



## Bargoed Town Council

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Minutes of the Full Council Meeting 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

Present: Councillors H Llewellyn; R Carroll; P Collins; J Davies; J Bissex; M Ingram-Jones; S Hamer-Thomas (remotely); D Ingram-Jones; R Price; DT Williams.

Also Present: Town Clerk: Mrs H Williams; Deputy Town Clerk: Mr T Oliver.

Meeting Chairman: Councillor H Llewellyn (Mayor)

The mayor welcomed Members to the meeting advising that Gwent Police have been unavoidably delayed. He proposed an amendment to the meeting agenda to allow for business to continue in the absence of the police representatives. Members RESOLVED to accept the amendment with item 1 being moved to the end of the meeting.

### **2. To receive apologies for absence, consider dispensations, and provide instruction to the Clerk.**

Apologies were reported from Councillor Y Price (away), Councillor C Andrews (CCBC). Members spoke about their inclination to provide continued dispensation for absence for one member respecting the 28 year length of service given to town council, but in the first instance instructed the clerk to meet with Councillor D Price and report to the April meeting of town council.

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

No declarations made.

### **4. Press and Public Participation Session.**

No enquiries received by the clerk.

### **5. To receive, approve and sign Minutes of the Full Council Meeting 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024.**

Councillor R Price joined the meeting at this point.

Members unanimously RESOLVED to approve and sign the minutes as a true record of proceedings.

### **6. Mayor's Report**

The mayor spoke about visiting the Aneurin Bevan Health Board's new breast care unit at Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr, being given a full tour of the facility and speaking with several health professionals during the visit. He advised how donated funds have been used to provide extras such as murals, chairs and lighting that make the surroundings more aesthetically pleasing for patients.

The mayor also spoke about having sent a bouquet of flowers to a local Bargoed couple celebrating their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary due to not being able to visit in person for health reasons.

### **7. To receive draft unapproved minutes of the:**

#### **i. Policy and Resources Committee meeting 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024.**

The chair advised it was a short meeting. Members noted the content of the minutes.

#### **ii. Special Events and Environment Committee Meeting 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024.**

The chair advised that conversely to the P&R Committee, this special meeting was a long meeting and he appreciates the amount of work done by members. St David's Day event feedback was very good, the primary school performances were very well received and feedback from the schools was also very positive.

Members commented they also felt the event was very positive. Meeting minutes noted.

**8. To note the content of:**

**i. Town Centre News from Caerphilly County Borough Council 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

Noted

**ii. Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Annual Report February 2024.**

Members noted the new reporting regime and the new template that will be issued for use from September 2024 and that the independent remuneration panel “strongly believe that councillors should be reimbursed for expenses they necessarily incur whilst carrying out their duties of receive a contribution to help defray these costs”.

The clerk reminded members that they do not need to do anything to receive the mandatory payments of the working from home allowance, £156 or flat rate consumables £52, payments. Members need only to email/write to the clerk in the event that they choose to refuse these payments. The meeting noted the amended full day £119.62 and half day £59.81 compensation for financial loss rates, instructing the clerk to amend the expenses policy and constitution documents prior to the new financial year.

Members RESOLVED to confirm for the 2024-25 financial year the optional allowances to be paid by Bargoed Town Council are:

Mayor Allowance £1,000; Deputy Mayor Allowance £500; 3 x senior role payments to committee chairs of £300 each; and no attendance allowance will be paid during this fiscal year.

**9. To receive items from the Clerk and provide instruction:**

**(i) Proposals for parking restrictions**

The deputy clerk reported feedback received from ward members and confirmed members were happy with the feedback being provided to the consultation.

**(ii) Proposals for CCTV**

The deputy clerk once again reported feedback received from all four Aberbargoed ward members and confirmed that Bargoed Town Council response was to support the continued use of CCTV in the village.

**(iii) Quantity of printed copies of the Annual Report**

Members spoke about the opportunity to use the annual report for engagement purposes as well as for reporting purposes. The meeting instructed the clerk to obtain printing quotations on the draft report for consideration at next month's meeting, wherein members will have identified locations for hard copies of the report and quotations will be approved.

At this point in the meeting, the mayor advised that Gwent Police business seems to have gone on much longer than anticipated, therefore he proposed members review the monthly report and provide any questions/comments to the clerk for forwarding to the ward manager.

**1. To receive a report from Gwent Police.**

A reduction in crime statistics and an increase in ASB statistics were noted in the report.

Councillor Williams left the meeting 6.40pm.

Councillor HamerThomas left the meeting 6.40pm

Recent ASB with quad bikes at Bargoed park has caused damage in the rugby field. Vehicle monitoring continues to be undertaken by the PCSOs in the local team, and have been noted in Gilfach ward. A cannabis factory has been closed down in Aberbargoed ward with successful prosecutions.

This concluded the business of this meeting.

The mayor closed the meeting at 6.45pm