



Bargoed Town Council

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Minutes of the Full Council Meeting 27th April 2022.

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

Also in Attendance: Mrs H Williams, Town Clerk; Mr G Davies, Assistant Town Clerk; Inspector L Thompson, Gwent Police.

Meeting Chairman: Councillor H Llewellyn (Mayor)

1. To receive a report from Gwent Police.

The mayor welcomed Inspector Thompson to the meeting. Inspector Thompson reviewed her written report with members advising of a slight reduction in anti-social behaviour, which she notes is moving in the right direction. A few incidents have been recorded with grassfires in the Aberbargoed ward in recent weeks.

Initiatives to reduce anti-social behaviour in Bargoed town centre were well received through the Easter break and incidents were lower as a result. Isolated incidents involving off road bikes are still occurring in Aberbargoed ward, but none reported in lower Bargoed. The Inspector explained to members that this is the season where the lighter nights come in and it is expected that the team see a slight rise in reported incidents. Joint working on fly tipping at Bargoed common are still ongoing, challenges still exist but results are coming in thick and fast which is encouraging.

The mayor asked members if they had any questions for the inspector:

A member sought information on issues in rear lanes in Bargoed and what action is being taken by Gwent Police. Inspector Thompson advised resources are in place, as are drones, however if residents don't report issues little can be done.

The mayor asked Inspector Thompson to confirm the best route for residents to report issues to the team. Inspector Thompson confirmed that residents are welcome to use any of the Gwent police social media platforms; to telephone 101 or if the issue is a serious crime to dial 999.

No further questions were raised.

The inspector left the meeting at 18.10pm.

2. Apologies for Absence

Councillor R Carroll; Councillor L Harding; 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 30th March 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 very turbulent two years for the mayors who have been unable to visit residents or attend voluntary groups due to the coronavirus restrictions and personal safety concerns. However in the past few weeks he has attended two 60th wedding anniversaries, one in Aberbargoed and one in Gilfach. He also attended a coffee afternoon in St Margaret's Church in Gilfach which was in aid of Ukraine, raising over £500. The mayor drew attention to the recent One Voice Wales larger councils committee which he attended as representative of town council. He recalled an encouraging meeting, Welsh government passing lots of responsibilities to town and community councils and they are particularly keen to increase biodiversity and quality assurance at local council level. The general power of competence is a big development, and all these things together will bring excellent opportunities for town council projects to be developed in the country park and the urban park respectively. Overall, the mayor reported having a much better month in April as he has been able to finally get out and do things in the community.
- 7. To receive and approve the Annual Accounting Statement April 2021-March 2022.**
The clerk reviewed the accounting statements with members and explained the notes to the financial statements. Members RESOLVED to approve the accounting statements instructing the mayor to sign them in the presence of the meeting.
- 8. To complete the Annual Governance Statement and approve the Annual Return for the financial year April 2021 to March 2022.**
Members completed the annual governance statement and reviewed the annual return prior to RESOLVING to approve the Annual Return. The mayor signed the annual return and members instructed the clerk to submit their annual return to Audit Wales without delay.
- 9. To receive the report from the Internal Auditor Mr M Fisher.**
Members reviewed the content of the report from the internal auditor noting that the audit opinion has been noted as "Very Good – Very well controlled with minimal risk". Members thanked the clerk and assistant clerk for their hard work.
RESOLVED to approve the report of the internal auditor.
- 10. Items from the Clerk:**
10.1 To review and approve the bank reconciliation and payments list.
The clerk reviewed the bank reconciliation and payments lists with members noting there are two payments lists due to the end of financial year.
Members RESOLVED to approve the bank reconciliation and payments lists instructing the mayor to sign the documents in members' presence.
- 11. To review the 2021-2022 Annual Report and approve its publication week commencing 9th May 2022.**
The document was reviewed page by page. Members RESOLVED to approve the annual report and confirm it is to be published after the completion of the local elections, therefore week commencing 9th May 2022. The clerk was instructed to ensure that all existing members of the town council receive a copy of the report as it is the first annual report to be produced. Hard copies are also to be made available for residents who do not have access to IT equipment.
Members thanked and congratulated both members of staff for the additional effort put in to the annual report. A member commented that the norm for members should be photographs and comments fed back to staff throughout the year so that the report will have easily accessible content going forward.

This concluded all business of the meeting.

Councillor Horton advised that this will be her last meeting as a town councillor as she will not be standing for re-election in the local elections. She expressed her thanks and advised she has veery much enjoyed her time as a town councillor. The mayor thanked her for all her commitment and the energy she has invested in town council over the years. On behalf of town council, he wished her well for the future.

The mayor also thanked all members for their support and wished everyone who has decided not to stand in the local elections well for the future. To those members who are participating in the elections he wished them good luck advising he hopes to see them all around the meeting table soon.

The mayor closed the meeting at 7.15pm