



Bargoed Town Council

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Minutes of the Full Council Meeting 15th September 2021.

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

Also in Attendance: Mrs B Horrell, Caerphilly Youth Service; Mrs H Williams, Town Clerk.

Meeting Chairman: Councillor H Llewellyn (Mayor)

1. To welcome a representative from Caerphilly Youth Service.

The Mayor welcomed Mrs Horrell to the meeting and invited her to give Members a brief overview of youth services currently on offer in the area.

Mrs Horrell spoke about the impact covid19 has had on the service and that mental health and wellbeing are central to project activities being developed. From September to May the service at the Hangar, Aberbargoed will shortly be running 4 nights a week in addition to the Eotus project during the daytime working with the education department. At the current time the service from the YMCA in Gilfach has not yet started due to covid restrictions, but the team are moving towards this restarting.

Members asked if Mrs Horrell could explain more about the project work. This is largely curriculum based during the day and during the open access evening sessions it is based on young persons needs. The service conduct consultations with young people and plan their project activities accordingly. Sports, accreditations, Welsh language are all examples. The team are fortunate with the Hangar as the hall is large enough to accommodate sporting activities such as indoor skateboarding.

The Mayor thanked Mrs Horrell for her attendance advising Members would consider next year's programme of activities and be in touch with any project proposals.

2. Police Report.

No officer attended the meeting but the Mayor provided Members with a written report from Inspector Thompson. Members had no queries at this point.

3. 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; Councillor S Horton;

4. 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 15 – Planning applications.

5. Press and Public Participation Session.

The Clerk reported no enquiries received.

6. To approve and sign Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 28th July 2021.

Minutes were unanimously approved and signed by the Mayor in the presence of the meeting.

7. Mayor's Verbal Report.

The Mayor reported two main activities during the August recess. The first being a visit from Westminster cabinet member for regeneration, Luke Hall MP who had been invited to visit the town centre by Wayne David MP. The Mayor explained he and the Leader of CCBC escorted the visitors through the town centre, spoke to several businesses along the way and looked at some of the properties that are in need of regeneration. The Minister stayed in the town centre much longer than initially planned, and both MPs have subsequently contacted the Mayor to thank him for their visit. The second event was with the Integrated Wellbeing Network where Dr Llewellyn and his team were based in the library interviewing local organisations to pull together a short film about some of the wellbeing challenges in the area and what services are currently available in the community.

8. To receive a verbal Clerks report and decide on town council attendance at One Voice Wales Innovative Practice Conference 22nd September 2021.

Members RESOLVED no attendance at the conference on this occasion.

The clerk briefed Members on:

- a health and safety issue was dealt with by the Mayor and the Clerk during recess, where the festive lights in the vicinity of Royale square had become loose. Contractors have since rectified the situation.
- Operation London bridge briefing has been produced and with Member's agreement will go to the P&R committee end of September.
- Mayor responded to survey from Gwent Police on Commissioner's priorities.
- Chair of P&R committee responded to the consultation on expansion of public spaces protection orders.
- Significant progress has been made on the document archiving project, two broken filing cabinets removed.
- Covid-19 health & safety survey was carried out with a senior surveyor from the facilities management team, the risk assessment was updated, and work identified for ventilation and safe use of the public toilet facilities.
- Governance/policy administration work also undertaken during the recess.

The clerk thanked both Councillor Carroll and the Mayor for their support during the recess in looking at the storage area at the town hall and assisting with the work of moving closer to regular use of the premises once it is safe to do so.

The chair of the P&R committee sought Member's agreement for the removal of an obsolete bookcase from the town hall advising it is no longer fit for purpose as it is beyond economic repair. Members approved its removal.

9. To consider updated guidance and information on the town hall and decide on hybrid meeting options.

Members discussed alert level zero, the instruction from the facilities management team, and the requirement for hybrid meetings. RESOLVED to continue with virtual meetings for the foreseeable future and to continue working on the ventilation and IT equipment requirements in the meantime.

10. To discuss street furniture, cleanliness and weed treatment in the town/village centres.

Members were made aware of concerns being raised with the Mayor about the concrete blocks in the town centre, and how these were preventing machine access for street cleaning. The Mayor also advised of several concerns being made about how dirty the town centre is. Members discussed this situation at length with Members from both Gilfach and Bargoed advising they have reported several issues with fly tipping and rat infestations in the rear lanes, and broken glass in the town centre. Members also expressed concern about broken bins in the town centre. The Mayor

advised he would be bringing the issue to the attention of the town and community councils liaison committee at their next meeting.

Members RESOLVED to instruct the clerk to write to CCBC to advise of town council concerns and the increasing number of residents' complaints being received.

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

No progress to date. RESOLVED to instruct the clerk to write to CCBC to request a site meeting with ward Members as soon as possible.

12. To receive:

- (i) **Code of conduct briefing from the Ombudsman** – noted by Members. The clerk explained she will be working with the Policy and Resources committee on this issue at the next meeting.
- (ii) **Electoral reform newsletter September 2021** – contents noted.
- (iii) **Integrated wellbeing network newsletter August 2021** – contents noted.

13. To comment on Consultations in respect of:

- (i) **Draft Local Elections (Communities)(Wales) Rules 2021** – Members completed the consultation during the meeting.
- (ii) **Electric vehicle charging points** – currently no objections/comments. Members instructed the clerk to seek additional information on electric vehicle charging points and report back to council.
- (iii) **Town centre management group** – Clerk instructed to feed back to CCBC that Members are supportive of the proposal.

14. To receive ward reports from Members.

Gilfach ward – reports of groups of youths being active in the early hours of the morning in the vicinity of Railway Terrace, and overgrown footpaths in several areas in the ward. Both issues are being dealt with.

Aberbargoed ward – various ongoing issues with CCBC tenancies resulting in two evictions in recent weeks. Otherwise, nothing to report.

Bargoed ward – fly tipping in South Street Lane; noise from off road bikes; street lighting issue at Llancayo park. Ward Members reported attending a live drawing event in Bargoed park and being invited to be involved in the development of other art projects in the area.

Park ward – there have been issues with animals, but these have been dealt with. Nothing further to report to Members.

The Mayor thanked Members for their input.

Councillor Harding left the meeting at this point.

15. To consider Planning notifications:

Case Ref. 21/0660/FULL Site Area: 241m²

Location: 14 Gwerthonor Road Gilfach Bargoed CF81 8JR (UPRN 000043030926)

Proposal: Erect single storey rear extension and external alterations

Case Officer: Joshua Burrows ☐ 07874 641749 ☐ burroj1@caerphilly.gov.uk

Ward: Gilfach Map Ref:315254 (E) 197962 (N)

Community Council: Bargoed Town Council Expected Decision Level:Delegated

RESOLVED: No objections, residents views should be taken into account.

The meeting closed at 19.35pm

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____