



Bargoed Town Council

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Minutes of the Full Council Meeting 22nd February 2023.

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

Also in Attendance: Mrs H Williams, Town Clerk

Meeting Chairman: Councillor H Llewellyn (Mayor)

1. Police Report.

In the absence of a police representative, Members reviewed the monthly report from Inspector Thompson noting the new report format to be much better. A member spoke about an increased visible presence in the community having noted several police officers in Aberbargoed and in Bargoed with CCTV presence also being noticed. Members commented that increased visibility has been welcomed.

A member asked if there are officers at Bargoed station during the daytime as residents have been complaining about inability to get a response at the door. The mayor advised while the station houses two fully active teams it does not offer a desk service for the public.

The clerk was instructed to express disappointment at no officer in attendance.

2. To receive a visitor from Aberbargoed Fire Station.

No officer in attendance.

3. To receive Apologies for Absence

No apologies received

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

Councillor Carroll declared an interest in item 11.

5. To receive, approve and sign Minutes of the Full Council Meeting 25th January 2023.

Councillor D Price moved the minutes as a true record of the meeting and Councillor M Ingram-Jones seconded. All present RESOLVED to instruct the mayor to sign the minutes.

6. Press and Public Participation Session.

No enquiries received by the clerk.

7. Mayor's report and confirmation from the 6th February '23 strategic assessment working party.

Councillor Llewellyn reported having attended a British Army recruitment presentation event at Lewis school Pengam this month noting the event to be very good with a variety of career options and technological advances having been promoted. The mayor invited other members who also attended to make comment if they wished. Councillor Davies advised it was very informative and she was pleased about how they are reaching out to younger cohort in secondary schools to let them know about military career opportunities. This was echoed by other members who were in attendance at the event.

Meeting Minutes

Signed: _____

Date: 22/3/23

The mayor also spoke about attending the voluntary sector liaison committee meeting and concern that was expressed about tightening of CCBC budgets and the impact this will have on voluntary organisations operating in the county borough.

He moved on to advise of having made a presentation at a golden wedding anniversary in Capel Street in Bargoed and how he reminisced with the family.

Finally, the mayor thanked all members who worked on the town council strategic assessment and asked if the full council were happy to adopt the mission statement, values and beliefs, swot analysis and wellbeing priorities as recommended by the working group? Members unanimously approved the adoption of the recommendations, instructing the clerk to include them in the draft constitution and strategic plan as appropriate.

8. To consider nominations for the Tidy Wales Awards and the Kings New Year 2024 Honours. RESOLVED to nominate Ms S Toogood for a Tidy Wales Award for her incredible work in litter picking in the local community. The clerk to contact Ms Toogood as soon as possible. The deadline for the Kings New Year 2024 Honours is 31st March 2023; Members to bring their recommendations to the next meeting of council.
9. To appoint a minor authority representative to the governing body at Ysgol Bro Sannan, Aberbargoed.
Clerk instructed to approach Councillor Harry to enquire if he is interested in taking up this position on behalf of town council.
10. To receive draft unapproved minutes along with a verbal update from the chair of the Events & Environment Committee regarding increased costs on timber products for the community gardening project. Members asked to support the increase in expenditure of £435 from the new project activity budget.
The clerk advised members of the increased costs of timber and the consequent rise on the quotation that was received in June 2022. The deputy clerk provided members with additional background on timber costs. The meeting RESOLVED to authorise the additional £435 expenditure from the project activity budget and instructed the clerk to confirm the order as swiftly as possible.
The Events Committee Chair, Councillor D Price fed back to members noting an error on the draft unapproved minutes on item 8 – the price of the beehive is £765 ex vat and the replacement for the stolen barrier basket liners £47. There is also a carriage charge of £139.75. Councillor Price asked members to please support accepting this quotation as recommended by the committee. All Members RESOLVED to approve the expenditure.
May Fair organisation is in full swing; voluntary organisation have been approached regarding having stalls, Councillor HamerThomas is working with the clerk to arrange a programme for the stage area and several schools have already confirmed participation. Councillors Collins and D Ingram-Jones confirmed having started visiting town centre businesses. The clerk advised she has yet to contact Dr Llewellyn about the involvement of the integrated wellbeing network in the event, but she is optimistic of dance groups being able to put on demonstrations/taster sessions in the emporium car park.
Councillor Price moved on to explain the committee felt winter barrels should be left in the community and volunteer gardeners recruited to help maintain them – lower cost in the longer term with greater displays throughout the year. Afternoon tea event in the Balfour is well subscribed – around 20 places left. Prizes are all vouchers for local businesses, help with cost of living and support the local economy. Finally, the first working group session on festive lights has taken place. Clerk is seeking information prior to the group coming together again.
The mayor thanked the committee for their hard work, extended his thanks to the biodiversity working party for planting new bulbs and plants in the barrels and the troughs outside the town hall.

11. To receive requests for financial assistance and dates for Member's diaries from the clerk. Councillor Carroll left the room prior to this agenda item.

The clerk spoke about a late application from Ty Fry Allotment Association and provided members with the application on screen. RESOLVED to vire funds from new project activity budget to the grants budget to provide a £250 grant to Ty Fry Allotments in Aberbargoed.

Councillor Carroll returned to the meeting at this point.

A request for financial assistance was reviewed from Ty Hafan. Members viewed statistics on screen and discussed a local resident currently receiving support from Ty Hafan. Members RESOLVED to make a £200 donation to the fundraising appeal.

The clerk provided members with dates for their diaries as follows:

23rd February 2023 10.30am via Teams – Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council meeting People's Practice Peer to Peer network on climate emergency and biodiversity each month on a Wednesday via zoom 4pm-5pm [members to let the clerk know if they are interested]

Saturday 4th March – 9am Bargoed Urban Park and 10am Woodland park, Gilfach train station entrance – with Ian Thomas from Gwent Wildlife Trust – to look at the geocache locations and learn how to maintain them.

Wednesday 8th March 10am at the rear of Yew Street park, fruit tree planting with CCBC youth service supporting

Monday 13th March 10am at the Community Orchard, Park estate for fruit tree planting with Heolddu School supporting

Wednesday 22nd March members are asked to confirm their attendance at the full council meeting by 11am if they have not refused their annual allowance. The clerk needs to confirm to payroll provider.

Councillor HamerThomas left the meeting at this point.

PC D Evans joined the meeting expressing sincere apologies for late arrival.

Members received an explanation of PC Evans' role as he is the new ward manager for Bargoed and holds responsibility for anti-social behaviour, enforcement, crime prevention initiatives, repeat offenders, management of the CSOs and their engagement activities.

PC Evans explained the main goal of their team is crime prevention.

He reviewed the monthly report with members noticing a slight increase in crime overall in Bargoed and Gilfach with a reduction in Aberbargoed. There have been three incidences of theft from vehicles in the Aberbargoed area. The CSOs are delivering initiatives to educate residents about the importance of not leaving items visible in unoccupied vehicles.

CSOs engagement activities have had very good response recently.

An anti-social behaviour operation has been in force in Aberbargoed with a dispersal order in place last weekend. Very little trouble over the weekend but this week has seen an issue with an arrest today which is why he was late arriving to the meeting.

Members thanked PC Evans for his report and asked about access to the station. Blackwood and Newport are the only open stations.

A member asked if an explanation could be given on Smart Water – there is a genetic marker in smart water and if it is put onto property this can be used to identify the owner should the item be stolen. Members advised 7 would be able to attend the station open evening on 7th March. PC Evans thanked members and left the meeting at 7.10pm.

In accordance with Standing Order 11, the meeting papers for this committee are confidential, therefore not open to the public.

12. To receive confidential draft unapproved minutes of the Human Resources and Staffing Committee with a recruitment update from the clerk. Separate minutes are prepared.

This concluded the business of this meeting.

The mayor closed the meeting at 7.20pm

Meeting Minutes

Signed: _____

Date: _____

22/3/23