

Bargoed Town Council

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Minutes of the Full Council Meeting 19th July 2023.

Present: Councillors H Llewellyn; R Carroll; P Collins; J Bissex; J Davies; D Ingram-Jones; S Hamer-

Thomas: DT Williams: C Andrews: R Price.

Also in Attendance: CSO Jessop (Gwent Police); Mrs H Williams, Town Clerk

Youth Representative: Cameron Jones.

Meeting Chairman: Councillor H Llewellyn (Mayor)

The mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited CSO Jessop to give the Gwent Police monthly report.

1. To receive a report from Gwent Police.

This month's report noted a slight reduction in crime from the April statistics. The team initiative 'Operation Harley' continues to be successful and recent permission has been gained from Caerphilly County Borough Council to use lamp posts for signage in Aberbargoed. Last weekend one bike was seized and there is another male currently going to court for offences relating to off-road bike activity in the community. Engagement activity has taken place in Morrison's and also in Aberbargoed primary school regarding parking issues.

Members commented about how big a problem parking outside schools continues to be; and also, there is still the issue of the vehicle parking on the pavement in Bargoed town centre every day.

Councillor Bissex joined the meeting at this point.

CSO Jessop advised members he will raise the Bargoed town centre car parking issue with the inspector as there appears to be confusion regarding responsibility to deal with the problem.

Members asked how the town centre is during the night – CSO Jessop advised calls to have reduced since evening patrols started and local businesses welcome the officers' presence.

A member spoke about the gates at Morrison's continuing to be an issue with residents in the flats overlooking the car park struggling to sleep at night with the noise from racing vehicles.

Councillor Williams joined the meeting at this point.

The mayor thanked CSO Jessop for his attendance and for the monthly report.

2. To receive Apologies for Absence

Councillor M IngramJones (health); Councillor D Price (health).

3. To receive Declaration of Interests or dispensations on any item(s) on this Agenda, if appropriate. No declarations relevant to the agenda.

RESOLVED to suspend standing orders and continue with business of the agenda from item 5 until the visitor arrives to the meeting.

5. Press and Public Participation Session. No enquiries received.

6. To receive, approve and sign Minutes of the Full Council Meeting 21st June 2023. RESOLVED to approve and sign the minutes.

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- 7. To receive notification from the clerk of an error on both sets of minutes from 24th May 2023 regarding Member attendance and approve the amendment of both.
- RESOLVED to approve the amendment to both sets of minutes noting the presence of Councillor HamerThomas.
- 8. To confirm an amendment to item 12(g) of Bargoed Town Council Financial Regulations to bring the upper limit on contract values in line with Standing Orders 2023.

RESOLVED to amend financial regulations at item 12(g) to the value of £25,000 as per standing orders 2023.

The meeting reverted to agenda item 4 and the mayor welcomed Amy Brunnock to the meeting.

4. To receive a presentation from the head of engagement at Aneurin Bevan University Health Board.

A power point presentation was received about how Aneurin Bevan University Health Board engages with the public and some of the services that are accessible directly by the public without a GP referral.

Members were asked to provide feedback should residents advise of not being able to access the common ailments scheme at a local pharmacy as this is an area being monitored by the engagement team.

The mayor thanked Amy for her presentation, remarking "Wow, such a lot of information for us to be able to share with residents. I am certain we all have groups within our wards that we feel we can share this valuable information with".

A member asked, for those residents who don't have the internet, surely the contact telephone number should be a free phone number? This has not been flagged before but will be taken back to the team for consideration.

Councillor HamerThomas joined the meeting at this point.

The mayor offered congratulations on the levels of engagement being carried out and thanked the visitor for her presentation. Members were advised to make contact should they have further questions, and leaflets will be sent to town council for members to distribute in the community.

9. To receive draft unapproved minutes of the Community Engagement Committee meeting 26th June 2023 and verbal feedback from the chair following informal chat with two potential youth representatives. Members are requested to consider recommendations from the members who attended the informal chat about appointment of one youth representative and provide instruction to the clerk.

Cllr Andrews reviewed the draft unapproved minutes with the meeting and followed up with a verbal account of the recruitment activity for the new youth representatives advising members of one young man living out of the area therefore making him ineligible.

Members RESOLVED to appoint Miss J Price-Worgan as one youth representative, members of the community engagement committee were requested to look at recruitment of a second youth representative as soon as possible.

Members instructed the clerk to liaise with New Tredegar Community Council regarding the young man who expressed an interest.

10. To receive draft unapproved minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting 28th June 2023. Chair to take questions from Members.

Councillor Carroll reviewed the minutes with members. No questions received.

11. To express thanks to members of the biodiversity working group, the youth representative, and local volunteers for their work during the past month in the distribution and installation of most of the raised beds at several local community organisations. Members are requested to authorise expenditure (maximum £100) for the reimbursement of fuel to the individual who provided use of their vehicle for the deliveries to be made.

Councillor Collins verbally reported from the biodiversity working group. Members RESOLVED to approve up to £100 on production of fuel receipts. Councillor Andrews fed back having received very high praise from the team at the Hangar in Aberbargoed on the work of the biodiversity working group and the working relationship with Bargoed Town Council.

The mayor extended thanks to the youth representative and a young man called Charlie Lewis from Bargoed who have been volunteering to support this initiative in the community.

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12. To receive a verbal report from the mayor including confirmation of the winning businesses in the Bargoed in Bloom competition 2023, and gift presentation.

The mayor reported his attendance at the Heolddu Comprehensive School stage performance of Annie in Blackwood Miners Institute advising the production was excellent; the young people performed at a professional standard and the choreography was outstanding. The clerk was instructed to write a congratulatory letter to the school on behalf of the town council.

The mayor announced the results of the Bargoed in Bloom Competition 2023 with the top three businesses as Apex Estate Agents, the New Continental Café, Barnardo's. The clerk was instructed to liaise with the businesses to make payment of the prize monies, and to liaise with the organisers to produce certificates as appropriate. The judges advised they did not go into any of the businesses during the judging but had a photograph outside and a photograph was taken of the business display. The top three businesses were visited after deliberations to advise of their winning, and the organisers received a telephone call from the judges prior to the winners being informed.

The mayor made a presentation of a gift and a voucher to the youth representative and thanked Cameron Jones for his contribution to town council over the past year. The gift is to assist as he leaves for university. Cameron thanked members advising he had enjoyed his year as youth representative and would be continuing to support town council as a volunteer.

This concluded the business of this meeting. The mayor closed the meeting at 7.10pm

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