the one meeting or for a longer period? If longer, please state a period. <i>(N.B. All dispensations granted expire at the next Council elections.)</i>	Until the Next Local Government Elections
Level of dispensation sought <i>(i.e. to speak only or to speak and vote)</i>	To Speak and Vote
Relevant paragraph(s) under which dispensation can be granted <i>(See (a) to (j) overleaf)</i>	(a), (e) and (f)

Details of the Prejudicial Interest	<b>My daughter is a teaching assistant in Ysgol Y Deri</b>
Details of any Position of responsibility / control held on your Council (e.g. <i>Chairman / Vice-Chairman / Cabinet Member</i> )	n/a
Reason(s) to support the application and why you consider the Standards Committee should grant a dispensation  <i>(Use a separate sheet of paper if necessary)</i>	<b>Her pay scales are set through collective bargaining and not on a one to one basis so I have no influence over her personal pay.</b>

SIGNED IR Buckley

DATED: 21/03/24

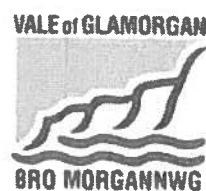
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SIGNATURE OF OFFICER (IF APPROPRIATE): K. Bowen

*Please return completed form to:  
Democratic and Scrutiny Services, Directorate of Resources, Room 26, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor,  
Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, CF63 4RU*

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**THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL  
STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**Application for a Dispensation to the Standards Committee under Section 2 of  
the Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001**

Name of Councillor	Jonathan cowpe
Address	[REDACTED]
Name of Member's relevant Authority and Ward	Twyn
Nature of Dispensation sought	Dinas Powys Music Festival Dinas Powys Library & Activity Centre (DiPLAC)
Date of meeting / issue to be discussed (if known)	ASAP
Do you seek a dispensation just for the one meeting or for a longer period? If longer, please state a period. <i>(N.B. All dispensations granted expire at the next Council elections.)</i>	Length of time I'm a councillor
Level of dispensation sought <i>(i.e. to speak only or to speak and vote)</i>	Speak only
Relevant paragraph(s) under which dispensation can be granted <i>(See (a) to (j) overleaf)</i>	(b)

Details of the Prejudicial Interest	I'm Vice-chair of the music festival committee I'm a volunteer and married to one of the library trustees
Details of any Position of responsibility / control held on your Council (e.g. Chairman / Vice-Chairman / Cabinet Member)	I'm Vice-chair of the music festival committee
Reason(s) to support the application and why you consider the Standards Committee should grant a dispensation  (Use a separate sheet of paper if necessary)	I believe it would be useful for other councillors for me to contribute to discussions on these two issues.

SIGNED:

J COUPE

DATED:

12 MAY 2024

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SIGNATURE OF OFFICER (IF APPROPRIATE):

J. WRIGHT  
CLERK DINAS BWMIS CC

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**THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL  
STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**Application for a Dispensation to the Standards Committee under Section 2 of  
the Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001**

Name of Councillor	Chris Franks
Address	[REDACTED]
Name of Member's relevant Authority and Ward	Vale of Glamorgan Council Dinas Powys Community Council
Nature of Dispensation sought	To be allowed to speak and vote on matters relating to Seel Park Dinas Powys
Date of meeting / issue to be discussed (if known)	General
Do you seek a dispensation just for the one meeting or for a longer period? If longer, please state a period. <i>(N.B. All dispensations granted expire at the next Council elections.)</i>	Until the end of the term the respective councils in 2026
Level of dispensation sought <i>(i.e. to speak only or to speak and vote)</i>	To speak and vote
Relevant paragraph(s) under which dispensation can be granted <i>(See (a) to (j) overleaf)</i>	d, e, f, h, i.

<p>Details of the Prejudicial Interest</p>	<p>I am a member of the 'Friends of Seel Park'. This was formed to improve facilities at Seel Park, a Vale Council park that required additional investment. Now it is proposed that the park be transferred to the Community Council.</p>
<p>Details of any Position of responsibility / control held on your Council (e.g. Chairman / Vice-Chairman / Cabinet Member)</p>	<p>Member</p>
<p>Reason(s) to support the application and why you consider the Standards Committee should grant a dispensation</p> <p><i>(Use a separate sheet of paper if necessary)</i></p>	<p>The Community Council is discussing the legal transfer documents. Also subsequently there will be financial implication regarding the management and improvement of the park.</p> <p>I have expertise relating to the transfer of assets and it would be to the benefit to the community if I could share my experiences.</p> <p>Not to be able to participate freely would be to the detriment of good governance.</p>

SIGNED: C Franks

DATED: 25 April 2024

**Each section of the form MUST be fully completed.**

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**THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL  
STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**Application for a Dispensation to the Standards Committee under Section 2 of  
the Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001**

Name of Councillor	Cllr Samantha Campbell
Address	[REDACTED]
Name of Member's relevant Authority and Ward	Rhose
Nature of Dispensation sought	Dispensation to Speak and Vote at meetings where issues are raised at meetings of the Council (including budgets) in respect of South Point Primary school and Ysgol St Baruc.
Date of meeting / issue to be discussed (if known)	Whenever the matter is to be discussed at a meeting.
Do you seek a dispensation just for the one meeting or for a longer period? If longer, please state a period. <i>(N.B. All dispensations granted expire at the next Council elections.)</i>	Until the next Local Government Election in May 2027
Level of dispensation sought <i>(i.e. to speak only or to speak and vote)</i>	Dispensation to Speak and Vote at meetings where issues (including budgets) are to be considered.
Relevant paragraph(s) under which dispensation can be granted <i>(See (a) to (j) overleaf)</i>	(d), (e), (f) and (i)



Details of the Prejudicial Interest	<b>A Member of my family attends South Point Primary School and Ysgol St Baruc.</b>
Details of any Position of responsibility / control held on your Council (e.g. <i>Chairman / Vice-Chairman / Cabinet Member</i> )	<b>I am a Governor of South Point Primary school appointed by the LA and I have a member of the family who attends this school. I also have a member of the family who attends Ysgol Sant Baruc but I am not a Governor of this school</b>
Reason(s) to support the application and why you consider the Standards Committee should grant a dispensation  <i>(Use a separate sheet of paper if necessary)</i>	I believe that I have covered this above, but in summary, as my family member is a pupil in a Vale Glamorgan school and is no different to any other child attending any school in the Vale of Glamorgan it has no prejudicial influence on any aspect of my work as a Governor or Member of the Council. I am aware however that having regard to the Public Services Ombudsman's guidance that I should not make a decision in relation to the school if a planning consent or licensing consent is ever applied for, for or by the school.

SIGNED: s.campbell

DATED: 29.04.2024

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