



## Bargoed Town Council

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### Minutes of the Full Council Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

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

Also in Attendance: Mrs H Williams, Town Clerk.

Meeting Chairman: Councillor H Llewellyn (Mayor)

1. Apologies for Absence  
Councillor S Horton; Councillor S Hamer-Thomas.
2. To receive Declaration of Interests or dispensations on any item(s) on this Agenda, if appropriate.  
No declarations made.
3. Press and Public Participation Session.  
No enquiries received by the Clerk.  
Councillor Davies joined the meeting at this point.
4. To approve and sign Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2021.  
The minutes were received by the meeting. Councillor Price proposed them as a true record and Councillor Collins seconded. Members approved the minutes, and they were signed by the mayor.
5. Mayor's Report.  
The mayor reported having attended a choral afternoon held in St Gwladys Church Hall. He spoke about how talented the performers were and how enjoyable an event it was.  
  
Councillor Carroll joined the meeting at this point.
6. To receive draft minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee meeting 29<sup>th</sup> September 2021 and a verbal report from the Chair, to include recommendations in respect of hybrid meeting equipment.

The Policy and Resources Committee Chair provided Members with a brief overview of the meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2021 and thanked Committee Members for their work on the hybrid meeting project. He moved on to make the Committee recommendations to Council explaining that the Committee felt strongly that Town Council should purchase the necessary hardware such as screen, bracket, and sufficient android tablets installed with basic MS Office software for each Member to access emails and documents in meetings.

The Committee recommendation includes a camera, speaker, and microphone. An additional laptop to also be purchased for the new staff member. The Committee chair advised Members that the Committee felt this was the middle ground in terms of equipment and would enable hybrid meetings to be delivered in a user-friendly way for Members.

The meeting considered alternative options; talked about whether Members required access to ongoing support and RESOLVED to approve the recommendations of the Policy and Resources Committee authorising expenditure of £7,931.53 (inc VAT). The Clerk was instructed to order the town council equipment as soon as possible and work with EInfinity to configure the Members tablets. Members asked the chair about annual costs of software and RESOLVED to instruct the Policy and Resources committee to ensure annual budget availability of £1,500 is included in budget setting calculations.

7. To receive draft minutes of the Events & Environment Committee meeting 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 and a verbal report from the Chair.

Councillor Price thanked the mayor for inviting her to report to Council. As Chair of the Events & Environment Committee Councillor Price reviewed the draft meeting minutes with Council reporting additional planters had been ordered to continue with the Council long term biodiversity plan for expansion to the floral display programme. Members spoke about potential additional locations, the overwhelmingly positive feedback from the public about the 2021 displays. The Chair spoke about moving forward with the memorial project, remembrance activities, the biodiversity action plan and that the Committee has set up a working group to look at environmental projects. Council discussed Christmas activities and instructed the Chair to work with the committee on the possibility of Santa visiting each ward.

8. Clerk's report.

The Clerk updated Members as follows:

Town centre: under the cleaner greener programme a CCBC audit has taken place with cleansing, parks, highways looking at overgrowth, litter, and damaged street furniture. Work has been scheduled for winter & spring with all works to be completed by end March.

Reinstallation of Aberbargoed clock has been slightly delayed but manufacturers hope to put a date in the diary for the end of the month.

At present there are no further committed proposals for additional electrical vehicle charging point installations, but proposals will be developing as part of the regional strategy.

An invitation has been received for Member representatives to visit Bryntirion surgery. Date to follow.

Confirmation of the boundary commission recommendations for a reduction in CCBC Members, which means there is to be one combined ward called Aberbargoed and Bargoed ward.

Clerk is still liaising with Gwent police regarding ventilation work in the town hall.

Request received from a member of the public who is writing a book about the Royal Hotel, Members instructed the Clerk to direct the gentleman to Gelligaer historical society.

One further repair is needed before the public toilets can be opened at the bus station. The taxi association are regularly communicating with town council, and this should be resolved soon.

The Clerk reminded Members of the next meeting of the engagement sessions for the local development plan with CCBC is on areas of growth and the online session is 5pm Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Members who are interested should contact the Clerk for the link.

Finally, the Clerk sought Members views about Council photographs and civic badges. Council instructed the Clerk to liaise with the photographer for information and report back to the next meeting.

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

Councillor Halvey spoke about the work taking place to lay two tarmac paths into the park. A site meeting is still needed to look at the play equipment however he understands the Clerk is liaising with Caerphilly County Borough Council to facilitate this meeting.

10. To receive:

i Temporary Prohibition of Driving Order from Caerphilly County Borough Council in respect of Groesfaen Terrace and Factory Road, Bargoed.  
Contents noted.

ii Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Loading and on street parking consolidation order from Caerphilly County Borough Council in respect of Bedwellty Road, Neuaddwen Street, School Street, Heol Ysgol Newydd, Aberbargoed and Under Cardiff Road, Francis Street, and Western Drive, Bargoed.

Contents noted.

iii Correspondence in respect of post office services in Aberbargoed.

Councillor Higgs spoke about this item advising Members he is working with the Post Office to try and find suitable accommodation in the village.

iv CCBC consultation on the removal of the disabled parking bay at 34 Henry Street, Bargoed.

Noted

v Vaccination newsletter issue 38.

Received and noted.

Vi Older People's Commissioner Newsletter September 2021.

Noted.

11. To receive Ward reports from Members.

Councillor Collis spoke about ongoing issues with anti-social behaviour and overgrowth in the Aberbargoed ward. He is working with his CCBC colleagues to resolve the issues.

Councillor Carroll advised of continuing concerns from residents about chickens in the Park ward. He has been working with the housing department to resolve the situation.

**In accordance with Standing Orders, the press and public are excluded from the last item on the agenda.**

12. To receive draft confidential minutes of the HR & Staffing Committee meeting 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021 along with recommendations from the Policy & Resources Committee in respect of re-advertising the new post.

Confidential minutes were received and noted by Members.

The meeting closed at 19.35pm

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