



Bargoed Town Council

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Minutes of the Full Council Meeting 17th November 2021.

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

Also in Attendance: Inspector L Thompson; Mrs H Williams, Town Clerk; Mr G Davies, Assistant Clerk to the Council.

Meeting Chairman: Councillor H Llewellyn (Mayor)

The mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting reminding Members to keep their microphones muted until they wished to speak. The mayor welcomed Inspector Thompson to the meeting and invited her to present her report to the meeting.

1. Police Report

Inspector Thompson advised members of her intention to attend each meeting to continue the positive dialogue between partners and moved on to review her report for this month. Except for an issue with the barrier at Morrison's, the inspector was pleased to report no calls having been received from the Bargoed area on Halloween and only one call on bonfire night, which is very encouraging news. There has also been a decrease in incidents at Bargoed railway station.

Inspector Thompson advised that the team are still working in partnership with Caerphilly County Borough Council in respect of insecure premises at the snooker club.

The police are seeking information on the firework incident at Bargoed park 16th October, and the team are making regular patrols in the park.

Community officers report improvements in the issues of anti-social behaviour around the Miners heads.

Face to face police surgeries have started in the upper Rhymney valley and will shortly be doing so in Bargoed.

The mayor thanked the inspector for her reports and for her attendance at this meeting and invited questions from Members.

A member brought a resident's issue about quad bikes on Bedwellty Road, Aberbargoed to the inspector's attention.

A member sought information of police staffing numbers in the area.

Inspector Thompson explained there are two different teams operating in the area. In her neighbourhood policing team, she has a sergeant and one ward manager, with 16 PCSOs, four of which are based in Bargoed. The PCSOs get moved around the area depending on where demand is at the time. The team has six or seven policing officers per shift and there are five shifts. There are several student officers currently being trained as well.

The Inspector confirmed to members that the police station in Bargoed is manned by two separate police teams.

The mayor once again extended his thanks to the inspector, and she left the meeting at this point.

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.
The clerk recorded no apologies.
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.
No declarations were made at this point in the meeting.
4. Press and Public Participation Session.
The clerk reported having received no enquiries.
5. To approve and sign Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 13th October 2021.
Minutes were approved as a true record and signed by the mayor.
6. Mayor's Report.
The mayor initially reminded members of the new way of working and that in this Covid world many more documents are being received electronically. He thanked members for embracing the electronic newsletters and other documents reminding them that the agenda item allows for any members comments to be received. Should a member identify any issue that warrants further discussion they should direct the issue to the clerk in the first instance for inclusion on a meeting agenda.
The mayor reported on the recent Town and Community Councils liaison committee and the continued attention being given to corporate joint committees and the public services board which in his opinion is diluting the committee scrutiny of CCBC. At this week's joint TCCLC and CCBC committee he has requested a question be answered about street cleaning.
He moved on to explain the foodbank event he had been invited to attend had been cancelled, and the time-banking seminar was difficult to navigate.
In addition, this month the mayor attended remembrance services at both Gilfach and St Gwladys, laying the town council wreaths, and he also attended a service at Gilfach memorial garden on 11th November with the children from Gilfach Fargoad school.
7. To amend the Policy & Resources Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday 21st December and redesignate the meeting to a Special Meeting of Full Council to look at the draft budget for 2022-23. Council to go into recess with effect from Wednesday 22nd December 2021.
Members discussed this request from the clerk and RESOLVED to suspend standing orders to accommodate a special meeting at 5.30pm Wednesday 15th December 2021 to be followed by the regular meeting agenda of full council.
8. To receive a verbal report from the Chair of the Events & Environment Committee.
Councillor Price reviewed the draft unapproved minutes of the committee meeting drawing members attention to the pre-Christmas activities for children. She spoke about the committee's commitment to ensure every child in all six primary schools received a selection box from council and that Morrison's supermarket are working with council on this activity again this year.
Because of covid pressures the plans to deliver panto performance were postponed with the committee deciding to arrange for Santa's magical sleigh to visit each of the four wards instead. The chair advised council that the company has confirmed public liability insurance and that ward members will be present in the community to support the activity.
Cross street garden access has been granted by CCBC. Morrison's have donated bulbs and Members will be planting them in the coming weeks.
Councillor Price also spoke about a project working group being set up to look at producing a project plan for environmental projects at Bargoed park. Councillors Collins, Bissex and Carroll will be working with staff.
Finally members were reminded of the work to be done on the selection boxes, the festive lighting switch on at 4pm on Saturday 27th November, and the flyers for Santa's sleigh to go out into the community asap.

The mayor thanked Councillor Price for her report.

9. To receive a verbal Clerk's report and approve town hall key holders.
The clerk thanked all members for contributing to the CCBC request for ward areas that needed to be included in the Autumn/Winter cleaning programme and moved on to report information on discussions with CCBC officers about moving the concrete blocks in Bargoed town centre; the clerk explained she is still waiting for a key to Cross street garden but has been assured this is imminent. The clerk also reported having corresponded with the facilities team at Gwent Police regarding the ventilation, but no confirmed date has yet been provided.
Moving on to approving town hall key holders, the clerk advised members that currently in addition to herself two members are key holders. RESOLVED to provide the assistant clerk with a key and add a fourth person to the keyholder register.

Councillor Price declared an interest in item ten and left the meeting prior to discussion on item ten.

10. To receive confirmation of no requests for a by-election and consider co-option to fill the casual vacancy in the Park ward.
The clerk advised members that CCBC electoral services have confirmed no requests for a by-election and that members should move to co-option. A member asked if council should do this at this meeting. The clerk advised in accordance with the local government act 1972 s87 council should fill casual vacancies at their earliest opportunity. A member spoke about the importance of the Park ward having representation therefore co-opting to fill the vacancy should be prioritised. The mayor asked if the clerk has received any expressions of interest from members of the electorate. The clerk advised one expression of interest has been received. Members discussed the expression of interest and the Mayor called for a show of hands to vote on co-option.
RESOLVED to co-opt Ms Rhyannon Price to represent the Park ward alongside Councillor Carroll.

The clerk telephoned Councillor Price and she re-joined the meeting prior to agenda item 11 being addressed.

11. To receive draft unapproved minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee meeting 27th October 2021 as circulated electronically.
Councillor Carroll presented the draft unapproved minutes drawing members attention to the details of the draft report of the independent remuneration panel and members concerns that the new council elected in 2022 should have the opportunity to implement all its recommendations should they wish to do so. Hence the committee included all recommendations in the draft budget for 2022-23.
The mayor asked if any members had questions for Councillor Carroll.
No questions were brought.

12. To consider making a grant to CCBC Operation Santa 2021, details circulated electronically prior to the meeting.
Members discussed this programme at some length determining the importance of supporting looked after children and commending the work of the appeal. The meeting RESOLVED to make a grant of £500.

Councillor Hamer-Thomas left the meeting at this point.

13. To discuss civic badges and chains of office.
A lengthy discussion ensued about chains of civic office, the rising costs and the use of public money. Some members spoke about British heritage and the importance of town council maintaining the badge of office. One member commented that this is a progressive council and should consider maybe moving away from chains of office as the public recognise the mayor in the community for their work and their activity in the community. Other members felt strongly about maintaining the symbolic chains.
Members continued to discuss their options for some considerable time and RESOLVED to instruct the Assistant Clerk to work with the mayor in obtaining quotations and options to report to the next meeting of council.

14. To receive:

- i Correspondence from Aberbargoed Community Action Group
- ii CCBC communication in respect of a bus stop on the Park Estate
- iii Vaccination newsletter issue 42
- iv Climate change infographics
- v ABHB Cervical Screening information
- vi IWN newsletter November 21
- vii ABHB Breast Centre Newsletter
- viii Senedd Cymru consultation letter on second homes

items iii-viii circulated electronically prior to the meeting

The clerk advised members that trustees of Aberbargoed Community Action Group have requested ward members be provided with their contact details.

The mayor sought any questions/comments from members on the documents they have received electronically. No questions were received.

Members noted the documents contents.

15. To receive Ward reports from Members.

Councillor Carroll reported an issue with a bonfire on the Park estate, which was dealt with effectively.

Councillor Halvey reported confirmation of a site meeting with CCBC officers at Yew Street Park 2.30pm Tuesday 23rd November 2021. Three ward members will be present. He also spoke about the ward members work in supporting the delivery of the remembrance service at Aberbargoed memorial garden.

Councillor Price thanked everyone for their work on the poppies and the remembrance service in Bargoed, remarking she was moved to tears.

In accordance with Standing Orders, the press and public are excluded from agenda item 16.

16. To receive confidential draft unapproved minutes of the HR & Staffing Committee meeting 8th November 2021.

Draft Minutes were received by council.

17. To receive planning applications

Case Ref 21/0938/FULL Site Area: 151m²

Location: 20 Commercial Street Aberbargoed (UPRD 000043003560)

Proposal: Conversion of part of existing dwelling to form 1 separate dwelling

Case Officer: Joshua Burrows 07874641749 burroj1@caerphilly.gov.uk

Ward: Aberbargoed Map Ref: 315431 (E) 200216 (N)

Community Council: Bargoed Town Council Expected Decision Level: Delegated

The mayor sought comments from members. RESOLVED no objections, neighbours' views should be taken into consideration.

The meeting closed at 19.40pm

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____