



Bargoed Town Council

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Minutes of the Special Full Council Meeting 15th December 2021.

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

Also in Attendance: Mrs H Williams, Town Clerk; Mr G Davies, Assistant Clerk to the Council; One Member of the public.

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 the member of the public to the meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence
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.
4. To Co Opt a new Member to the vacancy at the Park Ward.
In accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 s83 Ms Rhyanon Price signed her declaration of acceptance of office in the presence of the Proper Officer. The declaration was signed by the Proper Officer in the presence of the meeting.
The Mayor welcomed Councillor R Price to the meeting.
5. To review and discuss the first draft expenditure budget 2022-23.
The Clerk thanked Members for working on the draft budget prior to the Christmas break and explained the issues that are already impacting on next year's budget in respect of the NHS levy, the costs at the town hall and the May 2022 election costs, and the purpose of reviewing the expenditure draft budget is to allow the clerk time to pull together the precept report for the first meeting in January 2022. Members worked through the separate elements of the budget Resolving the following:
 - Newsletter budget to be replaced by £250 increase in office costs for the annual report production. The budget line to be vired from the 2021-22 budget also.
 - All Risks Contingencies set at £10,000
 - Member attendance allowance set at £20
 - Civic budget removed
 - Grants and Donations set at £6,000
 - Running Costs reserves and Growth fund reserves set at £1,250The clerk thanked all Members for their active participation in planning the draft budget.

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Also in Attendance: Mrs H Williams, Town Clerk; Mr G Davies, Assistant Clerk to the Council; PC Leon Jenkins, Gwent Police.

Meeting Chairman: Councillor H Llewellyn (Mayor)

The mayor welcomed Leon to the meeting and invited him to present the police report for November 2021.

1. PC Jenkins reported a reduced level of issues brought to the attention of the police in the past month, with motor issues at Morrisons being the primary concern. Inspector Thompson has communicated with the management team at Morrisons and requests that town council also support them in impressing the importance of locking the gates. No issues at the park in Bargoed this month. Motor vehicle issues in Bargoed Town Centre have taken some police time, but they are confident this problem is being dealt with. The office advised members of a fly tipping operation in partnership with CCBC officers on Bargoed/Gelligaer common the following day. Questions from a Member about the number of patrols and what time they go on until during the evening. PC Jenkins advised midnight. A member reported issues with the town council planters being vandalised and requested additional surveillance in this area.

The officer thanked Members for receiving him and he left the meeting at this point.

2. Apologies for Absence
Councillor S Hamer-Thomas.
3. To receive Declaration of Interests or dispensations on any item(s) on this Agenda, if appropriate.
Councillor Harding declared an interest in agenda item 19.
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 17th November 2021.
The minutes were received by the meeting. Councillor Price proposed them, and Councillor Horton seconded. Members approved the minutes, and they were signed by the mayor.
6. To receive a verbal update on item 13 of the minutes of the previous meeting in respect of the deputy Mayor's chain of office.
The assistant clerk reported confirmation from Frattorini to replace the velvet backing on the chain will cost £237, and to clean and repair the chain will cost £478.63 in total including the backing. Members resolved to authorise the full repair.
7. Mayor's report, including feedback from the TCCLC meeting 17th November 2021.
The mayor advised of attendance at the recent CCBC Winter Food and Craft Fair in Bargoed and how happy he was to see the event well attended.
He reported requesting the attendance of the CCBC chief executive to the next meeting of the liaison committee to explain the rationale behind decision making in respect of the precept and selling of street cleaning machinery. The mayor explained the county borough is the 5th largest in Wales with the lowest precept, therefore in real terms outside of city centres, the 2nd largest population with the lowest amount of money collected for service delivery.
8. To receive details of the Appropriate Sum under Section 137(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 – Section 137 expenditure limit for 2022-23 as notified by Welsh Government.
The clerk advised as of December 2021 the electorate is 8589. Welsh Government advise the expenditure limit per elector is £8.82; therefore, the total limit for council under section 137 expenditure is £75,754.98

9. To receive the Bank Reconciliation for November.
The clerk displayed the reconciliation on screen for members convenience and reviewed the content, confirming the cash at bank matched the cashbook.
Resolved to approve the reconciliation.
Councillor Collis apologised and left the meeting at this point.
10. Members discussed the recent impact of supply chain issues on the purchase of selection boxes for the children. The clerk requested council retrospectively authorise the additional expenditure incurred. RESOLVED to approve the additional expenditure £153.15 and authorise the following: Keys £6; Printer £139.99; Salary & related costs £2,917; payroll administration £100; Public toilets grant £3,000; Christmas tree £1020; Winter barrels £720; Member allowances £80, £70.10 respectively.
11. To review and adopt the risk management plan.
The clerk advised Members of the council policy to review core documents upon any significant change in council operation. With a second staff member, the risk management plan becomes eligible for review.
Members worked through the document and updated it as appropriate.
The mayor signed the revised document.
12. To consider communication from the Welsh Air Ambulance as recommended by the Policy and Resources committee 24th November 2021.
Members considered the request from Welsh Air Ambulance. Councillor Carroll advised the air ambulance has been to the Park ward 3 times in the past four months.
RESOLVED to make a £500 donation.
13. To consider items of correspondence.
The mayor advised members of two items received, the first being a request from Urdd for a financial contribution. Members discussed the request and considered Welsh Government funding. Resolved no donation at this time.
The second is from a resident concerning disabled access in Bargoed town centre. Members instructed the clerk to advise the resident that this falls outside the remit of the town council and provide her with contact details for CCBC Highways department.
14. To receive feedback from Aberbargoed ward Members on the site meeting at Yew Street Park. Councillor Halvey reported on the meeting of 23rd November 2021 which was attended by three ward members. While members felt the meeting was largely very positive in that access paths are now in place, and two pieces of new playground equipment will be on site from the new year, both Councillors Horton and Halvey were disappointed that their key message of insufficient play equipment for under five-year-olds did not appear to be taken on board. Budget restraints being the core message. Council discussed the issue and RESOLVED to write to CCBC. Councillors Horton, Halvey, and Price to liaise with the clerk prior to a letter going off.
Councillor Halvey moved on to advise members that CCBC support has been secured for the installation of a fruit and herb garden at the top area of Yew Street Park, and that both Aberbargoed Community Action Group and CCBC Youth Service will be happy to engage volunteers in helping plant the trees. Members thanked Councillors Halvey and Horton for their work on this new project.
15. To receive items from the Clerk:
 - a. Information from CCBC about town centre WIFI and approve the take down date for the festive lighting as Sunday 9th January 2022.
Members RESOLVED to approve 9th January 2022.
 - b. Approval required for the write off of 5 figurines that failed PAT testing and are no longer viable.
Members RESOLVED to write off the 5 figurines.
 - c. Meeting dates 2022.
The clerk explained that subject to council decision on the 2022-23 precept there will be a policy and resources committee at the end of January 2022.
 - d. Instruction required regarding (i) the remaining selection boxes, (ii) Integrated Wellbeing Network.
Members RESOLVED:

- (i) to donate to the foodbank; (ii) Assistant Clerk to attend meetings of the network until the end of the council term. Clerk to liaise with Doctor Llewellyn regarding potential funding.
- e. Authorisation required to commence work on the power supply for the town council Christmas tree sited within the St Peters Church grounds, Aberbargoed.
RESOLVED to authorise the clerk to proceed with contacting electricians. Chair of Policy & Resources Committee delegated to approve moving forward within budget.
- f. Update on application to Keep Wales Tidy.
The clerk advised that the town council application for a fruit and herb garden will not be assessed by the Keep Wales Tidy team until the new year.

16. To receive confirmation of newsletters and information items uploaded to the town council website. The clerk advised Members of the intention for more active use of the town council website in disseminating information to the community as there are increasing amounts of newsletters and general information being received electronically. She explained that for the time being this information is being uploaded into the news section of the website, but it is likely this will be changed to a more visual position in the new year. The clerk advised that the following has been uploaded by the assistant clerk since the last meeting:
Bus timetables 12 and 14; Wellbeing platform newsletter; Slimming world referral article; Newsletter from the Older people's Commissioner for Wales; CCBC advice to the community on Dog Fouling. Dental care services throughout the pandemic; NHS winter guidance; Keep Wales Safe Covid guidance; Caerphilly Mayor Christmas card.
17. To receive a verbal update on arrangements for town council photographs and approve expenditure.
The assistant clerk explained four quotations have been received ranging from £45 to £200. All four are locally based photographers. This is for the previous mayor's headshots for the town hall wall and for the full council group photograph. Members talked about arrangements and instructed the assistant clerk to provide a schedule of dates for availability purposes.
18. To receive ward reports from Members.
Councillor Harding reported all quiet in Gilfach ward. Members have been concerned about three road traffic accidents, but they are aware of investigations having commenced.
Councillor Price advised the meeting of a resident's petition being presented to her as CCBC ward Member for a mining museum to be set up in the town centre. She explained the petition will be received by the interim CCBC chief executive who will respond to the residents.
Councillor Davies reported having worked with Councillors Collins and Carroll to plant over 300 bulbs in the garden at the centre of Bargoed. Morrison's donated spring flowering bulbs to the town council which should bring a lovely display of colour in the town centre.
Councillor Carroll reported continuing issues with cockerels in the ward, but there is currently an outbreak of avian flu which is hampering the situation. Councillor Bissex has advised of a request for the use of the santa outfit. Both members will liaise to find out more information.
Councillor Horton reported on extremely positive feedback from residents to the Santa's magical sleigh. The activity was possibly the best attended and best received activity town council has delivered in the ward. Members RESOLVED to write a thank you letter to Santa.
19. Councillor Harding wished everyone Merry Christmas and left the meeting at this point.
To receive planning applications:
Case Ref. 21/1109/COU Site Area: 16m²
Location: Former Valley Heating 23 Hanbury Road Bargoed CF81 8QT (UPRN 000043032396)
Proposal: Change the use from A1 to A2
Case Officer: Mike Jones 01443 864528 jonesm5@caerphilly.gov.uk
Ward: Bargoed Map Ref: 315157 (E) 199623 (N)
Community Council: Bargoed Town Council Expected Decision Level: Delegated
- RESOLVED No objections at this time. Neighbours views to be considered.

Case Ref. 21/1112/FULL Site Area: 211m²
Location: 12 Heolddu Grove Bargoed CF81 8UW (UPRN 000043023878)
Proposal: Erect single storey extension to front of dwelling
Case Officer: Joshua Burrows 07874 641749 burroj1@caerphilly.gov.uk
Ward: Bargoed Map Ref: 314627 (E) 199689 (N) Expected Decision Level: Delegated

RESOLVED No objections.

Councillor R Price thanked Members for their warm welcome to council. The mayor thanked all Members for their active participation in the meeting and wished all a Merry Christmas. The meeting closed at 19.40pm