



Bargoed Town Council

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Minutes of the Full Council Meeting 22nd June 2022.

Present: Councillors H Llewellyn; P Collins; J Bissex; J Davies; R Price; D Price; D Ingram-Jones; S Hamer-Thomas; P Edwards; T Williams.

Also in Attendance: Mrs H Williams, Town Clerk

Meeting Chairman: Councillor H Llewellyn (Mayor)

1. To receive a report from Gwent Police.

Inspector Thompson extended apologies and requested members contact her directly with any questions.

Clerk to circulate contact details to Members.

2. Apologies for Absence

Councillor R Carroll; Councillor C Andrews.

3. To receive Declaration of Interests or dispensations on any item(s) on this Agenda, if appropriate.

No declarations received.

4. To receive, approve and sign Minutes of the monthly meeting of council 30th March 2022.

RESOLVED to approve minutes as a true record. Members requested additional copies to be circulated via email.

5. Press and Public Participation Session.

No enquiries.

6. Mayor's report.

Councillor Llewellyn reported still no anniversaries report for his attendance during the past month. He attended a site meeting at the pierhead in Bargoed with a clock manufacturer to look at potential opportunities for a memorial clock. Proposals will be sent to town council by the manufacturer as soon as possible. The mayor also reported having attended Bryntirion GP surgery with two other members.

Councillor Williams apologised for his late arrival and joined the meeting at this point.

The mayor moved on to provide a brief summary of the Bryntirion visit, detailing the positive attitude of the new business manager, details of planned improvements and a new way of working. All three members felt the visit was extremely positive, paving the way for a good working relationship with town council moving forward.

7. To Items from the Clerk:

7.1 The clerk advised that Cllr IngramJones has been appointed to St Gwladys School as a LA representative, so town council may like to appoint another representative to the governing body. RESOLVED to appoint Cllr Williams to the governing body.

7.2 Members discussed moving forward with regard to appointing youth representatives to town council. Their intended timescale is for the representatives to attend the full council meeting in September 2022. Council instructed the clerk to liaise with Heolddu Comprehensive school to invite interested students to visit town council week commencing 11th July. Members will engage informally with the group of students and will appoint two representatives at the July full council meeting.

7.3 The clerk updated members regarding the issues of accessing training using the tablet computers; reminded members about their register of interests and their allowances.

7.4 Members considered the request for a statement from CCBC about continued use of CCTV in the Bargoed ward area. Members broadly agreed it would be a ludicrous suggestion not to continue in its use as the statistics are still very high. The clerk was instructed to communicate strong support from town council for the continued use of the CCTV system to relevant officers.

8. To receive draft unapproved minutes and a verbal report from the Events & Environment Committee meeting 15th June 2022 and approve initial expenditure on geocaching projects.

Recent Jubilee events were evaluated with lessons learned being noted particularly regarding venues and volunteer numbers. Memorial clock proposals are awaited, and the committee feel public consultation is important. Geocache demonstration was excellent, the committee approved moving forward at some speed to get these projects up and running for families to access throughout the summer months. Four project locations of Bargoed urban park, Bargoed Country Park, Bargoed Town Centre, Aberbargoed village. The committee hopes to engage with the Scouts, the Ramblers, Heolddu School and Aberbargoed Community Action Team for monitoring purposes. Christmas activity planning will be carried out by the whole committee. Wales in Bloom level 5 entry next year. Winter barrels also discussed.

RESOLVED to approve £1,000 initial expenditure for geocache resources.

9. To consider financial contributions to OAP organisations.

Members reported having received an enquiry from one group during the senior citizens Jubilee events about this funding. Members had strong concerns about how best to move forward noting there to be little or no active groups that they are aware of. The clerk was instructed to conduct research on what groups are delivering senior citizens activities in the area post pandemic and report back to a future meeting of council.

10. To consider the provisions of the local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 in respect of eligibility to use the General Power of Competence and instruct the clerk regarding production of the Town Council strategic plan.

The clerk provided Members with detail of the three conditions the town council needed to meet to be eligible to use the General Power of Competence. Members discussed their eligibility and what this meant for the future of town council activity. The mayor explained that use of the power for any commercial/trading activity would necessitate the set up of a company or co-operative society for this purpose and that a business case would need to be approved by full council.

Members discussed eligibility at some length with the clerk clarifying the position of two thirds elected members and the need to revisit eligibility on an annual basis. For the financial year 2022-23 the two qualifying years' audits are 2019-20 and 2020-21; both of which had unqualified audits. The current town council clerk is CiLCA qualified; and 11 of the 13 members of council are elected, therefore satisfying eligibility criteria of 9 elected members.

Members RESOLVED for the financial year 2022-23 Bargoed Town Council meets the three qualifying conditions as specified in the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 to be eligible to use the General Power of competence.

The clerk was instructed to circulate the most recent statutory guidance on the 2021 Act to all members of town council.

Councillor Williams left the meeting at this point.

11. To receive an update from a Bargoed ward Members on the recent petition about the miners' museum and discuss opportunities for town council.

A letter from a local resident was read out to members by a CCBC Bargoed ward councillor, requesting town council approve the display of the letter in the town council noticeboard. Members broadly approved the display of said letter for a short period.

The initial request and petition was handed to a CCBC ward councillor in 2021 and submit for CCBC for attention. The resident wanted to have a mining museum set up in Bargoed Town Centre, and encourage more widespread knowledge of the mining heritage of the town and what has been developed since the demise of the mining industry. Members felt due to the close proximity of the mining museum in New Tredegar it would not be economically viable for another museum to be set up in Bargoed, however there may be scope for a temporary exhibition to be displayed, and a series of talking workshops arranged.

Members passionately discussed this issue and tried to establish more detail on the response from CCBC, however details were not available at this time. Members instructed the clerk to investigate and to discuss opportunities with the integrated wellbeing network. The item will be put on a future meeting agenda for forward planning.

This concluded the business of this meeting.
The mayor closed the meeting at 7.45pm