

**Minutes**

Councillors Present: V Stephens, D Price, H Llewellyn, L Harding, D Morgan, A Collis, J Halvey, J Bissex, S Horton, R Carroll, A Higgs.

Also in attendance: H Williams (Clerk)

Meeting Chairman: Councillor R Carroll (Mayor)

**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 S 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.*

Councillor Harding declared an interest in item 9.7

Councillor Higgs declared an interest in item 9.7

**3. To receive approve and sign the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting 28<sup>th</sup> October and receive an update from the clerk on items 9.5, 9.6 and 11 of the draft minutes.**

The clerk provided Members with an update regarding the Member survey being carried out in respect of electronic meeting documents advising four Members have yet to respond. The clerk advised Members of Welsh Government intention to deliver a workshop on SDPs so this will be the first activity of the sub-committee. The clerk explained that in respect of town centre management, CCBC officers will not be available to attend council until the New Year. This will be arranged for February 2021. Members reviewed the minutes of the full council meeting 28<sup>th</sup> October 2020 and RESOLVED to approve the minutes. The Mayor signed the minutes in the presence of the meeting.

**4. Mayor's report (to include a report from the Police in their absence).**

In the police absence the Mayor provided Members with a brief statistical report from CSO Sean Coomer. A Member advised of recent communication with the police about Gilfach basketball court requesting additional resources to monitor the anti-social behaviour in the area. Another Member reported that anti-social behaviour in Aberbargoed has become much less of an issue in recent months.

The Mayor resumed his report advising of completion of preparations for the distribution of selection boxes to all primary schools. He extended his thanks to Morrison's; to councillors Stephens, Llewellyn and Bissex for their support. The Mayor requested a letter to be sent to Mr Liam Burnett at Morrison's thanking him for his support also.

The Mayor sought council support for a best dressed window award for the businesses across the town council area advising of his intention to provide a small cash prize for the first and second windows along with a shield for the winner. Members RESOLVED to support the Mayor's suggestion authorising £75 expenditure from the Mayor's budget. A Member advised of a £15 donation to provide a third prize.

The Mayor completed his report advising Members of the switch on of the festive lighting at 4pm Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November. For covid related reasons there is no formal event taking place.

**5. To receive a verbal report from the Leader on developments at Aneurin Bevan Health Board.**

The Leader advised Members of one big issue that she is still working on with the health board in respect of the telephone service at Bryntirion surgery. Residents have been complaining about being on hold on the telephone service for up to 2 hours and still having to attend the

surgery to make an appointment. Members fed into the discussion advising of several residents coming to them with similar complaints. The Leader advised she is working with officers from the health board to try and resolve the issue.

**6. To consider co-option to fill the Member vacancy at Bargoed ward.**

The Leader advised of a local Bargoed resident who she feels will bring new skills to the council. The Leader proposed – Cllr Price seconded. RESOLVED – clerk instructed to contact Mrs Jacky Davies and invite her to attend the December meeting of council for formal co-option.

Councillor A Higgs joined the meeting at this point, offered his apologies for late arrival advising of technical difficulties.

**7. To receive feedback from the CCBC liaison committee.**

The Member representative gave a verbal report to council on the recent meeting advising of the town and community councils having asked CCBC for information on five issues: CCTV review 2020; Winter Maintenance Plan in light of Covid19; Street Lighting; CCBC budget plans for 2021; Waste management facility on the common. Clerk to circulate the CCBC update on street lighting. Cllr Llewellyn advised Members of Natural Resources Wales issuing improvement notices on the waste management company in respect of plastic waste; and moved on to explain that CCBC will not receive their financial settlement details from Welsh Government until the end of December. However, the precept demand is still required from town council by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021. CCBC will shortly be undertaking a consultation with the public in respect of priorities for service provision and what the public see as their budget priorities, and council is being asked to encourage members of the public to participate as promptly as they can. This will aid CCBC in setting their 2021 budget.

**8. To discuss storage solutions for Town Council.**

The Mayor advised Members of Gwent Police request to vacate the storage container by 11<sup>th</sup> December 2020. A discussion ensued about short term options along with the need to find a longer-term solution to storing town council Christmas equipment. In the short-term Members RESOLVED to store the equipment in Gilfach (the Mayor to liaise with Gilfach Members to transfer the equipment). Members discussed this issue at some length. RESOLVED to instruct the clerk to write to the police and crime commissioner to seek a reduction in town hall rent for 2020 as the town hall is not being used due to coronavirus, and to request support from the commissioner with finding a suitable storage facility.

**9 Items from the Clerk:**

**9.1 To approve the bank reconciliation and payments list (to be signed by the Mayor).**

Members approved the bank reconciliation and authorised the payments list. The Mayor signed both documents in the presence of the meeting.

**9.2 To receive information regarding the Internal Audit 2020/21 and feedback from Audit Wales webinar on future external audit arrangements.**

The clerk advised Members of the internal auditor retiring and explained the new external audit regime that will take effect from 2020/21 financial year. RESOLVED to instruct the clerk and the chair of the policy and resources committee to research potential internal auditors and report back to full council.

**9.3 To consider items of correspondence.**

9.3(i) Clerk instructed to write to resident advising of town council work with local businesses.

9.3(2) RESOLVED to delegate the chair of the policy and resources committee to complete the consultation.

9.3(3) RESOLVED not to take up the training at this time.

9.3(4) correspondence noted.

9.3(5) RESOLVED to delegate the chair of the policy and resources committee to complete the consultation.

9.3(6) RESOLVED clerk to respond to the resident advising the issue falls outside the remit of town council and write to the relevant CCBC councillors regarding the correspondence.

9.4 To receive and approve a list of meeting dates for 2021.  
RESOLVED to approve the list of meeting dates as follows:

January 27<sup>th</sup>; February 24<sup>th</sup>; March 24<sup>th</sup>; April 28<sup>th</sup>; May 26<sup>th</sup> (Annual Meeting and regular monthly meeting) June 30<sup>th</sup>; July 28<sup>th</sup>; August – Recess; September 29<sup>th</sup>; October 27<sup>th</sup>; November 24<sup>th</sup>; December 15<sup>th</sup> (council in recess from 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021)

9.5 To receive the Electoral Reform Newsletter (circulated to Members electronically)  
RESOLVED – Document received and noted.

9.6 To receive the Gwent Employers Newsletter 2020 (as circulated to Members electronically)  
RESOLVED - Document received and contents noted.

9.7 To consider planning applications.  
Councillors Harding and Higgs both left the meeting prior to planning applications being considered as follows:

|                      |   |                   |                             |
|----------------------|---|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Case Ref.</b>     | <b>20/0881/COU</b>  | <b>Site Area:</b> | <b>169m<sup>2</sup></b>     |
| <b>Location:</b>     | <b>8 Hanbury Road Bargoed CF81 8QS</b> (UPRN 000043090063)                |                   |                             |
| <b>Proposal:</b>     | Change the use from shop and storage to 2 no. self-contained studio flats |                   |                             |
| <b>Case Officer:</b> | Mr C Powell   | ☎ 01443 864424    | ✉ powelc2@caerphilly.gov.uk |
| <b>Ward:</b>         | Bargoed   | <b>Map Ref:</b>   | 315162 (E) 199718 (N)       |

|  |                                 |           |
|--|---------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Community Council:</b> Bargoed Town Council | <b>Expected Decision Level:</b> | Delegated |
|--|---------------------------------|-----------|

Members considered the location of the property and RESOLVED – Neighbours views

|                      |   |                   |                           |
|----------------------|---|-------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Case Ref.</b>     | <b>20/0904/RM</b>   | <b>Site Area:</b> | <b>365m<sup>2</sup></b>   |
| <b>Location:</b>     | <b>Land Adjacent To Capel Hotel Park Place Gilfach Bargoed</b> (UPRN 000043032489)  |                   |                           |
| <b>Proposal:</b>     | Seek approval of the reserved matters relating to access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale in relation to planning consent 18/0467/OUT (Erect detached dwelling) |                   |                           |
| <b>Case Officer:</b> | Mr A Pyne   | ☎ 01443 864523    | ✉ pynea@caerphilly.gov.uk |
| <b>Ward:</b>         | Gilfach   | <b>Map Ref:</b>   | 315132 (E) 199029 (N)     |

|  |                                 |           |
|--|---------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Community Council:</b> Bargoed Town Council | <b>Expected Decision Level:</b> | Delegated |
|--|---------------------------------|-----------|

RESOLVED – neighbours views  
The clerk telephoned both Councillor Harding and Councillor Higgs to advise them to rejoin the meeting.

9.8 To receive information regarding the WRU.  
The Mayor advised Members that Mr Robert Butcher, from Bargoed Rugby Club has been appointed as the chairman of the Welsh Rugby Union. He will be in post for the next six years.  
RESOLVED – a letter of congratulations to be sent to Mr Butcher.

10. **To receive the final recommendations report from the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales and consider any representations to be made to Welsh Government concerning the matters in the report.**

Members discussed the content of the final recommendations to Welsh Government. RESOLVED no representations to be made by town council at this time.

11. **To discuss Remembrance Services.**

Councillor Higgs provided Members with a verbal report on 2020 Remembrance activities in Aberbargoed. Members discussed the impact of coronavirus on this year's remembrance activities and agreed the royal British legion delivered the best they could in very difficult circumstances. A Member questioned county borough ward member responsibilities in respect of remembrance activities. RESOLVED to instruct the clerk to make enquiries with Caerphilly County Borough Council.

12. **To consider in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012, the consultation in respect of proposed development at Bedwellty Road, Aberbargoed.**

Councillors Harding and Higgs both declared an interest in this item and left the meeting prior to its discussion commencing.

The meeting discussed the proposal and RESOLVED no representation from council to be made at this time.

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.50pm.

**Date of next meeting: 16<sup>th</sup> December 2020.**