



## Bargoed Town Council

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### Minutes of the Full Council Meeting 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

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

Also in Attendance: Mrs H Williams, Town Clerk. Inspector L Thompson, Inspector H Lawton, PC H Brown, Gwent Police.

Meeting Chairman: Councillor H Llewellyn (Mayor)

1. To receive visitors from Gwent Police with a presentation on "We don't buy crime".  
The mayor welcomed the three visitors to the meeting and invited Inspector Lawton to make her presentation. Inspector Lawton provided an overview of the new department and the six strands to their work on acquisitive crime. The inspector explained that household packs for marking belongings with smart water costs £9.95 each and investment was being sought from town council to support this new programme. Every officer has been equipped with a UV torch and custody suites have been upgraded to support this initiative. Members viewed a power-point presentation on the initiative and questions were received by inspector Lawton at the end.  
One Member reported having been involved in the use of smart water with a local group over six years ago which resulted in the loss of assets and disappointment in the result despite the support of the police.  
No further questions were asked about the initiative.  
The mayor thanked Inspector Lawton advising that the programme will be discussed by council at a further meeting in coming months. Both officers left the meeting at this point.  
The mayor invited Inspector Thompson to speak on the regular monthly report from the local team. Inspector Thompson apologised for the late submission of her report and advised she would be happy to take questions. Her intention is to provide a written report two or three days prior to a meeting and Members will be able to levy questions during the meeting.  
The mayor thanked the Inspector for her team's work advising he felt she was being proactive in her approach. Members requested their congratulations and thanks were conveyed to the team.  
Inspector Lawton spoke about recent incidents in the town centre advising that cctv has provided some identities for officers. The deputy mayor spoke about how the town council have been working hard to try and improve the way the town centre appearance and it is disappointing to see such incidents as those with the floral displays. She thanked the Inspector for her support.  
Inspector Lawton left the meeting at 18.30
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 Carroll declared an interest in agenda item 11F.
4. Press and Public Participation Session.  
No enquiries received by the Clerk.

5. To receive, approve and sign Minutes of the special meeting of Council 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021. Minutes were moved by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Horton. Members resolved to sign the minutes as a true record of the meeting.
6. To receive, approve and sign Minutes of the monthly meeting of Council 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021. Minutes moved by Councillor Horton and seconded by Councillor Davies. The mayor signed the minutes.
7. Mayors Report  
Councillor Llewellyn reported having attended a wedding anniversary in Capel Street, Bargoed ward taking a bouquet of flowers from the town council to Mr & Mrs Evans, which was very warmly received. No further activity due to current circumstances.
8. To receive a verbal report from the Clerk on casual vacancies at Aberbargoed ward, discuss delegation of duties and provide instruction regarding the vacancies.  
The Clerk provided Members with details of the two casual vacancies at Aberbargoed ward, confirming that notices have gone out to the public. No expressions of interest have been received. Duties delegated to the Member who recently resigned in respect of scrutiny of quarterly financial records and line management of the Clerk need to be reassigned. RESOLVED Councillor Collins delegated to undertake internal scrutiny of financial records; the mayor delegated to undertake line management responsibilities to the end of council term.  
Members discussed options for filling the casual vacancies resolving unanimously to instruct the clerk to contact Mr Halvey regarding possible co-option in an independent capacity.  
The mayor requested the meeting records clarify that recent Member resignations have not resulted from anything relating to town council activity but individuals' relationships with other organisations.
9. To receive the 2022-2023 council tax base rate notification from CCBC.  
Members noted the base rate of 3694.09 band D dwellings for 2022-2023.
10. To review the draft 2022-2023 budget and confirm the precept demand.  
The mayor reviewed the draft budget with Members and invited comments. Councillor Carroll spoke about the work each committee has done on the draft budget and the discussions that took place at the special meeting. Councillor Carroll proposed Members approve the draft budget without any further changes.  
Councillors Price and Collins raised the issue of increased costs of the town hall requesting Members consider future use of the premises.  
The mayor drew Member's attention to increased Member costs and the 2022 election costs, all of which contribute to the need for an increase in budget. He once again sought comments from Members. No further comment. The mayor moved to a vote asking for a show of hands in support of approving the draft budget. Members voted unanimously to approve the budget making a precept demand of £149,585 equating to £40.49 per band D household.
11. Items from the Clerk:
  - a. Update on minute ref 15e from the last meeting.  
As delegated at the previous meeting, to deal with the health and safety issue with the Christmas tree at St Peters Church gardens, Zenner Electrical quotation of £400 + vat was approved by the chair of the policy & resources committee. This work will be completed immediately with full certification provided.
  - b. Request from the assistant clerk regarding council photographs.  
Members were asked to confirm their availability the following day. Group photograph to be arranged asap at the miner's heads.
  - c. Equipment such as costumes/high vis coats etc.  
The clerk requested all equipment be returned to town council without delay. Members will be reissued after elections have been completed.
  - d. Covid rules and ventilation update.  
The clerk explained that while alert level 2 is in place a 2-metre social distance is required in the town hall, which reduced the viable number of people possible at the meeting table once the ventilation is dealt with. Contractors have been on site today, but external windows are broken so not able to be used for ventilation. This will create further delay to hybrid meetings being possible at the town hall.

Members discussed the town hall at some length instructing the clerk to liaise with the finance team at Gwent police to raise the issue of town council still not being able to use the premises. Clerk to report back to future meeting.

e. Working Group

The clerk sought Members to work on producing the town council annual report which is due for publication in April 2022. Councillors Price, Collins, Davies, and Carroll delegated to work with the clerk.

f. Grant applications

Councillor Carroll left the meeting at this point prior to grant applications being considered by council.

RESOLVED to award a grant of £250 to Oaklands Hall Allotment Association.

RESOLVED to award a grant of £250 to Aberbargoed Community Action Team.

The clerk advised a further application has been received at council but is incomplete. Due to the next grant round falling after the elections the clerk sought permission to bring the application to the next meeting of council, subject to financial information being provided by the applicant. Members instructed the clerk to agenda the item for the next full council meeting.

12. To receive ward reports.

Bargoed – Councillor Price reminded Members of the petition received from a local resident and explained the response from CCBC is that the museum is not possible. However, CCBC officers will be working with the resident and herself to bring the mining display to Bargoed library.

Aberbargoed – Councillor Collis advised several issues are being managed in the ward.

This concluded business on the agenda. The mayor thanked all Members for a positive meeting and the meeting closed at 19.20pm