

APPLICATION TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE FOR DISPENSATION

Please note that each section MUST be completed. Please refer to the attached Guidance Notes when completing the form.

1. YOUR DETAILS

Your full name: Schedule of Members Names Attached

Name of your Council: Gorslas Community Council

Your address and postcode: As per attached schedule

Contact telephone number(s): As per attached schedule

Email address: Gorslas.CC.Clerk@gmail.com

2. DETAILS OF YOUR INTEREST

- Members of the Welfare Committee

Explanatory Note - Welfare Committees.

- The Community Council own the recreational parks at Gorslas, Drefach and Cefneithin.
- Accordingly, it makes strategic and operational decisions relating to general provision for the three parks but also on occasion in relation to individual park.
- There are Welfare Associations in each of those communities have a consultative role in the running of the park in their particular area.
- The Community Council also, on occasion, considers requests from the three local Welfare Associations at Cefneithin, Drefach and Gorslas for financial assistance to host community events notably Christmas tree and lights events within their community.
- Many of the Community Councillors are also members of the Welfare Association for the area in which their electoral Ward falls.
- The Community Councillors do not have a direct personal or financial interest in any of the three Welfare Associations.
- Dispensation is sought to allow Community Councillors, to speak and vote at meetings of the Community Council on matters related to the three parks, including the park within the ward which they represent and are members of the Welfare Association as well as matters relating to requests for financial assistance up to £500 from those associations and for the benefit of the local community.
- The request is made to allow the Council to benefit from the input and local knowledge of the elected members on matters related to the relevant ward and for which the local members are also members of the Welfare Association.
- It will facilitate the decision through the provision of local relevant community-based information from members representing the respective wards before a decision is made and which the Council would otherwise not be in possession of.

What is members interest in the above matter?

- The elected representatives are also members of the Welfare Association within their respective wards and thus the Welfare Organisation association could potentially benefit from a decision made by the Community Council relating either to the park or for the granting of financial assistance for community events.

When will the above matter be considered?

- Park matters will arise at each meeting of the Community Council.
- Financial Assistance Requests are considered usually once a year

Are you applying for dispensation to:

Speak only:

Speak and vote:

Make written Representations

Exercise Executive Powers

3. GROUNDS FOR DISPENSATION

Regulations issued by the National Assembly for Wales prescribe the circumstances in which the Standards Committee may grant a dispensation. These grounds for granting a dispensation are summarised below and are set out in full in the attached guidance notes. On which of the following grounds do you believe that a dispensation should be granted in this case? Please tick the appropriate box(es).

• at least half of the members considering the business has an interest	<input type="checkbox"/>
• my inability to participate would upset the political balance of the meeting to such an extent that the outcome would be likely to be affected;	<input type="checkbox"/>
• my participation would not damage public confidence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• the interest is common to me and a significant proportion of the general public;	<input type="checkbox"/>
• my participation in the business is justified by my particular role or expertise;	<input type="checkbox"/>
• the business is to be considered by an overview and scrutiny committee and my interest is not a pecuniary interest;	<input type="checkbox"/>
• the business relates to the finances or property of a voluntary organisation of whose management committee or board I am a member and I have no other interest	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• it is appropriate to do so in all the circumstances where not otherwise possible to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate a person's disability	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. INFORMATION IN SUPPORT OF YOUR APPLICATION

Please set out below the reasons why you consider that the Standards Committee should grant a dispensation in this case:

(Please note that failure to complete this section will result in the application form being returned to you)

The Welfare Associations have played a significant role in the development of the parks which the Community Council own and operate and play a consultative role in obtaining the views of residents on proposed changes to the park or any issues residents may have with difficulties arising from the operation of the parks.

The Community Councillors who are also members of the local Welfare Associations contribute to the work of the Community Council considerably through the pooling and sharing of their ongoing knowledge of the activities, aims and actions of the local organisations.

The full Council consists of 15 Councillors, five from each of the three wards. There is also a Sub Committee (it is a General Purpose Sub Committee and deals with any matters delegated to it by full Council – there are no other committees or sub - committees). One member from each ward sits on the Sub Committee and each ward also appoints a further member, as part of a mentoring and development programme, to serve in the role of observer.

The balance of membership of Councillors who are also members of Welfare Associations has changed following the elections in May 2022. It currently stands at 33% of the total membership.

Whilst that is shy of the 50% threshold indicated as a stated reason for applying for dispensation if a third of the total membership was not able to participate in the discussion and decision-making process then it would impact on the quality of the decision-making process and leave the views of a significant number of electors unrepresented.

The Community Council is of the view that the current arrangement works well, facilitates better informed decision making and that the balance is such that it allows for input from the local members who are also members of the Welfare Association but with the majority of members not being members of that particular local welfare association or indeed any association.

A recent practical example resulted in the Gorslas Welfare Association donating £6k to assist in the process of purchasing new play equipment for Gorslas Park. The role of the Community Council members who were also members of the Gorslas Welfare Association was key in facilitating the arrangement.

Changing the arrangement would provide a poorer service for each community and work against the efficient delivery and co-ordination of services in the area.

Members kindly seek the permission of the County Council to continue the current arrangement and grant dispensation for the relevant members.

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(please continue on a separate sheet if necessary)

I confirm that the information provided on this form is true to the best of my knowledge. I agree that this application and all the information contained within it may form part of a public report to the Standards Committee. I request a dispensation in respect of the above matter.

Signed: 

Date: 02.08.22

Please return this form to the Monitoring Officer, Chief Executive's Department, Carmarthenshire County Council, County Hall, Carmarthen, SA31 1JP.

Guidance notes

- (1) Please read through the Code of Conduct and decide which of the paragraphs is most appropriate to your case. Brief details of the relevant paragraphs are noted in the table below. If you are unsure, please contact the Monitoring Officer for advice.

Para.	Type of personal interest	
10(2)(a)	Council business which relates to or is likely to affect: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • your employment or business, • your employer, firm or company • a contract made between the Council and you • any land, lease or licence in which you have an interest • a public body or other association in which you have membership or hold a position of general control or management 	
10(2)(c)	Council business which affects your well-being or financial position, or the well-being, financial position or other interests of a person with whom you live or have a close personal association	
13	Council business which is being considered by an Overview and Scrutiny Committee and which relates to a decision of the Cabinet or another Committee of which you were a member at the time [County Council only]	

- (2) The Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensations)(Wales) Regulations 2001(as amended) state that a Standards Committee may grant dispensations where:

- (a) 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;
- (b) no fewer than half of the members of a leader and cabinet executive of the relevant authority 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) in the case of a county or county borough council, the inability of the member to participate would upset the political balance of the relevant authority or of the committee of the authority 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 relevant authority'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 business to which the interest relates is to be considered by an overview and scrutiny committee of the relevant authority and the member's interest is not a pecuniary interest;
- (h) the business which is to be considered relates to the finances or property of a voluntary organisation of whose management committee or board the member is a member

Appendix A GORSLAS COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Drefach Ward

Dewi Wyn Edwards,
Coedfryn,
Heol Blaenhirwaun, Drefach, SA14 7AY

Clive Green,
Penderyn,
61 Heol Cwmmawr, Drefach, SA14 7AS

Tina Jukes,
Dan yr Allt,
Heol Dan yr Allt ,Drefach Llanelli.

Nia Lewis,
Rhoswen ,
Heol Caegwyn, Drefach SA14 7BB

Gorslas Ward

A King,
8 Clos Y Gwendraeth,
Gorslas.