



Bargoed Town Council

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Minutes of the Full Council Meeting 27th July 2022.

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

Also in Attendance: Mrs H Williams, Town Clerk.

Meeting Chair: Councillor H Llewellyn (Mayor)

1. Police Report

There was no police presence.

2. To receive Apologies for Absence

Councillor D Price; Councillor Williams advised of late arrival.

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

Cllr Carroll declared an interest in agenda item 12 regarding Taraggan Educational Gardens, Margaret Street Allotment, East View Allotment, Cartref Tuesday Club.

Cllr Andrews declared an interest in Bargoed Community Choir, agenda item 12.

Cllr R Price declared an interest in Cartref Tuesday Club, agenda item 12.

4. To receive, approve and sign Minutes of the Full Council meeting 22nd June 2022.

Cllr Collins moved and Cllr Davies seconded the minutes as a true record.

RESOLVED to approve and sign the minutes of 22nd June 2022

Cllr Andrews abstained due to not being present at the meeting.

5. Press and Public Participation Session.

The clerk received no enquiries from the public

6. Mayor's report.

The mayor advised Members of little community activity throughout July and thanked all Members who supported him in fulfilling the instruction of council to invite young people to visit the town hall and informally chat about potential youth representation. The mayor advised all six young people presented themselves extremely well and he feels quietly optimistic about town council moving forward with youth representation on board. Members present collectively reviewed each candidate determining they would recommend one male and one female for members to invite to attend full council in September with a view to appointing them as youth representatives. The remaining four young people recommended as to receive invitations to engage with committees and volunteering opportunities.

Members spoke about involving young people at town council agreeing to instruct the clerk to invite both young people to the September meeting and writing to the remaining four young people advising council will be in touch with alternative opportunities for them to become involved in over the coming months.

7. Items from the clerk as follows:

7.1 Strategic plan update

The clerk briefed Members on the forward work plan and the importance of strategic planning being carried out. A strategic assessment will take approximately 3 days at a cost of £420 per day. It will allow Members to confirm what shape council they wish to be, what they would like to achieve and how to get there.

Members spoke about the GPoC and taking things slowly, using the available Members skills & experience. A representative from One Voice Wales will meet with Members in September to provide guidance and information.

7.2 Dates for the diary

The clerk circulated a list of dates for members to note up until December 2022.

7.3 Public Toilets

An update was provided on the recent issues experienced by the taxi association about the broken door on the public toilets.

Councillor Williams joined the meeting at this point.

7.4 Update on minute reference 22062022-11 in respect of the resident petition.

Members had first sight of the petition and spoke at some length about the issue. County Borough Members will liaise to ensure a response is given to the lead petitioner.

7.5 Colour Laser printer and Bargoed Town Council banners investment request (£280 ex vat)

The clerk provided Members with an image of town council banners for consideration confirming the supply of 5 x banner will cost £100; and a colour laser printer has been quoted at £179.99

RESOLVED to authorise £280 expenditure ex vat.

7.6 Authorisation requested to rearrange the meeting room and make more provision for public attendance.

RESOLVED to remove the two broken sofas from the meeting room and obtain long term loan of stackable chairs from a local voluntary organisation.

7.7 Update on minute reference 22062022-9 in respect of OAP groups.

The clerk briefed Members on two active OAP groups with the third organisation not answering the telephone. A member advised of another organisation potentially operating in Gilfach – details to be confirmed.

7.8 Aneurin Bevan Health Board Bulletins

RESOLVED to instruct the staff to automatically upload ABHB public information to the town council website.

7.9 Arnold Baker Handbook

The clerk advised of a cost of £119 for edition 13. RESOLVED to instruct the clerk to purchase the big yellow book edition thirteen as requested.

7.10 Authorisation for Planning Aid Wales Training Access for One Year (£150)

RESOLVED to sign up for the annual training access from November 2022.

7.11 Authorisation for bulk cable ties purchase (£209.10 inc. vat)

RESOLVED to order cable ties as soon as possible.

8. To receive draft unapproved minutes and a verbal report from the Policy & Resources Committee meeting 20th July 2022.

Cllr Carroll reviewed the meeting minutes with Council. Members wholeheartedly supported the set up of an environmental page on the website and were encouraged by the potential to engage residents in community gardening initiatives. Members requested the finance & governance toolkit be made available to Council electronically. A Member expressed sadness that council were needing to plan for the implementation of Operation London Bridge.

9. To receive draft unapproved minutes and a verbal report from the Events & Environment Committee meeting 21st July 2022.

In the absence of the chair, Cllr Davies reviewed the meeting minutes with council. Members suggested an Aberbargoed school might like to sing at the Christmas lights switch on Friday 25th November 2022. The clerk was instructed to liaise with both schools to make a request on behalf of town council.

10. To vacancies at Ysgol Gymraeg Gilfach Fargoed and Gilfach Fargoed & Park schools for a Minor Authority Representative and appoint Members to take up the position.

RESOLVED Cllr Davies nominated for Ysgol Gymraeg Gilfach Fargoed, Cllr R Price nominated for Gilfach Fargoed and Park federated primary school with effect from September 2022.

11. To consider recent statistics from the two area Foodbanks and discuss financial support.

The clerk provided recent quarter one statistics from both the Rhymney Valley Foodbank and the Fareshare Foodbank. RESOLVED to approve a grant of £1,000 to each of the two foodbanks, £500 to be paid immediately and a further £500 at the end of November to assist with the Christmas period.

12. To consider applications to the small grants programme as follows:

Cllr Carroll left the meeting room prior to any grant applications being considered by council.

Unique Ref: 220722-01. Taraggan Educational Gardens & Nursery. RESOLVED £250 grant

Unique Ref: 220722-02. Margaret Street Allotments. RESOLVED £250 grant

Unique Ref: 220722-03. Thriving Communities CIC (Hengoed Happiness & Wellbeing Group)

RESOLVED £250 grant

Unique Ref: 220722-04. Bargoed Male Voice Choir RESOLVED £250 grant
Unique Ref: 220722-05. East view Allotments. RESOLVED £250 grant with an additional condition of council being provided with evidence of the equipment having been purchased when the remaining funds are secured. Cllr IngramJones will contact the group regarding additional funding opportunities via the Community Empowerment Fund.
Cllr Andrews left the meeting room prior to the next grant application being considered by council.
Unique Ref: 220722-06 Bargoed Community Choir. Members instructed the Clerk to liaise with a Bargoed Member and arrange for hand delivery of a grant application form to the group. Members will consider their completed application at the September meeting of council.
Councillor R Price left the meeting room prior to the next grant application being considered by council.
Unique Ref: 220723-07 Tuesday Club at Cartref (aka Knit & Natters). RESOLVED £250 grant

Councillors Andrews and Carroll rejoined the meeting after all remaining grant applications had been assessed by council.

13. To receive a verbal report from the Community Engagement Committee and approve a budget allocation.

In the absence of both the chair and vice chair, two committee members briefed the meeting on their recent activities as follows:

Feedback from the visit to Heolddu young people are keen on a youth club in Bargoed. A Winter wellbeing event at the Fareshare foodbank in St Gwladys church hall is to be attended by committee members on 8th August. Venues for drop-in clinics agreed at Bargoed library, the YMCA Gilfach, and the New Duffryn Inn is being investigated by the Assistant Clerk as a possible venue for Aberbargoed.

At 20.00hrs the Mayor proposed a motion to suspend standing orders to enable full council to complete the business of the agenda.

RESOLVED to temporarily suspend standing orders and complete the business of the meeting.

14. To review the DRAFT Training Plan and approve its' publication in accordance with the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

The clerk reminded members of the new duty to publish a training plan by November 2022. Members considered the draft document as presented for consideration by the clerk. Members requested the One voice Wales August training list be circulated by the clerk as soon as possible. RESOLVED to approve the publication of the training plan as presented.

15. To consider recent work on the town centre clock project, receive residents' feedback and discuss options for the Covid memorial.

Cllr Carroll briefed the meeting on feedback from the engineer who visited to look at the town clock artwork on the pierhead. The recommendation being to convert the existing artwork to a working clock which would involve little in the way of construction or building works. A proposal was to be provided to council as soon as possible. The clerk advised of following up with the manufacturer who explained the engineer is currently in hospital, but they would endeavour to get something to council in time for the next meeting.

Cllr Ingram-Jones left the meeting at 20.05pm.

A Member sought information from council about what resident consultation has been carried out on a Covid memorial. The mayor advised that until a proposal has been received he feels there is little point in consulting. Members spoke about consultation, various options for memorials, whether to separate the clock and the memorial as two distinct projects. The meeting RESOLVED to instruct the clerk to include an agenda item of "To discuss moving forward with a covid memorial" on the September meeting of full council.

16. To receive verbal reports from each of the four Town Council ward areas.

Cllr Davies requested the flags from Aberbargoed for her to wash prior to November.

The chair thanked all for their contribution to the meeting. This concluded business and the meeting was closed at 20.15pm