



Bargoed Town Council

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DRAFT Unapproved Minutes of the Full Council Meeting 23rd February 2022.

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

Also in Attendance: Mrs H Williams, Town Clerk.

Meeting Chairman: Councillor H Llewellyn (Mayor)

1. To receive visitors from Gwent Police.

Inspector Thompson advised of being called out to an incident in the town centre. Members noted the content of the police report and were encouraged to send any queries to the inspector.

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.] Councillor S HamerThomas

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 received.

4. Press and Public Participation Session. No enquiries.

5. To receive, approve and sign Minutes of the monthly meeting of council 26th January 2022. Minutes moved by Councillor Horton, seconded Councillor Davies. The meeting approved the Mayor signing the minutes.

6. Mayor's report.

Councillor Llewellyn reported a successful photo shoot with members. He spoke about the recent One Voice Wales Larger Councils committee meeting he attended on behalf of town council. He advised members of excellent presentation about the development of run down buildings in town centres. The Mayor has requested the clerk agenda the presentation on next month's meeting. He moved on to talk about a meeting held with Dr Llewellyn from the Integrated Wellbeing Network advising Members that the health board has agreed in principle to town council's request for their funding of an additional day per week for the assistant clerk. The health board will require an SLA

with town council and the focus will largely be for the publication of a 'wellbeing what's on' bulletin each week. Members felt this was a very positive move for the community. Finally, the Mayor advised members of the breast care unit being developed in Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr, and his intention to donate the balance of £1,350 of the Mayor's allowance to the unit. Members congratulated the Mayor on an excellent cause for his donation.

7. To receive a verbal report from the Mayor in respect of the Integrated Wellbeing Network and approve recommendations from the health board.

This report focused on how positive the meeting was, with Dr Llewellyn trialling a hybrid meeting using St Gwladys Church Hall and zoom, via his mobile phone. Twenty one stakeholders were present. There are a significant range of activities and projects starting to get up and running now covid restrictions are being relaxed. The mayor explained he reported that town council felt central co-ordination of information is essential in encouraging residents take up of covid recovery activities, and that town council is keen to work with partner organisations to develop wellbeing activities at the parks across the area. The clerk advised she had been asked to provide the meeting with a brief outline of some of the planned town council activities, and she explained town council are looking at additional development of community orchards, of engaging residents in gardening and litter picking activities, and have plans for a larger scale project in Bargoed park which is dependent on grant funding being secured. The mayor advised the meeting that volunteering opportunities are being explored by town council as are intergenerational activities for the Queen's jubilee.

8. Audit Wales

- a. To receive details of the Audit Wales fee scheme and consider budget implications.
RESOLVED to ensure a minimum of £800 budget for external audit once every three years to fulfil the responsibility of a full transactional audit.
- b. To receive, in accordance with Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 S29 and Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 the completed annual return for the year ended 31 March 2021 and approve the publication of the Notice of Completion of Audit and right to inspect the annual return.
RESOLVED to approve the publication of the audit completion notice. The clerk will be available to the public for 14 working days between the hours of 10am and 6pm as required.

9. To approve the publication of the table of Member Allowance Payments for 2021-2022.

RESOLVED to approve the publication of the Member Allowance Payments 2021-2022.

10. To receive working group feedback and consider recommendations in respect of:

- a. Standing Orders and Financial Regulations
Members reviewed the recommended edits and approved all exception the draft Mayor selection procedure. Members requested the clerk send the draft to all Members for consideration. The procedure to be finalised at next meeting.
- b. Draft Annual Report
The clerk advised Members that recent advice from SLCC and OVW is that the report is published after the elections in May 2022. Members are requested to attend the town hall to review and update the draft report.

11. To conduct a review of spending against budget as at 9th February 2022.

RESOLVED to approve the accounting records, viring £300 to support the grants budget.

12. Items from the Clerk:

- a. To review and approve the bank reconciliation and payments list
The clerk drew attention to an admin error on the payments list to Ty Fry allotments which has been rectified in the same month and to the last item on the payments list in respect of salary related costs. £2475 as opposed to the estimated £2400. Members RESOLVED to approve the bank rec and payments list.

- b. To receive an update on bank transfers
Councillor Llewellyn advised members of an issue with his log on details which will be resolved this week. £14,500 to be transferred from Unity Trust to support the current account until the next precept payment received.
- c. To view the Welsh Government commissioned video on town and community councils elections and approve its publication.
Members viewed the video and RESOLVED to approve its publication on town council website and social media channels.
- d. To receive minutes of the One Voice Wales area committee 19th January 2022.
Minutes were received and contents noted by Members.

13. To complete the Welsh Government consultation on the draft Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 guidance to town and community councils.

Members discussed completing the consultation to the best of their ability and RESOLVED to delegate Cllrs Davies, Carroll, Collins, and Llewellyn to respond on behalf of all Members. Clerk to liaise with members over the coming week.

14. To receive verbal recommendations from the Events & Environment Committee meeting 22nd February 2022.

The committee chair sought support from committee members in respect of feedback from the meeting. RESOLVED to instruct the clerk to engage with residents on social media and website in respect of crochet floral displays to support the town's application to Wales in Bloom. Members instructed the clerk to approach Lowri Plaza shops for support with flowers outside their premises. The chair spoke about town council applying for grant funding from Awards for All to support the Queen's jubilee activities including lamp post flags and old-fashioned style bunting. Councillor Collis left the meeting at this point.

15. To receive input from the four town council wards as appropriate.

Councillor Carroll advised of a tree being brought down in the recent storm which clipped one of the lamp posts on the Park Estate. Nothing further to report.

Gilfach members advised the ward has been quiet.

Bargoed members spoke about anti-social behaviour in the town centre which is being addressed by the police but otherwise all quiet.

This concluded all business of the meeting.
The Mayor closed the meeting at 7.15pm