



Bargoed Town Council

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Minutes of the Full Council Meeting 19th April 2023.

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

Also in Attendance: Mrs H Williams, Town Clerk

Youth Representative: Cameron Jones.

Meeting Chairman: Councillor H Llewellyn (Mayor)

1. Police Report.

The meeting was attended by a Community Support Officer from Gwent Police who reviewed the monthly report with members. An apology was extended about an error on the date which suggested the statistics were for the previous month. Overall, there has been a reduction in crime and the same with anti-social behaviour, despite an increase in the Gilfach/Pengam area. One incident of note has been recorded at Morrison's supermarket, and one of the Community Support Officers is currently working on finding out if it is possible to install an automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) camera in the area which could potentially help to resolve many of the issues in the area. Members advised there is a possibility that an agreement for 'no limit' parking was put in place with CCBC when the store was built, this will be looked at by the CSOs.

A member advised of being aware that a petition is being circulated in the community that might support the installation of an ANPR camera. Other members commented they felt such a camera to be the best way forward. Members spoke about increases in anti-social behaviour late at night in the north end of Bargoed. A member advised that operation Harley is working well in Aberbargoed ward, with the biggest area of issue now being the coal tip.

Members had no further questions/comments for the officer and she left the meeting at this point.

2. To receive Apologies for Absence

No apologies received, however two Members advised of late arrival due to Caerphilly County Borough Council business.

3. **To receive Declaration of Interests or dispensations on any item(s) on this Agenda, if appropriate.** Councillor R Carroll declared an interest in agenda item 10 in respect of Cartref Community Hall and Bargoed Welfare Bowls Club.

Councillor R Price declared an interest in agenda item 10 in respect of Cartref Community Hall.

Councillor D Price declared an interest in agenda item 10 in respect of Cartref Community Hall.

4. Press and Public Participation Session.

No enquiries received by the clerk.

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

RESOLVED to approve the minutes as a true record, with Councillor Carroll moving and Councillor Williams seconding. The mayor signed the minutes in the presence of members.

6. Mayor's report including feedback from the CCBC Liaison Committee meeting 3rd April 2023 with details of the parking enforcement link for residents.

The mayor advised the previous month has been quiet in respect of civic activities apart from opening the new monthly food and craft market being delivered in Bargoed by Crafty Legs. Initial feedback has been very positive with residents' remarks being that this is something different.

Councillor Llewellyn moved on to speak about his attendance at the CCBC Liaison Committee meeting as Bargoed Town Council representative and his request for information from the parking enforcement team about statistics on the number of tickets having been issued, along with data on the geographical areas and the amount of money generated. The mayor advised that information provided at the meeting was felt to be insufficient as other than the first year of operation full statistics have not been generated and members were only really informed that the service was self-sustaining. Members are encouraged to let residents know about the online form for submitting areas of concern to the parking enforcement team.

The mayor explained he will continue to press for more information until members are satisfied with the response provided. The mayor also spoke about street lighting which was included in the same meeting – advising that the lights will not be going back on.

Councillor D Ingram-Jones joined the meeting halfway through the mayor's report and immediately declared an interest in parking enforcement and also in agenda item 14.

7. To approve the year end accounting statements and complete the Annual Governance Statement for the financial year 2022-23 in accordance with the requirements of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 and the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014.

The mayor asked the clerk, for the benefit of new members, to provide an explanation of s137 expenditure limits and the relevance of the amount per member of the electorate; and also, of members care costs. Members RESOLVED to approve the year end accounting statements and moved on to complete the annual governance statement.

Councillor C Andrews joined the meeting at this point.

The mayor read each statement and asked members for council responses. The clerk confirmed to the meeting that the 2021-22 report from the internal auditor was on file should any member wish to re-examine it, and that the internal auditor would be receiving all the 2022-23 accounting records on Monday 24th April 2023. Upon completion of the annual governance statement the meeting RESOLVED to instruct the mayor to sign the annual return in their presence.

8. To approve, in accordance with s151 of the Local Government Measure 2011, the publication of the statement of payments made to Members for the financial year April 2022 to March 2023.

Members reviewed the statement of payments made to members and RESOLVED to approve its publication. The clerk was instructed to upload the proforma to the town council website without delay.

9. To consider the confirmed budget for 2023-24.

Members noted the finalised 2023-24 budget.

Councillors R Carroll, D Price, R Price left the meeting before the next agenda item.

10. To review applications to the one-off grants programme for voluntary organisations delivering community events for King Charles III coronation in May 2023.

Members RESOLVED to approve a grant of £400 to Cartref Community Hall.

Councillors R Price, D Price returned to the meeting.

Members RESOLVED to approve a grant of £500 to Bargoed Welfare Bowls Club.

Councillor R Carroll returned to the meeting.

Members RESOLVED to approve a grant of £500 to Valley Daffodils and £450 to Andrews Close and Aeron Place Residents Association.

The clerk advised she and Councillor Andrews had communicated with an in-eligible group of residents who had applied for financial support for their coronation event, and information on community interest groups was provided for their consideration.

11. To receive feedback from the Policy & Resources Committee chair, review quotations and confirm insurance requirements.

As chair of the policy and resources committee, the deputy mayor reviewed insurance quotations with members, advising of his work with the clerk in seeking information from insurers. Members discussed their insurance requirements and reviewed their options.

Members RESOLVED to secure a three-year agreement for their comprehensive policy, £1946.21 authorised expenditure, and a one-year cyber policy £367.36 authorised expenditure.

12. To consider members comments on the community review and confirm feedback to be provided to the boundary commission.

Members spoke at some length about the community review initially seeking to defer the item to a subsequent meeting, however the clerk advised the deadline for receipt of initial comments from town council is 14th May 2023. The clerk reminded members that two workshop sessions had taken place at town council and that Members initial comments would not be the only opportunity to feed into the community review. A special meeting was felt unnecessary at this time.

The mayor invited members who had worked on the town council proposals to provide the meeting with additional information about their recommendations. Members explained they had reviewed approved housing developments, looked at potential developments and also the number of streets that are split over two ward areas under existing community boundaries, they also considered the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivations and the ratio of electors to councillors at some of the neighbouring communities. Three streets from the park estate are currently in Gilfach ward, and Hillside Park is currently split over Gilfach and Bargoed wards meaning that in some cases next door neighbours are in different community wards to each other. [The recommendation is that the whole of hillside park down Cardiff road to the junction of park place opposite the Capel hotel will be in Gilfach ward, with the boundary running behind the rear lane of the properties on hillside park, apart from the one property on the western drive hill– the Gilfach ward boundary to run along hillside view, with the three streets of hillside view, vale view and western drive to form part of the park ward]. Councillor Andrews declared an interest as she resides in a street which will be affected by the boundary suggestion in Gilfach ward.

In Aberbargoed, the new Llanmoor Homes housing development, Bedwellty fields is included in the ward whereas Britannia walk on the opposite side of the road is in Pengam ward. Members recommended the boundaries should be re-drawn to reflect the CCBC boundary which would ensure these areas make more sense. [The Aberbargoed boundary to be after the Bowen industrial estate before the new housing development, with Birch Way, Beech Avenue and Oak Grove being in Pengam ward].

Additionally, Members drew attention to the new housing development of 36 homes opposite Hillcrest garage in Markham which gained planning consent in 2017. Feedback from the workshops was that Members feel this development to be more appropriate in the Markham/Argoed ward than in Aberbargoed. The area is much closer to the community of Markham.

In respect of the number of members to each ward area, members spoke about the number of electors per councillor, recommending it should be close to 500, and it would be appropriate for an increase in community councillors as follows: Aberbargoed ward +2 to a total of 6; Bargoed ward +1 to a total of 6; Gilfach ward +1 to a total of 3. Under these proposals Bargoed Town Council would have a total of 17 Town Councillors.

Members considered all the feedback from the workshops and discussed the recommendations at some length, looking closely at both Bedwellty fields and Hillcrest garage areas in Aberbargoed, then moving on to the recommendation for the Gilfach and Park wards respectively. Members reviewed the annotated map prepared by the clerk and ensured it was edited to reflect the entire hillside park street was included in the Gilfach ward. Members RESOLVED to accept all the proposals from the working group members instructing the clerk to provide the boundary commission with their initial comments along with an annotated map. The annotations will not include a line for the Markham development at this point as it is

not clear where the access point for the development will be on the map. The clerk was instructed to discuss this with relevant officers prior to sending in the comments.

13. To receive a report from the Clerk (with updates on the working group scheduled for 11th May 2023; Clerk's annual leave; the May Fair; Annual report for 2022-23; Festive Lighting working group activity – a resolution required on the purchase of 7 lamp post figurines for Gilfach ward).

The clerk advised town council that the working group scheduled for 11th May 2023 is no longer required and will be removed from the calendar.

Councillor Hamer-Thomas is co-ordinating the acts for the stage area on Royale Square, Councillors Bissex, Collins, D Ingram-Jones, M Ingram-Jones to support throughout the day. Bargoed Town Council free stalls – to date, stalls requested have been from the police (community safety), and from Bargoed Gardening Club (who would like to put out a plant stall). Members encouraged to reach out to voluntary organisations to encourage participation. Thursday 27th April 12 noon closing date for the job applications, shortlisting 9.30am Thursday 4th May, Week commencing 6th May – Clerk on annual leave, back in the office Tuesday 16th May 2023.

Monday 22nd May – Deputy Clerk interviews at Cartref Community Hall.

Members supporting completion of the annual report – Councillors Davies, M IngramJones, P Collins, R Carroll.

The clerk provided members with feedback from the two festive lighting working groups along with additional quotations and information on the replacement/repairs to equipment. Members were advised of a recent health and safety issue that has been dealt with in collaboration with the mayor following the icicles being brought down by bad weather in Bargoed town centre. The contractor has now removed the icicles. Members RESOLVED to retrospectively authorise expenditure to £500 for the removal of the icicles. The clerk explained the cost is likely to be in the region of £250.

Members reviewed ex-rental festive lights and RESOLVED to authorise an order of double figurines plus one spare for the two lamp posts at the Capel hotel in Gilfach, 15148.B2; and 3 x figurines code ending 526 to replace broken equipment in Gilfach, Multi coloured bulb string lights to be installed onto catenary wire as replacements to the icicles 1 x 40m length and 1 x 50m length £2450 inclusive of 5m leads and transformers for each set.. A power supply to be requested for lamp post WE18 in Aberbargoed circa £300. Total expenditure authorised ex vat £4590 + £135 carriage.

The working group discussed the dying Christmas tree at Gilfach Bargoed community centre, and also the possibility of working with the WHQS Environmental Officer at CCBC to install an additional tree on the park estate in the area of the OAP residential homes. A site meeting to be convened in May to look at options.

The clerk also advised of having requested an inspection visit to the church garden in Aberbargoed to assess damage to power supply in the garden. A new star will be required for the cone tree if it is to be used this year. No further information to report on this item at this time.

Town Council has received a request from a new resident to the area about “the orchard project UK” and whether there is a location suitable for the setup of an orchard featuring rare Welsh varieties of apples and pears. Thames Water are delivering similar projects across the country. The mayor requested members give this item some thought and come prepared to discuss possible Bargoed and Gilfach locations at the June meeting of town council.

Additional key holders for the community noticeboards as follows:

Councillors Andrews (Gilfach); D IngramJones, D Williams, J Davies (Bargoed); M IngramJones, M Harry (Aberbargoed).

Members to work with the clerk to complete the annual report on April 25th and 26th as follows: Councillors Davies, M Ingram-Jones, Carroll, Collins.

Councillor D Ingram-Jones left the meeting prior to item 14 being discussed.

14. To consider planning applications:

Case Ref. 23/0140/HH Site Area: 153m²

Location: 9 Neuaddwen Street Aberbargoed Bargoed CF81 9BD (UPRN 000043003351)

Proposal: Alter garage roof from mono pitch to dual pitch

Case Officer: Joe Simmons ☐☐07874 641751 ☐☐simmoj1@caerphilly.gov.uk

Ward: Aberbargoed And Bargoed Map Ref:315633 (E) 200181 (N)

Community Council: Bargoed Town Council Expected Decision Level: Delegated

Neighbours' views to be considered.

Case Ref. 23/0173/COU Site Area: 197m²

Location: 66 Commercial Street Aberbargoed Bargoed CF81 9BU (UPRN 000043003553)

Proposal: Change the use from ground floor commercial premises to 2 No. one bedroom ground floor flats

Case Officer: Joshua Burrows ☐☐07874 641749 ☐☐burroj1@caerphilly.gov.uk

Ward: Aberbargoed And Bargoed Map Ref:315496 (E) 200101 (N)

Community Council: Bargoed Town Council Expected Decision Level: Delegated

No comments from town council.

Case Ref. 23/0217/TPO Site Area: 78m²

Location: Trees Rear Of Kerrfield Heol Fargoed Bargoed CF81 8PQ (UPRN 000043024252)

Proposal: Carry out various tree works (Tree Preservation Order 21/78/RVDC)

Case Officer: Abbie-Jane Stokes ☐☐07907 574195 ☐☐stokea@caerphilly.gov.uk

Ward: Aberbargoed And Bargoed Map Ref: 314839 (E) 199079 (N)

Community Council: Bargoed Town Council Expected Decision Level: Delegated

Members have no comments at this time.

Councillor D Ingram-Jones returned to the meeting.

The mayor closed the meeting at 7.51pm