



Bargoed Town Council

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Minutes of the Full Council Meeting 18th October 2023.

Present: Councillors H Llewellyn; R Carroll; P Collins; J Davies; T Williams; R Price; J Bissex; C Andrews.

Present Remotely: Councillors M Ingram-Jones; S Hamer-Thomas; D Ingram-Jones.

Also in Attendance: PCSO Aplin, PCSO Williams (Gwent Police); Mr A Griffiths (CCBC); Ms E Janes (Caerphilly Observer).

Also Present: Mr C Jones (Youth Representative); Town Clerk: Mrs H Williams, Deputy Clerk: Mr T Oliver.

Meeting Chairman: Councillor H Llewellyn (Mayor)

The mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited PCSO Aplin to review the Gwent Police monthly report.

1. To receive a report from Gwent Police.

PCSO Williams was introduced as a new replacement officer in the team. Members welcomed her to Bargoed. The officers reviewed the monthly report to council and took questions from town councillors as follows:

Q: Are repeat offenders placed on any special programmes?

There is a 3 strike process in place, and if offenders breach this it becomes possible for them to appear in court, however this takes a long time. The crime reduction officer is dealing with it.

Q: Is there any update on the Morrison's situation with anti-social behaviour and vehicles?

Nothing to report to date, but the team are monitoring the situation.

2. To receive a visitor from Caerphilly County Borough Council with information about the warm spaces initiative.

An officer from the Caerphilly Cares team provided members with a brief overview of the plans for the welcome spaces programme this year. The team have built on the lessons learned by the warm hubs in 2022-23 and the welcome spaces initiative will include community connectors presence offering information and support with benefits, access to support agencies, food banks, fuel bills, cost of living advice, support to overcome isolation and loneliness. Members were encouraged to refer any residents who they know to be lonely or isolated in the local community.

The programme will see welcome spaces distributing warm packs for those who are at risk of poor health due to the cold – items included such as blankets, hot water bottles, gloves, hats and other items to help with the cold.

If Members are aware of any local groups that might be interested in setting up a welcome space in the community please put them in touch with the Caerphilly Cares team, or alternatively encourage them to visit one of the engagement events planned in the local area. (White Rose resource centre Thursday 30th November 2pm-7pm; Caerphilly Library 9th November 2pm-7pm).

There is a social media platform presence for the programme, and links with both citizens advice and the local food banks.

Q: Last year town council made a grant to the programme to work collaboratively with the Caerphilly Cares team. Is this a possibility for 2023-24?

Yes.

3. To receive Apologies for Absence

Councillor D Price (Health)

4. To receive Declaration of Interests or dispensations on any item(s) on this Agenda, if appropriate.
Cllr R Price – agenda item 10.

5. To welcome Miss Price-Wogan, a new Bargoed Town Council Youth Representative, to the meeting.
Not in attendance – communication difficulties.

6. Press and Public Participation Session.
One member of the press present.

7. To receive, approve and sign Minutes of the Full Council Meeting 20th September 2023 and the Special Full Council Meeting 5th October 2023.

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the 20th September 2023 meeting, councillors Carroll and Davies moving. RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the 5th October 2023 meeting, councillors Davies and Williams moving.

8. To receive, in accordance with The Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014, the audit completion notice for 2022-2023 from Audit Wales along with a copy of the certified annual return and audit opinion, to consider comments and recommendations and confirm instructions to the clerk.

The council received the audit completion notice, certified annual return and audit opinion noting the two comments made by the auditor of an omission of a figure relating to the previous financial year, and also that the name of the town council appeared to be missed off the annual return. The clerk explained that feedback had been given to Audit Wales about the pre-formatted white text on the annual return and the oversight in not checking its photocopied appearance. The clerk advised that the recommendation of Audit Wales for someone else to double check the return for accuracy prior to submission will be undertaken by the deputy clerk/deputy RFO in future.

Members RESOLVED to approve the audit completion notice for publication without delay.

9. To receive items from the clerk:

9.1 Armed Forces Covenant Renewal confirmation – the clerk confirmed submission of the renewal

9.2 One Voice Wales Newsletter – contents noted

9.3 To approve pro rata payment of working from home allowance of £78.00 for Councillor Harry – RESOLVED to instruct the clerk to make payment without delay.

Councillor R Price left the meeting at this point.

10. To consider, in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 s85(1), granting dispensation to Councillor D Price for continued absence on the grounds of ill health.

The meeting RESOLVED to approve the dispensation for continued absence on the grounds of ill health and to revisit the situation in the new year.

Councillor R Price was invited to rejoin the meeting.

11. To receive a report from the Mayor.

The mayor reported having attended the recent town centre stakeholder meeting, and his disappointment that it was so poorly attended. The town centre support officer circulated an update report to members after the meeting and one councillor advised of having requested the detail be provided to the placemaking plan consultants. The mayor advised of having attended a lovely harvest festival event at St Peters church in Aberbargoed, and also a 60th wedding anniversary in Bargoed. The final activity this month was attendance at the town and community councils liaison committee meeting with the clerk, which has posed questions to CCBC about member status recognition, the winter plan for 2023-24, the precept and the grass cutting regime.

12. To consider requests for a financial donation from:

11.1 Cerebral Palsy Cymru – RESOLVED to make a donation of £250

11.2 Wales Air Ambulance – RESOLVED to make a donation of £500

13. To receive the Bargoed Placemaking Plan Conversation and consider engagement activity to collect comments.

Members noted the details of the conversation guide, and the clerk explained the town council has not put anything out on social media at the request of the consultants. This phase of the consultation is aimed at groups. Members are encouraged to seek comments/ideas/suggestions from any groups they come into contact with in the local community, and using the packs given to them by the deputy clerk note the comments. The feedback will be collated in the town council office to be submitted by the deadline of 10th November 2023.

14. To receive the draft proposals report on the review of community arrangements of the county borough of Caerphilly and provide feedback to the consultation on behalf of the town council.

Members reviewed the draft report and were pleased that the majority of the proposals submitted by town council had been included. Full Council strongly disagrees with the proposal to split Park Drive and Heol Fargoed across two communities. Members instructed the clerk to respond to the consultation on the draft proposals referring back to the original proposal made by town council that the boundary between the community of Gilfach and the community of the Park ward is at the rear lane of Hillside park; and the community boundary with Bargoed runs from the rear of Gilfach Fargoed Fawr Farm up behind the bungalows on Park Drive.

Feedback is to make clear that the Gilfach Fargoed Fawr Farm is one of the oldest buildings in the Bargoed community and as part of the Bargoed heritage established as part of the Capel Hanbury Leigh estate 1841, and subsequently becoming the Bargoed RAFA Club in 1968 it is important that this remains in the community of Bargoed.

Members also instructed the clerk to advise their recommendation of the number of councillors per ward took into account the areas in which residential development is planned. Members strongly feel that Aberbargoed ward should have the same amount of councillors as Bargoed ward as it is likely the electorate will grow in this area over the next ten years.

All members were encouraged to also provide individual feedback to the consultation.

15. To consider planning applications:

15.1

Case Ref. 23/0322/HH Site Area: 371m²

Location: 149 Bedwellty Road Aberbargoed Bargoed CF81 9DN (UPRN 000043003608)

Proposal: Erect a two storey rear extension

No objections from members but neighbours views should be taken into consideration.

15.2

85 Hillside park Bargoed CF818NJ, garage replacement.

No objections to feed back.

This concluded the business of this meeting.

The mayor closed the meeting at 7.20pm