



Bargoed Town Council

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Minutes of the Special Full Council Meeting 21st January 2021.

Present: Councillors R Carroll; V Stephens; J Davies; A Collis; J Halvey; H Llewellyn; D Morgan.

Also in Attendance: Mrs H Williams, Town Clerk

Meeting Chairman: Councillor R Carroll, Mayor

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 L Harding; Councillor D Price; Councillor S Hamer-Thomas; Councillor S Horton; Councillor A Higgs; Councillor Bissex.

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 made.

1. To approve and sign the Minutes of the Full Council meeting 16th December 2020.

The clerk updated Members regarding confirmation from the cleaning team at Caerphilly County Borough Council, and confirmed Councillor Davies has undertaken two training modules.

The meeting approved the minutes and instructed the mayor to sign the minutes in their presence.

2. To receive the draft Minutes of the meeting 12th January 2021 with recommendations from the Policy and Resources Committee in respect of internal auditor and 2021-22 budget.

The Mayor invited the committee chair to give a brief verbal report to the meeting in respect of the Policy & Resources Committee meeting 12th January 2021. The committee chair provided the meeting with the committee recommendation for internal auditor, and the recommendation to council for the draft budget 2021-22 with a precept recommendation of £124,887.

3. To appoint an Internal Auditor for the 2020-2021 financial year.

Members considered the recommendation of the Policy and Resources Committee in respect of the candidates for Internal Auditor. Council RESOLVED to appoint Mr Mike Fisher as the internal auditor for 2021-22.

4. To discuss the draft budget recommendations; approve the town council budget for 2021-22 and agree the precept demand to be made to Caerphilly County Borough Council.

Members reviewed the draft budget and discussed the recommendations of the Policy & Resources Committee. The Mayor invited Members to make comments and ask questions for clarification by the clerk. A Member asked if the clerk could remind the meeting of the rationale for the additional part time staff member included in the draft budget. The clerk provided Members with an explanation of the pace of change in the sector, the new duties and responsibilities placed on council and the significant growth being experienced. The clerk advised this was a positive way forward for Council and discussed potential opportunities with the Integrated Wellbeing Network along with additional support with projects and community activities. One Member advised council had never needed additional support staff in the past and the priority is to return to the Town Hall. A Member commented that they understood the additional administrative and legislative responsibilities and that the additional support is needed to be included in the budget. The clerk explained that the role has been included in the draft budget from mid-way through the new financial year so that the additional resource would be in place in time for the busiest project activity period in 2021. A Member remarked that a second staff member was important to provide cover should the clerk be unable to fulfil her duties for any reason.

The Mayor asked for a show of hands in respect of inclusion of the additional role in the draft budget. The meeting RESOLVED to approve the additional part time post in the budget. 4 votes to 3.

The Mayor asked Members if there were any further comments/questions for either the clerk or the Policy & Resources Committee chair regarding the draft budget. A Member asked if the meeting felt the One Voice Wales Membership fee was value for money. The Policy & Resources Committee chair advised he felt it was essential for council to retain membership. The delegated town council representative to the One Voice Wales area committee commented that having attended a recent meeting the value of membership is very clear.

A Member asked about earmarked reserves in respect of Members Care Costs. The clerk explained that care costs are mandated by the Independent Remuneration Panel, and that the Policy & Resources Committee resolved to continue to build the earmarked reserves each year until the available funds are sufficient to meet the needs of council moving forward. The Member thanked the clerk for the clarification. The Member then commented that it was an ambitious programme of events and community activities included in the budget, and while there was still significant uncertainty if events such as the fireworks will go ahead, the Member felt it was essential to include all annual Town Council activities in the budget plans.

The Mayor asked Members at this point if there were any further comments.
No Member wished to discuss anything further.

The Mayor asked for a show of hands in respect of approving the recommendations of the Policy & Resources Committee. Members RESOLVED to unanimously approve the recommendations of a precept demand of £124,887 and advised the clerk that council would issue their instructions at the regular meeting of full council on 27th January 2021.

The Mayor thanked all Members for attending and closed the meeting at 19.00hrs.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 27th January 2021.