

BARGOED TOWN COUNCIL CYNGOR TREF BARGOD

MINUTES of Full Council Meeting 25th September 2019

PRESENT Councillors J Bissex, D Price, J Halvey, V Stephens (Leader), S Hamer-Thomas, S Horton, L Harding, Mayor R Carroll, D Morgan, A Collis, R Horton.

Also in attendance – Town Council Clerk

Meeting Chairman – Cllr R Carroll (Mayor)

1. To receive apologies for absence.

Councillor H Llewellyn, Councillor A Higgs

2. Declaration of Interest or dispensations on any items(s).

Cllr D Price declared an interest in Tarragon.

Cllr S Hamer-Thomas declared an interest in Greater Bargoed Partnership, Friends of Greater Bargoed.

Cllr R Carroll declared an interest in Cartref Community Hall, All Allotments in the Greater Bargoed Area.

Cllr D Morgan declared an interest in Tarragon, Gilfach Community Centre, Gilfach Residents, Rhymney Valley Young @ Heart.

3. Police Report.

Members welcomed PC Chilvers to the meeting. PC Chilvers reported the police are receiving very few calls to Morrison's since new security measures have been adopted in store. There continues to be an issue at the rugby ground but police have noticed an improvement over the past few weeks. A member enquired about recent police activity in West Street, Bargoed and was advised by PC Chilvers of bereavement. A member enquired about the police Inspector leaving the ward, and offered thanks on behalf of Bargoed Town Council for all his hard work while based in the Bargoed area, particularly in respect of the anti-social behaviour issues at Morrison's supermarket. A member enquired about the ongoing issues with taxi's in the town centre. PC Chilvers advised she will make enquiries and come back to the next meeting with more information. Members drew attention to the drunk and disorderly behaviour recently being observed at the area surrounding the Miner's heads, and members also reported a positive response following police involvement with issues near Lewis Street in Aberbargoed.

4. Minutes of the last meeting.

Minutes were approved as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

5. Update on resolutions from the last meeting

Members reviewed the resolutions from the last meeting and the Mayor advised that the meeting discussed at item 9.5 was no longer being pursued.

6. To receive a Mayor's report.

The Mayor advised attending Llancaiach Fawr to open the Bargoed and District Art Society Event; two events at Bargoed Bowls Club; and accompanying the Leader to the CCBC Sports Development activity in Heolddu Sports Centre.

The Mayor also advised of working with Cllr Price on the flowers at the Miner's heads in Bargoed. In respect of the sports development activity, an officer from Caerphilly County Borough Council requested permission to attend council in October to discuss potential town council involvement in the summer scheme for Children during 2020. RESOLVED clerk to invite the officer to the October meeting. The Mayor advised council that he does not intend taking the Mayor's allowance for 2019-20, and requested that council consider making a grant to Velindre Cancer Care for 50% of the Mayor's allowance. RESOLVED clerk instructed to make a grant of £500 to Velindre.

7. To receive a Leader's Report.

The Leader reported in her opinion the CCBC Sport scheme at Heolddu was excellent with very good attendance rates, and she looks forward to discussing potential options for town council involvement in 2020.

The Leader advised of meeting with Boverton nurseries to examine some of the hanging baskets in the town centre. Members discussed the problems experienced this season and their disappointment in the floral display. The clerk advised the meeting that the issue is on the agenda at item 10.2 for further discussions.

Cllr Stephens reported on the Christmas Lighting working group activities to date, explaining that two meetings and an exchange of emails have taken place with three lighting companies. All three have been asked to produce a range of options for council to consider renting their festive lighting from Christmas 2020 onwards. This would allow greater financial control with less risk associated with equipment failures.

Additionally, in respect of the 2019 Christmas lights display, the Leader advised attending an Elsbury site visit earlier today, with the Mayor and the clerk accompanying them. If council are in agreement, the 9 LED Balls currently stored by town council will be used around the Miner's heads, and Elsbury will install two strings of cross street lighting along Hanbury road at a cost of £1996; leaving the 34 figurines, the tree lights and the two cone trees that were still viable from 2018 to be used throughout the town council areas. Members discussed the Christmas lighting at length. The clerk advised the quotation received from Elsbury in respect of additional equipment needed for brackets, cross street lighting and possible new tree lights for the Spar area totalled £3130. RESOLVED clerk to advise Elsbury to proceed with the cross street lighting and the brackets for the balls. Clerk to advise Elsbury to remove the town council lights from the dead tree outside Spar as CCBC will be removing the tree. Elsbury to be asked to check the other tree lights at the Spar area and come back to the clerk prior to ordering new lights. Members discussed budget options and agreed the virement of remaining budget balances from members allowances, Mayor's allow, the oap event and £200 from the general grants budget to the Christmas Lighting budget. RESOLVED expenditure authorised in the event that the two sets of tree lights at Spar fail testing. RESOLVED

delegated authority given to the Mayor and the Leader to authorise the order of the additional tree lights outside Spar in the event that the existing lights are no longer viable.

8. To receive the External Auditors notice of conclusion of audit 2018-19.

The Annual Return and notice of conclusion of audit was presented to council. RESOLVED to approve and accept the annual return.

9. Items from the Clerk

9.1 The bank reconciliation and payments list were approved and signed at the meeting by the Mayor.

9.2 Planning notifications - No neighbours views/objections have been received.

9.3 Members reviewed correspondence. RESOLVED Clerk to write to Ms Jones inviting her to advise council what she would like members to do in respect of her complaint to Caerphilly County Borough Council. RESOLVED governance and accountability 2019 received and new financial regulations 2019 approved.

9.4 RESOLVED to set up a Policy and Resources Committee. RESOLVED to adopt the draft terms of reference.

10. Matters Reported for a Decision.

10.1 RESOLVED to set up a working group for the Autumn/Winter Events with Cllrs Hamer-Thomas, Price, S Horton, Stephens, Bissex, and Carroll participating. Members instructed the clerk to confirm the weekend of 23rd & 24th November 2019 for the Christmas Grotto and the switch on of the Christmas lights for Saturday 23rd November at 4.30pm in St Gwladys Church car park. Members discussed their disappointment in the lack of consultation by CCBC Events department prior to setting the dates for pre-Christmas events. RESOLVED Clerk to invite Steve Wilcox to attend council in the new year to discuss 2020 events.

Members discussed the funding of the school children using the ice rink as per previous years and RESOLVED the virement of £700 from the general grants budget to ensure schools in the town council area are able to benefit from the ice rink.

10.2 RESOLVED a working group has been set up to look at developing a floral display strategy for 2020. Cllrs Price, Stephens, Carroll and S Horton will participate.

10.3 Members considered the One Voice Wales conference and in light of the distance to be travelled RESOLVED not to attend on this occasion.

10.4 RESOLVED £60 authorised for Members photographs to be taken. Clerk to circulate dates for consideration be relevant members.

10.5 Members considered the issue of the lack of mailbox at the Town Hall. RESOLVED the Mayor is authorised to source and install a mailbox up to the value of £35. Clerk to advise Gwent Police.

The meeting closed at 7.40pm

Signed: 