

Meeting	Standards Committee
Date	5th July, 2010
Subject	Application for dispensation.
Purpose	Decide on the application
Author	Monitoring Officer.

Background.

1. Councillor Julian Kirkham is a member of the Arthog Community Council and has presented an application to Committee for dispensation.
2. The Councillor represents Arthog Community Council on the Barmouth Harbour Consultative Committee. This is a Gwynedd Council committee which discusses matters relating to Barmouth Harbour. It includes, not only elected members from Gwynedd Council, but also members of the relevant community/town councils and representatives from bodies representing harbour users.
3. One of Gwynedd Council's statutory functions is to licence boats that carry passengers. It grants a 'Boatman's Licence' for those who are in charge and navigate such a boat and a 'Proprietor's Licence' to owners. In Barmouth there are three separate ferry services that sail from Barmouth to Pwynt Penrhyn and eight Boatman's Licence holders work on these services.
4. Councillor Kirkham is a Boatman's Licence holder and works on one of these ferry services.
5. In a meeting of the Consultative Committee on 16th March, 2010 the Maritime Officer presented a report regarding the ferry licence requirements. He had been directed by the Committee to consider the suggestion that applicants for a Boatman's Licence should, as a pre-requisite, have a Boat Master's Licence issued by the M.C.A. (Maritime and Coastguard Agency). The relevant extract from the Maritime Officer's report, explaining the ramifications of this idea is attached as **Appendix 1**. The Consultative Committee does not have the power to change the Council's requirements for licence holders if it wished to do so. The matter would have to be referred to the County's other harbour committees before taking the matter to one of the Council's committees for decision.
6. As Councillor Kirkham is a Boatman licence holder himself, and works on one of the ferry services, and as a decision on the matter would obviously have an effect on him, he declared an interest and left the meeting during the discussion. The relevant minutes of the meeting are attached as **Appendix 2**.

The Application.

7. Councillor Kirkham's application is attached as **Appendix 3**.
8. As can be seen, the Councillor wishes to take a full part in the discussion on the basis that he has a specific expertise in the subject matter.

Recommendation.

9. The Committee is asked to and decide upon the application for a dispensation.