



Bargoed Town Council

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Minutes of the Full Council Meeting 22nd March 2023.

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

Also in Attendance: Dr D Llewellyn (Lead Officer, Gwent Integrated Wellbeing Network, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board); PC McCauley Jessop (Gwent Policy Neighbourhood Team); Ms E Janes (Caerphilly Observer); Mrs H Williams, Town Clerk

Youth Representative: Cameron Jones.

Meeting Chairman: Councillor H Llewellyn (Mayor)

The mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and requested a change to the order of business as the officer from Gwent Police was running slightly late. RESOLVED to switch agenda items 1 and 2 and proceed with the business of the meeting:

2.To receive a visitor from Aneurin Bevan Health Board Gwent Integrated Wellbeing Network.

Dr Llewellyn introduced himself and provided members with a brief explanation of the work of the IWN over the past year, covering from Rhymney in the north to a little work in Caerphilly in the south and Risca in the East. A written report will be provided by the team in the near future. This time last year the health board provided funding for an extra day a week of the assistant clerk's time to allow for a focus on community engagement in the Bargoed area to develop wellbeing activities. The priority that had been identified by the network was that more information was needed out in the community about what wellbeing activities were available, and this became the focus for the team. Weekly promotion of the Cwtsh guide has paid off significantly in the area with the guide now being six pages of A4. The Cwtsh website holds expanded information but the hard copy that goes out into all the community spaces and local organisations has taken off tremendously as a result of the extra capacity and support from town council.

At the beginning of 2022, £75,000 of funding was available and this has benefited lunch clubs, Rec Roc, the YMCA, St Gwladys Church Hall, Gilfach Bargoed Community Centre, Aberbargoed Community Action Team and a wide variety of sports and social activities across the area.

Two local community venues have received WIFI Access support from the WIFI programme which will also support the development of additional wellbeing activities, hopefully enabling these venues to develop into community hubs in the longer term. [Cartref Community Hall and Gilfach Bargoed Community Centre].

Women's Health has been a priority issue with the first open day being delivered in Bargoed in the Autumn of 2022, this was very well received and both weekly and monthly events have developed across the borough on the strength of the Bargoed led activity which set the bar very high.

Dementia Friendly Bargoed – the update on this initiative is that there is a Big Lottery funding bid for a Dementia Activities Co-ordinator for the Upper Rhymney Valley almost ready for submission. Thanks to the support of Bargoed Town Council Clerk with GAVO and other partners from the network, this bid is strong and GAVO should be submitting it shortly with a mid-summer recruitment being the expectation. For the new financial year – a new work plan is currently being drafted – the next meeting of the network will hopefully be in Cartref Community Hall – mental health is a priority as is isolation – the work town council did with Ian Thomas of Gwent Wildlife Trust on geocaching in the area has gone some way towards raising activity levels, the network needs to build on this. The challenge is how to raise activity levels to improve both physical and mental wellbeing. What are the priorities for Bargoed? This is one of the key elements of the next network meeting.

Participatory budgeting funding will be transferred from CCBC to GAVO shortly and it will be available to bid into late summer. The community votes upon the projects being bid – Bargoed Town Council are able

to bid into it. The key message is that the IWN is about working with local partners to enable residents to have the best quality of life possible, and the by-product of this is reduced pressure on the health service. Thank you for working so closely and being so engaged.

Questions:

The youth representative was asked if he felt young people were aware of the Cwtsh guide and website. His response suggested this was unlikely. Dr Llewellyn advised this is a big area of work to be done as it is widely acknowledged that second to older people the pandemic has had a hugely detrimental effect on young people's wellbeing. Council to facilitate engagement between the IWN and the youth representatives to discuss youth engagement on wellbeing initiatives.

A member proposed intergenerational afternoon teas as an opportunity. Dr Llewellyn also advised of the plan to put some wellbeing taster activities into the schedule for the May Fair in Bargoed on 13th May. Several members thanked Dr Llewellyn for all his hard work commenting the dementia friendly Bargoed initiative would not be anywhere near as far forward without his support. A member commented they felt a lot has been achieved in Bargoed and he deserved a great deal of thanks from town council.

Prior to leaving the meeting Dr Llewellyn thanked all present advising the great achievements in the local area are a result of everyone collectively coming together to make things happen – Bargoed Town Council has been the exemplar leading the way. We are confident we can achieve a lot more together.

1. Police Report

PC Jessop gave Inspector Thompson's apologies and reviewed the monthly report with members. The officer spoke about funding for the Operation Town Safe programme which is a town centre initiative. A member asked if vehicles are being stopped? Response was yes. The prevalent days tend to be Friday and Saturday, so the programme targeted those days, but the situation is being monitored as a Sunday appears to be becoming an issue.

Moving on, the work on Bargoed common was very positive, with the ranger present to give information to young people. This piece of work was televised. There are more trips planned with the schools for the summer months.

A member asked about the long-term issues at the playing field in Aberbargoed with bikes because it appears to be getting worse with the field being dug up and ramps being built. The officer explained Operation Harley is in motion and one of the main target delivery areas is Aberbargoed. So far this month there has been one seizure and one warning issued.

Members thanked officer Jessop for his report, and he left the meeting.

The mayor brought members attention to the business of the agenda and the meeting continued.

3. To receive Apologies for Absence

Councillor M IngramJones (away); Councillor D Price (medical); Council R Price (accident).

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

Councillor D IngramJones declared an interest in agenda item 12.

5. Press and Public Participation Session.

A journalist from the Observer newspaper was present for the meeting.

6. To receive, approve and sign Minutes of the Full Council Meeting 22nd February 2023.

Councillor Collins moved, Councillor D IngramJones seconded the minutes as a true record of proceedings; all members resolved to support the motion, and the mayor was instructed to sign them in the presence of the meeting.

7. To receive updates from the minutes of the previous meeting not included on the agenda for this meeting –

item 8, the Kings New Year 2024 honours – no nominations put forward by members, and Tidy Wales awards – the clerk advised that the local resident has been contacted but would prefer not to be nominated; the mayor was instructed to deliver a bouquet of flowers as a thank you;

item 9, representative on Ysgol Bro Sannan governing body – Councillor Harry to take up the position;

item 10, gardening project and location of floral displays in Bargoed ward – the clerk confirmed the working group has planted all the fruit trees at both the community orchard on the Park estate and also the growing

area in Yew Street Park. The Aberbargoed area had the support of the youth service with a group of young people and this group will be maintaining two of the raised beds through the summer season; the clerk sought confirmation from members about the locations of the half barrels and the two floral fountains throughout the summer season. Members chose Lowri plaza for the two floral fountains; 2 plastic tubs for Royal Square, 2 half barrels for each of the following: opposite Murrays, adjacent to the angel opposite Cosy Fish Bar, road island opposite Capel Hotel Gilfach, bench area adjacent to the newsagents in Gilfach, opposite post office adjacent to Jak's Bar, adjacent to bus stop outside Capel Hotel Gilfach, at the bus stop and clock in Aberbargoed.

item 12, Deputy Clerk recruitment – the clerk fed back instruction from the shortlisting panel that insufficient eligible applications were received to conduct effective shortlisting and the post was to be readvertised week commencing April 4th, 2023.

8. Mayor's report.

Mayor Llewellyn reported attending the afternoon tea event in Aberbargoed which he felt was an excellent event, his recommendation would be to add another hour for more dancing. A Member advised feedback received has been exceptionally positive. The mayor moved on to advise of attending the town and community council's liaison committee meeting in Maesycwmmmer which he feels is an essential body that has a key role in maintaining communication between residents and the county borough council. He spoke about a police station networking event that was held at the town hall, which was very informative, of attending one wedding anniversary and of donating the remainder of the mayors' allowance to the breast cancer fundraising programme for the new unit at Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr.

Members commented this donation was very commendable.

9. To receive correspondence from One Voice Wales, receive feedback from Cllr Williams attendance at the larger councils committee 15th February 2023, complete the training needs survey 2023, and authorise membership renewal for 2023/24.

Cllr Williams reported technical difficulties resulted in his need to attend the town hall to join the meeting, but this meant he missed the first part of the meeting unfortunately. He spoke about a presentation made by Colwyn Bay town council on their work in becoming a smart town and the benefits brought to the town by the installation of a smart screen which essentially is a digital information board. A member advised this initiative had been talked about at town council many years previously but not taken forward. Councillor Williams commented that technology has significantly moved on now and with the need for dissemination of much more information to individuals who do not have technology at home this may be a way forward. Members supported Cllr Williams request to put this item onto a meeting agenda for further discussion. The meeting moved on to complete the One Voice Wales Training Needs Analysis Survey and instructed the clerk to submit the responses as soon as possible.

RESOLVED to renew membership and authorise the expenditure for the membership fee.

10. To receive the Independent Remuneration Panel Final Report 2023.

Noted.

11. In accordance with the 'Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996' to consider proposed provision and removal of disabled persons parking bays outside the following:

- Provision outside No 2 Francis Street, Bargoed
- Removal outside No 30 Gilfach Street, Bargoed
- Move from outside No 34 Henry Street to outside No 33 Henry Street
- Removal outside 87 West Street, Bargoed.

Noted.

Councillor D IngramJones left the meeting at this point.

12. To consider planning applications:

Case Ref. 23/0054/FULL Site Area: 407m² Location: Club Lennox 1-3 West Street Bargoed CF81 8RZ (UPRN 000043024113) Proposal: Change of Use from A3 (Pub, bar, drinking establishment) to D1 (non-residential training centre) Case Officer: Joshua Burrows (07874 641749 : burroj1@caerphilly.gov.uk Ward: Aberbargoed and Bargoed Map Ref: 315067 (E) 199580 (N) No objections

Case Ref. 23/0115/NCC Site Area: 1040m²
Location: Gilfach Fargod Fawr Farm Cardiff Road Bargoed (UPRN 000043045055)
Proposal: Remove condition 06 (materials) of planning consent 20/0856/COU (Change the use of former RAFA members club into 5 No. 2 bedroom flats) Case Officer: Joshua Burrows 07874 641749 burroj1@caerphilly.gov.uk Ward: Aberbargoed and Bargoed Map Ref: 314990 (E) 199182 (N)
Noted, no objections.

Councillor D IngramJones was invited back to the meeting.

13. To consider requests for financial support as reported by the clerk, consider the provision of community defibrillators, and authorise donations as members feel appropriate.

The clerk provided the meeting with details of three community events open to the public for the weekend of King Charles III Coronation which are being planned by the church-based organisations, one in Aberbargoed, Bargoed and Gilfach. One specific request for financial support was made which gave details of approximate costs for delivering the event. The clerk also advised town council has been made aware that some of the local voluntary organisations are also considering small scale coronation events and activities. Members considered the coronation weekend, discussed the enabling role of town council and the importance of ensuring residents have adequate access to such events. A member advised of involvement at a different community organisation outside the area for whom a similar event costs were predicted in the range of £750 so the request would seem comparable. Members RESOLVED to provide a one-off special grant of £500 to each of the following coronation events: Aberbargoed Community Action Team out of St Peters Church grounds; Afternoon Tea and family games from St Gwladys Church Hall in Bargoed; Afternoon Tea, Bingo, and Quiz celebration out of St Margarets Church in Gilfach.

Members RESOLVED to instruct the clerk to circulate details of a specific grant round for voluntary organisations who may request financial support for their coronation activity/event which will be considered at the April meeting of town council. The P&R committee are asked to work with the clerk to earmark uncommitted contingency funds for this purpose.

The clerk spoke about a request from members to bring defibrillators to a meeting agenda and the information received that two of the local schools are currently raising funds to provide this equipment in the community. Members instructed the clerk to reach out to the schools for more specific information about their planned locations and their fundraising targets and bring the item back for further discussion.

14. To discuss town centre decoration for King Charles Coronation weekend and May Fair 2023.

Members attention was drawn to the restrictions on cross street decorations and the large area across all four town council ward areas that would need to be covered if decorating the community for the coronation weekend. The costs of bunting would run into thousands of pounds. Members considered appropriate use of public money and RESOLVED to work with the local contractor to identify suitable areas for decoration in Bargoed Town Centre for the May Fair event on Saturday 13th May 2023. There is no requirement for the coronation weekend.

15. To receive correspondence from the Community Health Council and a request for information from a resident in Barnsley.

RESOLVED to instruct the mayor to respond to the Barnsley resident with details of local organisations that might be able to assist.

The mayor read a notification received from the Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council advising of a name change, that with effect from April 2023 the organisation will be called "LLAIS". The clerk will circulate the link to members.

This concluded the business of this meeting.

The mayor closed the meeting at 7.40pm