



## Bargoed Town Council

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### DRAFT Unapproved Minutes of the Full Council Meeting 28th July 2021.

Present: Councillors R Carroll; J Halvey; H Llewellyn; D Price; S Horton; P Collins; A Collis; J Davies; J Bissex; L Harding.

Also in Attendance: Dr David Llewellyn (Gwent Integrated Wellbeing Network); David Chamberlain (CCBC Arts Development Manager); Bethan Ryland (CCBC Arts Development); Mrs H Williams, Town Clerk.

Meeting Chairman: Councillor H Llewellyn (Mayor)

#### 1. To welcome representatives from Gwent Integrated Wellbeing Network and CCBC Arts Development Team to the meeting.

The mayor welcomed three visitors to the meeting. Dr Llewellyn gave a short presentation to council on developments within the Gwent Integrated Well-being Network since he last met with Members almost two years ago and explained that the well-being principles hold even more true now since the pandemic. Dr Llewellyn reminded Members that the core aim of the network is to connect well-being assets together, supporting them to work on well-being improvements in the area. The meeting was made aware of funding availability and of the ground-breaking move within GP surgeries for green prescribing, with the understanding that nature and wellbeing, particularly mental health wellbeing, go hand in hand. Dr Llewellyn spoke about some of the challenges since the pandemic and the NHS "reconnection fund" prioritising work around the question of how we get people back out in the community? He also advised council that Bargoed has been registered as being recognised as a community working towards achieving "Dementia friendly" status across community centres, businesses and working with young people.

The presentation moved on to Beth Ryland from CCBC Arts Development Team who explained the activities that have recently taken place because of the "Connect and Flourish" Arts Council Funding secured by CCBC.

Councillor Price joined the meeting at this point.

This project centred on making connections because community consultation that asked people how they were feeling during the lockdown suggested anxiety, stress, isolation, and depression were the main issues felt by respondents. The project delivered mentoring sessions with volunteers at St Gwladys mums & toddlers' group; at Bargoed Community Hub with a seated movement group and at the St Gwladys craft group. Artists and professional photographers were brought in to deliver mentoring sessions. Connections were made between the Bargoed Rocks project, professional artists, photographers, Bargoed Community Hub, St Gwladys Church Hall, and members of the local community. An event has been arranged 2<sup>nd</sup> September at the Community Hub in Bargoed to exhibit the art and craft work produced by the project.

David Chamberlain (CCBC Arts Development Manager) completed the presentation by talking about his team's work in developing the look and feel of empty shops in the town. David explained the

team is working in tandem with wellbeing activities, trying to capitalise on some of the historical artists' work, making more links with the creative community. The purpose being to try and regenerate the town by working with landlords of empty premises, develop artwork, encourage the release of premises for pop up use. However, he reminded Members this type of engagement work with landlords takes time, so it should not be seen as a quick fix.

The mayor thanked all three visitors for their presentation and asked if Members had any questions. Councillor Price to David Chamberlain – Councillors get criticised about the town centre and low footfall but if shops are not there to entice people to the town footfall will not increase. Have any landlords in Bargoed been approached yet?

DC – Yes, and several conversations will be taking place over the next three or four weeks.

Councillor Carroll to Beth Ryland – are there plans to engage with other community groups than those in the centre of the town?

BR – Yes, the project has been successful, and work is continuing to make more connections across the community.

Councillor Carroll to Dr Llewellyn – please can we have more information about “Dementia Friendly Bargoed” as Members are unaware of this work.

Dr L – Councillor Morgan has attended the initial meetings as representative of town council. This is the start of the journey, with the registration having been completed. The hard work starts now, as work with community centres and voluntary organisations needs to happen. In our experience where wellbeing initiatives work well is where town council is heavily involved eg. Blaenavon.

Councillor Price – what are we doing for people with Dementia?

Dr L – There are GDPR difficulties in obtaining personal information, so the next step is to fund a worker to go around organisations and identify individuals, engage with them, and connect them with wellbeing initiatives at community organisations.

DC – team has been working with Inside Out Cymru as they have funding available and are looking for communities to work in with Alzheimer's services. There may be an opportunity to connect them with Bargoed.

Dr L – the integrated wellbeing network are very keen to work with Bargoed and invite the town council to be key partners. Details will be sent to the clerk for circulation to Members.

The mayor thanked all three visitors, and they left the meeting.

The mayor once again welcomed all Members to the meeting and moved on to the formal agenda.

2. **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 A Higgs; Councillor S Hamer-Thomas; Councillor D Morgan.

Councillor Horton joined the meeting at this point.

3. **To receive 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 13 – Planning applications.

4. **Press and Public Participation Session.**

No enquiries received by the Clerk.

5. **To approve and sign Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 30th June 2021.**

The meeting minutes were moved by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Horton. Members approved the minutes, and they were signed by the mayor in the presence of the meeting.

**6. Mayor's Verbal Report.**

The mayor advised Members that he has not undertaken any civic activities throughout this month but would like to take the opportunity to remind Members of the skateboarding and sport scheme activities going on throughout the school holidays. He encouraged Members to go along and see the schemes in action. The mayor also reminded Members of the Youth Service activity in the town centre 10<sup>th</sup> August, encouraging Members to go along. Finally, the mayor advised the meeting that the Human Resources and Staffing committee would be interviewing three candidates for the Assistant Clerk post later this week.

**7. To receive verbal feedback from the One Voice Wales area committee meeting 7<sup>th</sup> July 2021.**

Item deferred to next meeting.

Councillor Bissex joined the meeting at this point.

**8. To receive a verbal report from the chair of the Events and Environment Committee.**

Councillor Price thanked Members of the committee for their support and hard work. There are several projects being managed including painted poppies, the garden at the North Bargoed area, wildflowers, and the floral displays. The committee feel feedback from residents about the barrier baskets supports their recommendation for 2022 to feature hanging baskets on the Park Estate and the Miners Heads in Bargoed, with barrier baskets and free-standing planters expanded throughout Aberbargoed, Gilfach and Bargoed town centre. The clerk and committee chair are liaising to obtain information and quotations for consideration by the committee at their next meeting.

Councillor Davies asked for clarification regarding timing of wildflower bombing activities.

Councillor Carroll advised the ideal time is the Autumn.

The committee will be identifying sites and confirming dates at the next meeting.

The mayor thanked Councillor Price for her report.

**9. To receive an update on Yew Street Park from Aberbargoed Ward Members.**

Councillor Halvey explained no site meeting has taken place yet, but there are signs of a fence being put at the top of the park. No further information has been received.

Councillor Collis sought a reminder of the concerns raised by Members. Councillor Halvey advised ward Members feel access and a lack of equipment for under five-year-olds are quite big concerns. Councillor Collins reminded Members of the recent commitment made by CCBC regarding parks investment.

Councillor Price explained she has put a request in to CCBC in respect of the playground on the park estate which has been approved, and Councillor Harding confirmed the same in Gilfach. CCBC funding is available now.

A site meeting to be arranged as a matter of urgency, and recommended CCBC ward Members extend an invitation to the head of the parks department.

The mayor instructed the clerk to put this item on the agenda for the September meeting of full council for follow up.

**10. To receive a verbal report from the Clerk, consider the dogs trust sponsorship opportunity, and provide the clerk with instruction in respect of Operation London Bridge.**

Clerk explained the dogs trust sponsorship opportunity for council to fund a dog statue in the town centre which would form part of a trail being advertised through Caerphilly Tourism. Members RESOLVED not to fund the £6,000 at this time.

The Clerk reported the following:

- Confirmation of Unity Trust bank account –reserves, contingencies and funds earmarked for unrepresented invoices to be transferred.
- Request from CCBC Sports Development Team for Members to promote the sports scheme at Heolddu, the Hangar and the skateboard park. Children have started attending, but with the weather being a bit hit and miss the team have asked town council to do a bit of promotion work. Welsh Government has allocated funding to support the sporting activity, so the town council will only be funding the £600 for the skateboarding. £5,500 for reallocation within budget.

- Please could Members arrange to take down the children's drawings from the community
- Would anyone be interested in attending the One Voice Wales Green Network? This is a separate network to the CCBC one that Cllr Morgan has been asked to join. Members to liaise with the Clerk if they are interested.
- Town council has received an invitation to submit recommendations for the queen's birthday honours. Submissions must be made electronically by the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September. Members to liaise with the clerk to obtain the documents.
- Annual leave from 26<sup>th</sup> August through to the 8<sup>th</sup> September. Any items for September meeting agendas to be emailed prior to 26<sup>th</sup> August please.
- CCBC communication received about a one-day Food and Craft Market – 20<sup>th</sup> November 2021 with strict distancing, no live music or stages, street entertainers and road closure throughout the day. CCBC being very cautious because of the tone coming from Welsh Government about the virus. There will be no ice rink for 2021. Members instructed the clerk to feed back to the events team that they have no objections.

The Clerk explained Operation London Bridge and council delegated Councillor Higgs to liaise with the clerk for management of the flags in Aberbargoed; instructed the clerk to obtain black arm bands and to prepare for website links at the appropriate time. The clerk was instructed to put the item on the September agenda with a town council procedural briefing note for Members.

Finally, the Clerk sought approval from Members for Councillor Carroll to use the underspend on the funds allocated by council at their April meeting for the replacement of flowers that have recently been vandalised on the Miners square in Bargoed. Members supported the use of the remaining approved funds and several Members advised they will personally donate plants to assist.

#### **11. To review the bank reconciliation and approve the payments list.**

Bank reconciliation and payments list approved as follows: Bank balance as at 30<sup>th</sup> June £84,048.06; payments in June of £577.77 salary related costs; £46.73 PAT testing; and in July of £99 telephone and broadband; £600 Rhymney Valley foodbank grant; £30 Member Training; £250 Valley Daffodils grant; £250 St Margaret Street Allotments grant; £7 bank charges; £9704.26 floral displays; £2239.62 rates and utilities at town hall; £12.17 mobile telephone. Payments to be made at the end of July £1774.60 salary related costs; £1551.50 rates at town hall 2021/22.

The mayor signed the bank reconciliation and payment list in the presence of the meeting.

#### **12. To receive Greater Gwent Torfaen Local Government Pension Scheme Employer Newsletter July 2021.**

Noted.

Councillor Harding left the meeting at this point.

#### **13. To consider Planning notifications:**

Case Ref. 21/0525/FULL Site Area: 153m<sup>2</sup>

Location: 141 Llancayo Street Bargoed CF81 8TF (UPRN 000043002530)

Proposal: Erect single storey rear extension

Case Officer: Mike Jones ☐ 01443 864528 ☐ [jonesm5@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:jonesm5@caerphilly.gov.uk)

Ward: Bargoed Map Ref: 314569 (E) 200273 (N)

**No objections, neighbours views to be taken into consideration.**

Case Ref. 21/0617/FULL Site Area: 312m<sup>2</sup>

Location: Land At Former Central Hall Site Wood Street Bargoed (UPRN 000043167021)

Proposal: Erect 3 No. 3 bedroom dwellings

Case Officer: Elizabeth Rowley ☐ 01443 864776 ☐ [rowlee@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:rowlee@caerphilly.gov.uk)

Ward: Bargoed Map Ref: 314988 (E) 199464 (N)

**No objections.**

Case Ref. 21/0608/COU Site Area: 173m<sup>2</sup>

Location: 42-43 High Street Bargoed (UPRN 000043032627)

Proposal: Change the use of the first and second floor to create 4 flats and elevation changes to ground floor front and rear

Case Officer: Elizabeth Rowley ☐ 01443 864776 ☐ [rowlee@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:rowlee@caerphilly.gov.uk)

Ward: Bargoed Map Ref:315074 (E) 199920 (N)

**Members have no objections.**

The mayor thanked all Members for a very productive meeting and confirmed town council will go into recess at the end of the week. He wished Members an enjoyable break.

The meeting closed at 19.40pm

**Date of next meeting of Full Council Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2021.**

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_