



## NORTH WALES STANDARDS COMMITTEES FORUM FFORWM PWYLLGORAU SAFONAU GOGLEDD CYMRU

**Dydd Mawrth, 17 Gorffennaf 2012 am 10.00 am  
Tuesday, 17 July 2012 at 10.00 am**

### Bodlondeb, Conwy

<b>Ynys Môn/Isle of Anglesey</b>	Michael Wilson – Cadeirydd/Chair Islwyn Jones – Is-Gadeirydd/Vice-Chair Lynn Ball – Swyddog Monitro/Monitoring Officer Robyn Jones – Dirprwy Swyddog Monitro/Deputy Monitoring Officer
<b>Conwy</b>	Howie Roberts – Cadeirydd/Chair ( <b>Cadeirydd/Chair</b> ) Samuel Adams – Is-Gadeirydd/Vice-Chair Delyth Jones – Swyddog Monitro/Monitoring Officer Ceri Williams – Dirprwy Swyddog Monitro/Deputy Monitoring Officer
<b>Sir Ddinbych/Denbighshire</b>	Clive B. Halliday – Cadeirydd/Chair Geraint F. Roberts – Is-Gadeirydd/Vice-Chair Gary Williams – Swyddog Monitro/Monitoring Officer Lisa Jones – Dirprwy Swyddog Monitro/Deputy Monitoring Officer
<b>Sir y Fflint/Flintshire</b>	Merfyn Roberts – Cadeirydd/Chair Kevin Sibbons – Is-Gadeirydd/Vice-Chair ( <b>Is-Gadeirydd/Vice-Chair</b> ) Anwen Jones – Swyddog Monitro/Monitoring Officer
<b>Gwynedd</b>	Gwilym Ellis Evans – Cadeirydd / Chair Sam Soysa – Is-Gadeirydd/Vice-Chair Dilys Ann Phillips – Swyddog Monitro/Monitoring Officer Sion Huws – Swyddog Priodoldeb/Propriety Officer
<b>Wrecsam/Wrexham</b>	Rob Dawson – Cadeirydd/Chair Ceri Nash – Is-Gadeirydd/Vice-Chair Trevor Coxon – Swyddog Monitro/Monitoring Officer Sioned Wyn Davies – Dirprwy Swyddog Monitro/Deputy Monitoring Officer
<b>Awdurdod Tân ac Achub/ Fire and Rescue Authority</b>	Jane Eyton-Jones – Cadeirydd Dros Dro/Acting Chair
<b>Parc Cenedlaethol Eryri/ Snowdonia National Park</b>	Peter Rowland – Cadeirydd/Chair

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# A G E N D A

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1. **Apologies**

2. **Minutes**

To approve as a correct record minutes of the previous meeting.  
(Pages 3 - 5)

3. **Feedback from Training Sessions**

To receive feedback from each Council on the Code of Conduct Training Sessions held post the elections May 2012.

4. **Standards Conference 2013**

To discuss the arrangements of the Standards Conference 2013.

5. **Criminal Conviction of Councillors**

To discuss criminal conviction of Councillors and seek experiences, if any, in dealing with this issue.

6. **Access to Meetings of the North Wales Standards Committees Forum**

To discuss whether the North Wales Standards Committees Forum should be open to the public

7. **Any Other Item**

**In the event of the fire alarm being activated, would all Members please vacate the premises through the nearest fire exit.**

**FOR ASSEMBLY POINTS, please refer to “Actions in the Event of a Fire” notice displayed in the Council Chamber / Medium Committee Room / Meeting Room 3**

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## NORTH WALES STANDARDS COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEM 2

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Monday, 23 April 2012 at 2.00 pm  
Venue Cymru, Promenade, Llandudno

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Howie Roberts (Cadeirydd/Chair)	Chair - Conwy
	Samuel Adams Lynn Ball Celia Blomeley	Vice-Chair - Conwy Monitoring Officer - Isle of Anglesey Standards Committee – North Wales Fire and Rescue
	Alwen Davies Gwilym Ellis Evans Councillor Gail Hall (In place of Peter Rowland)	North Wales Fire and Rescue Vice-Chairman - Gwynedd North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority
	Clive B. Halliday Sion Huws Anwen Jones Islwyn Jones Lisa Jones Gareth Owens Geraint F. Roberts Kevin Sibbons Ceri Williams Gary Williams Michael B. Wilson	Chair - Denbighshire Propriety Officer - Gwynedd Monitoring Officer - Flintshire Vice-Chairman - Isle of Anglesey Deputy Monitoring Officer - Denbighshire Flintshire - Monitoring Officers Vice-Chairman - Denbighshire Vice-Chairman - Flintshire Deputy Monitoring Officer - Conwy Monitoring Officer - Denbighshire Chairman - Isle of Anglesey
<b>In attendance:</b>	Cerys Thomas Peter Tyndall	One Voice Wales Public Services Ombudsman for Wales
<b>Officers:</b>	Sian Harland	Committee Services Officer

### 38. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Delyth Jones (Conwy), Dilys Ann Philips (Gwynedd), Ceri Nash (Wrexham), Jane Eyton-Jones (Fire Authority and Rescue Authority) and Peter Rowland (Snowdonia National Park).

### 39. **MINUTES**

In relation to the Minute 36 – Standards Conference 2012, it was suggested that the Conference could be held in Llandrillo College or in Llandudno.

### 40. **PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES APPROACH TO ASSESSING CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS**

Members were presented with the PSOW's approach to assessing code of conduct complaints.

41. **PRESENTATION BY THE PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES**

Members of the North Wales Standards Forum received a presentation from the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales.

The presentation highlighted the following:

- Number of complaints received up to March – 412; new complaints up by 49% on previous year; majority of complaints fall under Failure to show respect
- 19 referred to Standards Committees/Adjudication Panel
- 280 complaints not investigated
- Process for investigating a complaint and imposing of sanctions
- Role of Standards Committee particularly in relation to Town and Community Councils
- Guidance to be re-issued to coincide with Elections – separate guidance for Local Authorities, and Town and Community Councils
- Some member on member complaints could be dealt with under local protocol but this may require secondary legislation concern that some community councils taking up disproportionate amount of time
- Indemnities and the problems with the level of representation likely to result in a cap being proposed Ombudsman felt £10,000 appropriate but WLGA favoured £20,000
- Training for Members to include the reissued guidance
- Compulsory training on the Code felt to be good idea and could be required for scrutiny licensing and cabinet members. Denbighshire implemented this in their code.
- It was suggested to the Ombudsman that Case decisions on website would be helpful and he pointed out that case digests were available from time to time

Members thanked the Ombudsman for attending the Forum and discussion following on the topics highlighted in the presentation.

42. **PRESENTATION BY THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICER FOR ONE VOICE WALES**

Members received a presentation from the Development Officer from One Voice Wales.

The presentation highlighted the following:

- Supports Town and Community Councils – 75% in Membership
- Direct advice available to Chairs and Clerks
- Does not assist with member on member disputes
- Training Programme – 5/6 core modules including a recently developed Code of Conduct module; delivered bilingually 2 hour sessions
- £350 to train 20 people – happy to train those who are not in the membership

- Resource pack to be available

Members thanked the Development Officer for his presentation.

43. **ANY OTHER ITEM**

The next meeting would be held in July 2012 (date to be confirmed).

Topics to include: Feedback from training sessions

(The meeting ended at 3.30 pm)

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# Attendance Note

For Legal Services Manager

Matter reference: C-015386-RWJ  
Matter name: North Wales Standards Committees Forum  
Attended by: Lynn Ball  
Attendance with:  
  
Attendance on: 17 July 2012  
Recorded on: 17 July 2012  
Subject: Note - North Wales Standards Committee Forum 17 July 2012

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## Item 3 Feedback from training sessions

- Code Training is mandatory in Denbighshire Council for all new Members. This is a policy that was approved by full Council. It was agreed that this is not currently a legal requirement and therefore it isn't enforceable.
- Gwynedd and Anglesey have tried to use a combination of persuasion and self-interest to ensure that County Council Members undergo training on the Code as failure to train over a long period can have a detrimental impact on any sanction imposed if the Member is referred to the PSOW. It was also suggested that "naming and shaming" can work if Members fail to attend training over a significant period.
- There was discussion around the consultation response to the White Paper and it was eventually agreed that the Standards Committee Forum wished to respond to the consultation to the effect that training on the Code of Conduct should be compulsory for Members of all principal Councils with the requirement for the training to be updated/refreshed on a regular basis, say once in the life of every Council.
- Agreed that the WLGA Induction Pack should be used to ensure consistency of training.
- With regard to Standards Conference, Members of the Committee were asked to take the issue back to their Authorities to get a view on the kind of issues Members would like to see addressed and whether by presentation or workshop etc. It would be useful to send this information to the Forum before it next meets on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2012.
- Agreed that the Standards Conference will be in April 2012 but middle to the end of April to avoid Easter.

## Item 6 AOB

- Next meeting of the Forum 10am 4<sup>th</sup> October 2012
- Standards Committees will respond individually to the consultation on whether or not there should be a Regional Standards Committee and how it would operate. Opinion was divided about the significance of local knowledge as opposed to an independent objective view.

- Agreed that it would be in order for LB to contact the other MOs to obtain information about the number of Standards Committee hearings, including dispensations, conducted over the last couple of years.

**FFORWM PWYLLGORAU SAFONAU GOGLEDD CYMRU  
NORTH WALES STANDARDS COMMITTEES FORUM**

**Dydd Iau, 4 Hydref 2012 am 10.00 am  
Thursday, 4 October 2012 at 10.00 am**

**Bodlondeb, Conwy**

<b>Ynys Môn/Isle of Anglesey</b>	Michael Wilson – Cadeirydd/Chair Islwyn Jones – Is-Gadeirydd/Vice-Chair Lynn Ball – Swyddog Monitro/Monitoring Officer Robyn Jones – Dirprwy Swyddog Monitro/Deputy Monitoring Officer
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<b>Gwynedd</b>	Gwilym Ellis Evans – Cadeirydd / Chair Sam Soysa – Is-Gadeirydd/Vice-Chair Dilys Ann Phillips – Swyddog Monitro/Monitoring Officer Sion Huws – Swyddog Priodoldeb/Propriety Officer
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<b>Awdurdod Tân ac Achub/ Fire Authority and Rescue Authority</b>	Jane Eyton-Jones – CadeiryddDros Dro/Acting Chair
<b>Parc Cenedlaethol Eryri/ Snowdonia National Park</b>	Peter Rowland – Cadeirydd/Chair



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# A G E N D A

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1. **Apologies**

2. **Minutes**

To approve as a correct record minutes of the previous meeting.  
(Pages 3 - 7)

3. **Standards Conference 2013**

To discuss ideas for possible presentations and workshops for the Standards Conference 2013.

4. **Ombudsman's Revised Guidance on the Code of Conduct**

(Pages 8 - 9)

5. **Any Other Item**

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## NORTH WALES STANDARDS COMMITTEES FORUM AGENDA ITEM 2

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Tuesday, 17 July 2012 at 10.00 am  
Bodlondeb, Conwy

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**PRESENT:**     Howie Roberts (Chair)           Chair - Conwy

                  Lynn Ball                             Monitoring Officer - Isle of Anglesey  
                  Sioned Wyn Davies           Deputy Monitoring Officer - Wrexham  
                  Sion Huws                            Propriety Officer - Gwynedd  
                  Islwyn Jones                       Vice-Chairman - Isle of Anglesey  
                  Dilys Ann Phillips           Monitoring Officer - Gwynedd  
                  Geraint F. Roberts           Vice-Chairman - Denbighshire  
                  Peter Rowland                    Chair - Snowdonia National Park  
                  Ceri Williams                   Deputy Monitoring Officer - Conwy  
                  Michael B. Wilson           Chair - Isle of Anglesey

**In attendance:**     Sian Harland                           Committee Services Officer - Conwy

#### 44.     **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Delyth Jones (Conwy), Gary Williams (Denbighshire), Lisa Jones (Denbighshire), Kevin Sibbons (Flintshire), Sam Soysa (Gwynedd), Gwilym Ellis Evans (Gwynedd), Ceri Nash (Wrexham), Trevor Coxon (Wrexham) and Jane Eyton Jones (Fire and Rescue Authority).

#### 45.     **MINUTES**

In relation to the attendance list at the last meeting, it was noted that Councillor Gail Hall was representing Snowdonia National Park, in place of Peter Rowland, and not the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority.

#### **AGREED-**

**That the minutes of the meeting of the North Wales Standards Committees Forum held on 23 April 2012 be confirmed as a correct record, subject to the above amendment.**

#### 46.     **FEEDBACK FROM TRAINING SESSIONS**

Members gave feedback on the Code of Conduct Training Sessions for County Councillors, post the May 2012 elections:-

#### **Conwy**

- 21 new Councillors had been elected, and all but one had attended the training sessions
- Training sessions had been very interactive, with plenty of enquiries from Councillors

- The Chairman had met with the Group Leaders to congratulate them on the attendance levels and the good Code of Conduct record, which Conwy had maintained
- Two sessions for Town and Community Councils would be held in September 2012, with the expectation that the Clerks would train their own Community Councillors

### **Denbighshire**

- Denbighshire had made Code of Conduct Training mandatory for their Councillors through a change in the Council's Constitution, however, it was noted that enforcement had not been tested
- Out of 47 Councillors, 42 had attended training and a further session would be held for the remaining 5 County Councillors
- Training for Community Councillors would be held in the near future, with individual sessions being held for Town and Community Councils; this was as a result of the high number of Member on Member complaints received by the Ombudsman, especially from Prestatyn Town Council

### **Gwynedd**

- Councillors were encouraged to attend training and there had been a change in culture
- Out of 75 Councillors, more than half had attended training, with all new Councillors in attendance

### **Wrexham**

- Wrexham, similarly had successfully trained their new Councillors

### **Anglesey**

- Elections on Anglesey would not be held until May 2013

Further discussion took place on the following:-

- A Councillor, who had wilfully neglected to attend training sessions, would probably receive a steeper sanction from the Ombudsman if a complaint against them was upheld
- Naming and shaming Councillors at Standards Committee meetings may be a deterrent against apathy in attending training
- It was not in the power of the Ombudsman to make Code of Conduct Training compulsory, this lay with the Welsh Government
- As the Welsh Government were currently consulting on the White Paper 'Promoting Local Democracy', the Forum could make a recommendation through that consultation, that Code of Conduct Training be made compulsory for all County Councillors throughout Wales
- Members considered making training compulsory for Community Councillors, but it was understood that this would create resource issues for Local Authorities. Furthermore, it could deter people from sitting on Town and Community Councils

- It was suggested that a certificate be produced for County Councillors, who had attended training sessions, to avoid the need to attend further sessions provided by outside bodies, such as the Snowdonia National Park
- If made compulsory, County Councillors, who had received training in the past should attend refresher sessions
- Any sanction for not attending training should sit with the relevant Standards Committee
- Members agreed that the Ombudsman should be made aware of the Forum's recommendation

**AGREED**

**(a) That, through the consultation on the Promotion Local Democracy White Paper, the Welsh Government be requested to make Code of Conduct Training for County Councillors compulsory across Wales, with sanctions for not attending training sitting within the remit of the Standards Committees.**

**(b) That the Ombudsman be made aware of the Forum's recommendation of the Forum.**

47. **STANDARDS CONFERENCE 2013**

The Monitoring Officer (Gwynedd) advised that, as the Chair of the All Wales Monitoring Officers' Group, she was pleased to announce that the Group were thankful of the Forum's offer to hold the next conference in North Wales.

Members were requested to provide any ideas for conducting the conference. In previous years there had been Presentations and Workshops.

It was suggested that the conference should be held towards the end of April 2013.

A request was made to invite Independent Members to the Monitoring Officers' Group meetings, when discussing the conference to allow for input from their point of view, in order to provide a different perspective.

**AGREED**

**That each Standards Committee discusses the conference and any ideas be fed back at the next meeting of the Forum.**

48. **CRIMINAL CONVICTION OF COUNCILLORS**

The Deputy Monitoring Officer (Conwy) advised that in Conwy it was protocol for Councillors, in sensitive roles, to be CRB (Criminal Records Bureau) checked. It was noted that emerging legislation would reduce the areas in which Councillors needed to be CRB checked. If anything arose from the CRB check, the Monitoring Officer would discuss the consequences with the Councillor on an individual basis.

It was noted that prescribed legislation stated that a person could not stand for election if they had been imprisoned, or received a suspended sentence of 3 months or more within 5 years of an election.

The Standards Committee Chairman (Anglesey) advised that he had requested for this item to be placed on the agenda as a result of his experience in Chairing a recent Standards Committee Hearing. There was little information and guidance on how to deal with a Councillor who had been convicted of a criminal offence.

It was noted that the Councillor in question had referred himself to the Ombudsman under the part of the Code relating to bringing the office of Councillor into disrepute.

All Members on Anglesey were subject to enhanced CRB checks, and Group Leaders were advised on which appointments a Councillor could undertake if the CRB check was not clean.

Furthermore, the case had been referred to the Monitoring Officer by the Ombudsman, and it was the decision of the Standards Committee that a Hearing should be held. The Anglesey Standards Committee Chair advised that, on experience, he would recommend that any letters advising the Ombudsman that a Hearing would be held should be sent from the Monitoring Officer.

49. **ACCESS TO MEETINGS OF THE NORTH WALES STANDARDS COMMITTEES FORUM**

The Chairman requested that Members consider whether the Forum should be held in public.

Members considered the request, but were of the opinion that if the public and Councillors were in attendance discussion could be constrained. In its present format the Forum was conducive to frank discussion, sharing best practices and ideas.

However, it was noted that other Local Authority Standards Committees were interested in the work of the Forum and it was agreed that the Forum agendas could be circulated to all Monitoring Officers across Wales for information.

**AGREED**

- (a) That the format of the North Wales Standards Committees Forum remain the same.**
- (b) That the North Wales Standards Committees agendas be circulated to all Monitoring Officers across Wales for information.**

50. **ANY OTHER ITEM**

Discussion ensued on the advantages of a Regional Standards Committee, rather than a Standards Committee for each individual Local Authority.

The advantages were that the Independent Members and Councillors would be unbiased and dispassionate when conducting a Hearing. However, the disadvantages would be the loss of the local connection and local knowledge of the issues within an area.

51. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**AGREED**

**That the next meeting be held on 4 October 2012 at 10.00 am at Bodlondeb, Conwy.**

(The meeting ended at 11.20 am)

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Our ref: PT/KS/mm

Ask for: Katrin Shaw

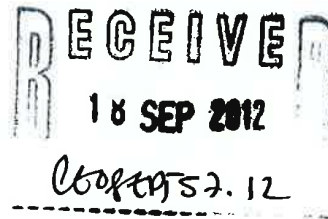
Your ref:

 01656 641182

Date: 17 September 2012

 Katrin.shaw@ombudsman-wales.org.uk

Mr Ken Finch  
 Acting Chief Executive  
 Conwy County Borough Council  
 Bodlondeb  
 Conwy  
 LL32 8DU



Dear Mr Finch

I thought it would be helpful to contact you in the light of a recent decision of the High Court concerning the Code of Conduct for members.<sup>6</sup>

As you may be aware a member challenged the findings of the Adjudication Panel for Wales to uphold his Council's Standards Committee's decision to censure him for breaching paragraph 4(b) of the code of conduct by failing to show respect and consideration to his fellow Councillors. The court found that whilst the comments which were posted on a website operated by the member were sarcastic and mocking and the tone ridiculed his fellow Councillors, because the majority of the comments related to the way in which the Council was run and the competence of the Councillors, the comments were "political expression". The ruling found that the Panel took an over-narrow view of what amounts to political expression and no account had been taken of the need for politicians to have "thicker skins". In view of the member's entitlement to freedom of expression, and the fact that the majority of comments were directed at fellow Councillors, the finding of a breach of the Code in this case was a disproportionate interference with the member's rights under Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights. The Standards Committee's decision to censure the member was therefore set aside.

The impact of this ruling is that my staff will have to apply a higher threshold when deciding whether to investigate any conduct complained about which may be regarded as being "political expression". I will not therefore investigate such cases where 'political' criticisms are made, regardless of the tone of the exchange. Allegations of disrespectful behaviour towards officers, particularly those who may hold senior positions, must also be considered in the light of this ruling.

<sup>6</sup> Calver, R (On the Application Of) v The Adjudication Panel for Wales (Rev 1) [2012] EWHC 1172 (Admin) (03 May 2012).

I have today issued my revised Guidance on the Code of Conduct which includes the impact of this ruling and other amendments. It is available on my website [www.ombudsman-wales.org.uk](http://www.ombudsman-wales.org.uk) .

I would be grateful if you would bring this issue to the attention of your members so as to avoid complaints being made which stand no prospect of being investigated in the light of this ruling.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Tyndall', written in a cursive style.

Peter Tyndall  
Ombudsman

Copy: Monitoring Officer



# Attendance Note

For Legal Services Manager

Matter reference: C-015386-RWJ  
Matter name: North Wales Standards Committees Forum  
Attended by: Meirion Jones  
Attendance with:

Attendance on:  
Recorded on: 04 October 2012  
Subject: North Wales Standards Committee Forum – Bodlondeb, Conwy

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Item 1. Apologies – L.B, RWJ, etc

Item 2. Minutes – Mike Wilson corrected the final paragraph at 4.8

### Item 3. **Conference**

This will take place on 19/04/13

Delyth, Conwy stated that there was a meeting of Monitoring Officers tomorrow [05/10/12] and that the 6 North Wales Officers will meet informally to discuss the matter. The Chairman asked for any suggestions. They are listed below:-

1. Islwyn Jones (Anglesey) mentioned the proposal we had discussed and which is incorporated in note 153158 [copy attached]. He had his own notes on his laptop.

This was discussed briefly and the Chairman said that it would be useful to have some background regarding Anglesey because a large number of people knew some of the details but nothing about the timetable and the structured history. I said a few words on the matter and that there were lessons to be learnt from Anglesey's position and to raise the awareness of the Standards Committee of other Councils to this.

It was asked how the matter would be progressed.

Delyth, Conwy said that they held meetings.

Sion, Gwynedd said that they had arranged a work programme and met at least four times a year.

The same in Wrexham.

The National Park said that they did not have much work and met twice a year.

Anglesey meet at least four times a year formally.

Islwyn Jones outlined his second proposal, i.e. –

2. In order to ensure consistency throughout Wales, one standard form should be used for declarations of interests by Members in the register and that each registration of interest form completed by a Member should be put on the website.

The Flintshire Officer asked why there was a need for one form. Islwyn said it was for consistency and to avoid the need to reinvent the wheel. No agreement was made in relation to this. Trevor from Wrexham thought if things were working well they should be left and the Officer from Flintshire was in agreement. It was proposed that the matter be left to the Monitoring Officers. Delyth said that information and ideas were being shared between the 22 Authorities in Wales therefore Councils are not alone. The Monitoring Officers work closely together.

It was agreed to take the matter to the Monitoring Officers. It was stated that each Standards Committee is different; some have a whistleblowing policy etc.

3. Proposal by the Park – asking for breakout groups in the conference and that there should be a specific group for single purpose Authorities so that they can discuss issues.
4. A discussion on what had happened in previous conferences. It was agreed not to have “play acting” next time but it should happen in the future.
5. Trevor Wrexham said that their Standards Committee were concerned about the low level complaints due to independence of the persons dealing with the matter and that at least the Ombudsman is independent. Mike and Islwyn shared information regarding the procedure in Anglesey and I explained a little about the process.
6. The Chairman stated that the matter should be considered by the six Monitoring Officers in the meeting the following day and that each Council / Standards Committee should put matters on the agenda through their local Monitoring Officer.
7. It was proposed that the Conference should be held between 10:30 and 5 not between 9 and 3. When are the trains?! About 120 had attended previous meetings.

Item 4. “**Ombudsman’s Guidance**”. Delyth explained some of the background and that there was some concern regarding the judgement itself [Calver] and also the response of the Ombudsman through his Guidance.

Comments such as “free-for-all-in behaviour” were used. But Delyth stated that a legal challenge was being considered. Trevor stated that he was concerned about “assertive Members” reading this.

Sion, Gwynedd said that perhaps Councillors would not be caught by the Ombudsman’s procedure and that they would be caught by the local procedure. There was a recent case regarding comments made on the blog this case was different because the facts were wrong it was not an opinion.

The feeling that the Ombudsman was avoiding issues – coped out. Islwyn stated that he was concerned that this undermined local protocols too.

The Chairman proposed that the meeting should write to the Ombudsman but Delyth asked the Forum to wait until the Monitoring Officers had met the following day to discuss the matter. That was agreed.

Islwyn mentioned a threshold, and of course that threshold remains but perhaps it is higher.

To arrange the next meeting for Monday 7 January 2013 at 2pm to discuss arrangements for the conference and other matters e.g. the response of the Monitoring Officers to the Ombudsman's Guidance.

I suggested that the Forum should be held following the meeting of the Monitoring Officers because it is important for the Forum to know the issues discussed / resolutions made by the Monitoring Officers in order that they can be discussed at the Forum.