

**Bargoed Town Council
Events & Environment Committee Meeting
Thursday 19th November 2020**

Minutes

PRESENT COUNCILLORS Councillors J Bissex, R Carroll, V Stephens, S Horton, H Llewellyn.

IN ATTENDANCE:- Mrs Helen Williams, Town Clerk

CHAIRMAN:- Councillor V Stephens (Leader)

1 Apologies for Absence

Schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972 requires a record to be kept of the members present and that this record form part of the minutes of the meeting. Members who cannot attend a meeting should tender apologies to the Clerk.

Councillor Hamer-Thomas.

2. Declaration of interests or dispensations on any item(s) on this Agenda, if appropriate.

Councillors and Officers are reminded of their personal responsibility to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interest(s) in respect of any item of business on this agenda in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000, and the Code of Conduct for both Councillors and Clerk.

No declarations.

3. To receive and approve the minutes of the Events and Environment Committee Special Meeting 5th November 2020.

The minutes were approved and signed by the committee chair.

4. To receive a verbal update from the clerk on the festive lighting and to consider the switch on arrangements.

The clerk provided up to date information to Members on the installation of the festive lighting scheme, confirming the date of the Christmas tree installation in Bargoed and the remaining lights still to be installed. Members discussed town council inability to have a carol service or formal switch on event. The committee RESOLVED that the Mayor should invite all Members to be in the vicinity of the Christmas Tree at the Miners Heads at 4pm on Saturday 28th November. Members will not be expected to be present, but if they choose to attend they will be reminded of social distancing requirements in order to respect Welsh Government regulations. The chair confirmed return of the town council Santa outfit which had been out on loan to Homestart.

5. To receive correspondence.

The clerk reported on a thank you letter from Aberbargoed OAP Club for the town council donation in lieu of the annual party. The club will be subsidising a trip with the donation. The clerk read email communication from Hefin David MS office in respect of an enquiry about town centre decorations which was received from a local business in Bargoed. Members discussed the enquiry and RESOLVED to instruct the clerk to write to both the business and Hefin David's office providing photographs and an explanation of the annual arrangements for decorations.

6. To discuss the floral display arrangements for 2021, plan any continued expansion to the programme, confirm the contractor(s) and approve expenditure.

Members considered the 2021 planned expansion to the floral display programme along with feedback from members of the public this year. A long discussion took place on the use of half baskets that will not be used in Gilfach ward in 2022. Members RESOLVED no further expansion to be planned for 2022, therefore no additional budgeted expenditure planned for the 2021/22 draft budget. Members reviewed the planting, watering, and maintenance quotations along with additional contractor information. RESOLVED to engage the services of JS Lee for the 2021 season. The clerk was instructed to liaise with JS Lee to discuss options for use of the half baskets on the railings at the Emporium car park on Upper High Street, Bargoed. Clerk to feed back to the next meeting of the committee. RESOLVED £9,704.26 authorised expenditure.

7. To receive additional information from the Skateboard Academy and consider its content.

Members reviewed the additional information as provided by the Skateboard Academy and RESOLVED to include the activity in the schedule for the Easter school holidays 2021. The committee instructed the clerk to liaise with the academy in respect of funding applications.

8. To evaluate Remembrance Activities and consider Town Council planning for 2021.

The Committee evaluated the Remembrance activities across the Greater Bargoed area and whilst Covid19 severely restricted Town Council activity members felt they delivered the best they could. Supply difficulties prevented poppies from being put out in all areas that had been planned. This will be rectified in 2022, and the clerk was instructed to ensure supplies are sourced in the new year. Members thanked Councillors Price and Carroll for their work in setting up the poppy displays. The Committee RESOLVED to send letters of congratulations to 5 local businesses in Bargoed for their window displays.

The clerk advised the committee that a Member has requested Remembrance be discussed at the next full council meeting.

9. To consider the Events & Environment Committee schedule of activities for 2021/22, confirm dates and approve budget allocation requirements for recommendation to the Policy and Resources Committee.

Members discussed the draft schedule of activities for 2021/22 and RESOLVED to confirm the schedule pending developments with the Coronavirus. The Committee instructed the clerk to liaise with the primary schools and enquire about wildflower bombing activities.

Members confirmed arrangements for newsletter distribution as per in previous years, whereby Members will personally distribute the newsletters throughout the community.

The committee worked through their draft budget requirements for their activity schedule and a lengthy discussion took place.

Members RESOLVED no budget to be included for further planter expansion; RESOLVED litter pick events to be run through Keep Wales Tidy; RESOLVED both Welsh Government and CCBC have business award schemes in place therefore it would not be good use of public funds to duplicate such schemes.

Members RESOLVED to advise Full Council of an expanded programme of community events and activities for next year in response to the Coronavirus; and to advise of a permanent piece of artwork being commissioned for the town council garden at the North of Bargoed, situated in front of the cenotaph at St Gwladys car park. The committee noted it would be timely for the wrought iron artwork installation to coincide with the centenary of the Royal British Legion in 2021.

The committee RESOLVED to advise the Policy & Resources Committee of £68,760.26 as the budget requirement for the 2021/22 schedule of Events and Environmental Activities, and to request that the town council general grants budget for 2021/22 take account of the potential continued impact of the coronavirus.

The meeting closed at 7pm

Date of next meeting 5.30pm Thursday 11th February 2020

Signed: _____