



Bargoed Town Council

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Minutes of the Full Council Meeting 22nd November 2023.

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

Also in Attendance: PCSO Bateman, PCSO McKean (Gwent Police).

Also Present: Town Clerk: Mrs H Williams (remotely), Deputy Clerk: Mr T Oliver.

Meeting Chairman: Councillor H Llewellyn (Mayor)

1. To receive a report from Gwent Police.

Members thanked officers for their report, congratulated the team on the recent arrest in Gilfach ward and advised of an update to the parking restrictions in Morrison's that have been extended to 3 hours in line with other stores. The mayor commented on the crime prevention activities which are to be commended.

Officers explained the dog initiative as being very similar to the way anti-social behaviour initiatives are run with educational materials also being included and a strike process in place for low level offences. A member asked if officers are pleased with supermarket developments, they advised this has been sought for a very long time and they are noticing it is much quieter in recent weeks. A member enquired if there has been any feedback from local residents who have been complaining and officers response was not as yet. Social media content is mixed. Officers advised there have been positive feedback from Aberbargoed residents who have already noticed a difference since the signage was put up. Officers will be supporting with a small operation to close and lock gates. A member drew the officers' attention to the garden development in the area as some businesses have expressed concerns about potential for anti-social behaviour in the area surrounding Bargoed gateway steps. Officers also advised members that there have been discussions about the potential to brighten up the bottom car park now the use has been improved. Mayor thanked the visitors and they left the meeting.

2. To receive Apologies for Absence Both youth representatives tendered apologies for this meeting.

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

Councillor Williams declared an interest in item 15.4

4. Press and Public Participation Session. – No enquiries received.

5. To receive, approve and sign Minutes of the Full Council Meeting 18th October 2023. RESOLVED to approve the minutes.

6. Mayor's report.

The mayor reported lots of civic activity in the past month including attendance at the 'Well Man' event in Bargoed library; Platform's 'Fit Wardrobe@' event in Gilfach Bargoed Community Centre; Armistice services including the primary schools memorial at Gilfach memorial gardens, the Bargoed Royal British Legion Memorial Concert at Heolddu Comprehensive School and the cenotaph in Bargoed to lay the Bargoed Town Council wreath. He extended thanks on behalf of Bargoed Town Council to the Bargoed Branch of the Royal British Legion for all their hard work in arranging armistice activities in the community. A 60th wedding anniversary presentation was made, and also attendance at the opening event of the New Fish Kitchen in Bargoed. A member advised of several business grants being available via CCBC for premises improvement and/or set up.

7. To note the content of the draft unapproved minutes of the October 2023 Events and Environment Committee and Policy and Resources Committee meetings.

Content noted.

A member asked why discussions about characters at the forthcoming Winter Fair were omitted from the Events and Environment Committee draft minutes. The clerk explained that minutes are intended as an overview that are reflective of proceedings and do not cover the meeting verbatim.

8. To receive feedback from the town council delegated representative to the One Voice Wales Area Committee (meeting date 1st November 2023).

Unfortunately the delegates were unable to attend the meeting.

9. To receive verbal feedback from delegated members who attended the Integrated Wellbeing Network meeting 15th November 2023.

Neither member attended the meeting however feedback has been received from the meeting chair. It was well attended by local organisations however the time and duration of future meetings will be looked at to find a more suitable option.

10. To receive the draft report of the Independent Remuneration Panel along with an update from the Clerk. Members are asked to consider amendments to the expenses policy and make their work from home declarations. Members are also asked to complete the consultation on the draft report.

<https://democracy.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/documents/s39419/1.%20Appendix%20A%20consultation%20questions.pdf> by 8th December 2023

RESOLVED to approve the amendments to the expenses policy noting a £52 one off payment to be made per annum to members in respect of consumables. Members noted the content of the guidance on the working from home allowance and signed their working from home declarations as appropriate.

11. To receive items from the clerk:

11.1 NJC Pay Settlement 2023/24 (members are asked to confirm the pay award in the November 2023 payroll, backdating to 1st April 2023 as advised by the national Association of Local Councils.

RESOLVED to implement the pay award in November 2023 payroll backdating to 1st April 2023 for the clerk and 19th September 2023 for the deputy clerk.

11.2 CCBC Town Centre Management Team Update on Bargoed Town Centre Audit October 2023.

Content noted.

11.3 Draft Bargoed Town Council Constitution (members are asked to consider an amendment to standing order 6.16 and adopt the constitution with effect from 23rd November 2023.

RESOLVED to approve amendments and adopt the constitution as at 23rd November 2023.

11.4 Storage of town council assets at the St Gwladys Church Crypt (members are asked to consider a nominal monthly rental fee for storage of fancy-dress costumes, Christmas and Remembrance equipment and decorations. Members are also requested to grant permission for local voluntary organisations to have access to the fancy dress costumes for children's activities).

Members considered community storage of town council assets, the use of fancy dress costumes and the loud speaker. RESOLVED to approve recommendations and implementation of a nominal fee of £10 per month storage.

11.5 Resident's feedback on supermarket car park restrictions in Bargoed, available premises and armistice activities.

The clerk verbally updated members on recent correspondence. Members instructed the clerk to advise the resident that car parking restrictions and the lift facilities are outside the remit of town council, but to signpost to the appropriate contacts. County Members advised that the organisation enquiring about available premises has now received support from CCBC officers. Members noted the correspondence about armistice arrangements and instructed the Events and Environment committee to look at community poppy displays for next year.

11.6 Update on the pre-Christmas activities.

The clerk provided an update on the pantomime tickets, the arrangements for the switch on of festive lighting and the winter fair, advising members of a request for their support with the letters to Santa and Christmas wishes in the grotto tent at Emporium car park. Councillors Collins and Carroll will be supporting with the selection boxes for Santa at Hanbury Square.

12. To consider a donation to the Bargoed branch of the Royal British Legion. RESOLVED a donation of £400 to be made for the provision of lamp post poppies and general donation.
Councillor R Price temporarily left the room.

13. To discuss Members requirements for the 2024-25 draft budget in respect of Members allowances.

Members instructed the clerk to include:

Councillor R Price returned to the meeting while discussion was continuing.

Mayor £1,000; Deputy Mayor £500; 3 x senior posts £300 each; Attendance allowance per full council meeting of £20 per member; the mandatory working from home allowance of £156 per member and £52 consumables per member; and a civic budget of £500.

14. To receive the CCBC Events Programme 2024, consider the following two items on the town council forward work plan - Expand availability of Summer/Autumn activities for young people; - Continue to develop Spring/Summer town centre activities for families and drive town centre footfall; and discuss the opportunity to fund a town centre event aimed at young people which would be delivered by CCBC on behalf of Bargoed Town Council. (Proposed date Saturday 6th July 2024. Members are asked to consider adding the event to the 2024 programme and allocating a minimum £20,000 budget).

RESOLVED to engage the services of CCBC Events Team to deliver a Youth carnival event in Bargoed town centre on Saturday 6th July 2024. The initial budget of £20,000 to be included in the draft 2024-25 budget calculations.

15. To receive a verbal update from the clerk on changes at the local planning authority, consider a planning subcommittee and amendments to the delegation policy to allow for more effective feedback on planning applications.

The clerk advised that applications will be received by town council as soon as they are registered at CCBC so there will not be a requirement to wait for the planning list to come out. Members RESOLVED for all town councillors to receive the applications electronically and to delegate feedback to the planning authority to the Clerk/Deputy Clerk as appropriate. Members further advised if no comments are received by the clerk within the initial ten days that no objections be fed back to the planning authority. The clerk was instructed to amend the delegation policy for approval by the Policy and Resources committee.

The following applications have been received since the last meeting:

Case Ref. 23/0680/FULL Erect 1no pair of 2 bed detached dwelling houses.

Land at Grid Ref 316591(E) 201100 (N) Heol-Y-Bedw-Hirion

No objections

Case Ref: 23/0728/TPO Carry out tree works on 1no. Beech Tree (Tree Preservation Order 21/78/RVDC) 13 Oakland Gardens Bargoed CF818QF Grid Ref 314697(E) 199103(N)

No objections

Case Ref 23/0702/FULL Erect a two-storey rear extension and demolish existing bathroom 80 West Street Bargoed CF818SB Grid Ref 314928 (E) 199560(N)

No objections

Councillor Williams withdrew from the meeting prior to discussion of the next application.

Case Ref 23/0753/HH Erect single storey porch and shower room extension to front of the property 14 Fairways Bargoed CF818TQ Grid Ref 314447 (E) 200008 (N)

No objections

Case Ref 23/0765/HH Erect rear garage Holly House Bedwellty Road Aberbargoed Grid Ref 315984 (E) 200503 (N)

No objections

Case Ref 23/0766/COU Change the use of ground floor commercial shop to residential Rubys Desserts 18 Commercial Street Aberbargoed Grid Ref 315429 (E) 200220 (N)

No objections

Erect 3 no pairs of semi-detached dwellings and 1 no detached dwelling Land at Grid Ref 316564 (E) 201007 (N)

No objections

Councillor Williams returned to the meeting at this point.

16. To discuss the casual vacancy in the Aberbargoed ward. (Members are asked to consider moving to co-option at the December meeting of full council to allow additional engagement with the local electorate in the Aberbargoed ward).

The clerk explained to members that staff have had difficulties in communicating with local residents' groups in Aberbargoed, also due to annual leave and festive activities it would be difficult to appropriately induct a new member to town council in December. Members considered the recommendation from the clerk RESOLVED to encourage further community engagement in Aberbargoed ward and move to fill the vacancy by co-option at the December meeting of council.

This concluded the business of this meeting.

The mayor closed the meeting at 7.41pm