

Committee:	Standards Committee
Date:	28 January 2013
Title:	Application for dispensation by Councillor Dyfrig Jones
Author:	Monitoring Officer
Action:	To decide upon the application

Background

1. I enclose as **Appendix** an application by Cllr Dyfrig Jones of Bethesda Community Council applying for a dispensation in connection with discussions about village halls within the area, including financing arrangements.

2. The Councillor has declared an interest because he is a member on the management committee of one of the halls. It is possible that other members will submit similar applications, and these will be presented at the meeting.

3. The Standards Committee may grant a dispensation of the situation comes within one (or more) of those listed in the relevant regulations (see **Appendix**). The Councillor states that he is asking the Committee to grant a dispensation under paragraph (a), which states that a dispensation may be granted where -

“no fewer than half of the members of the relevant authority or of a committee of the authority (as the case may be) by which the business is to be considered has an interest which relates to that business;”

4. The Ombudsman’s Guidelines on the code of Conduct notes the following in relation to granting dispensations (p.36):

“The standards committee will need to balance the public interest in preventing members with prejudicial interests from taking part in decisions, against the public interest in decisions being taken by a reasonably representative group of members of the authority. If failure to grant a dispensation will result in an authority or committee not achieving a quorum, this may well constitute grounds for granting a dispensation.”

Recommendation

5. The Committee is requested to consider and decide upon Councillor Dyfrig Jones’ application for a dispensation, along with any others that are received.