



Bargoed Town Council

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Minutes of the Full Council Meeting 17th April 2024.

Present: Councillors H Llewellyn; R Carroll; P Collins; C Andrews; J Davies; J Bissex; S Hamer-Thomas (remotely); DT Williams; Y Price.

Youth Representative: Mr C Jones.

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

Meeting Chairman: Councillor H Llewellyn (Mayor)

Following the Mayor's welcome he sought Members approval to move on with agenda item 3 while awaiting arrival of the officers from Gwent Police. Members RESOLVED to approve the motion to amend the meeting agenda.

3. To receive Apologies for Absence.

The clerk advised both Cllr M Ingram Jones and D Ingram Jones are away, and apologies have been received from Cllr R Price as Cllr D Price has urgently been admitted to hospital. The clerk explained that Cllr D Price health is very poor and the prognosis is not good.

Gwent Police arrived at 6.04pm and the meeting reverted to the agenda at item 1.

1. To receive a report from Gwent Police.

PCSO's N Bateman and McKean joined the meeting. The Mayor thanked both officers for the expanded content of the monthly report. Officers drew attention to higher crime figures for Bargoed ward largely relating to bike and vehicle theft, but town centre cameras are very good and have enabled officers to track back on activity of young people and identify perpetrators. Increased anti-social behaviour in Aberbargoed ward resulted from issues at Blaen Y Cwm flats and scaffolding at the Hangar. Officers also reported increased issues resulting from the hold in the fence at Morrison's. On a positive note, the PCSOs advised of lots of positive engagement with younger children throughout Easter, and the cyber-crime unit initiative is very good.

The officers advised of residents requesting "No Ball Games" signage on Lowri Plaza and Hanbury Square if possible, and queries about the possibility of alternative traffic calming measures to the speed camera in Gilfach. Members advised they will be happy to bring these issues to the attention of Caerphilly County Borough Council. The officers reported incidence of rogue traders in adjacent communities warning Members to encourage residents vigilance if approached with offers of cheap prices for new driveways to be installed. Officers left the meeting at 6.25pm.

No visitors were received from the Focus Futures Project.

2. To welcome a visitor from the Focus Futures Project and receive a presentation about the service.

3. To receive Apologies for Absence. Members continued with item three instructing the clerk to pass on their best wishes to Councillor D Price.

Councillor HamerThomas left the meeting at this point (unwell).

4. To receive Declaration of Interests or dispensations on any item(s) on this Agenda, if appropriate. No declarations made.

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

6. To receive, approve and sign Minutes of the Full Council Meeting 20th March 2024.

Councillor Y Price abstained due to not being present. Minutes were unanimously approved by show of hands and the mayor signed them in the presence of the meeting.

7. Mayor's report

Councillor Llewellyn thanked members and staff whilst celebrating the achievements of town council over the past year, noting that having reviewed the draft annual report it is very clear that town council is delivering a great deal more in the community now with huge positive wellbeing benefits for residents. As this is the last meeting before Annual meeting, he advised he will be stepping down as Mayor at the end of this meeting.

8. 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.

Members reviewed and RESOLVED to approve the year end accounting statements before moving on to completing the annual governance statement. The mayor read each statement to the meeting and Members provided a collective response which was recorded by the clerk.

Youth Representative joined the meeting at this point.

9. To review, and confirm the 2024-2025 annual budget.

Members reviewed the post year end finalised budget for 2024-25 resolving to approve it unanimously by show of hands.

10. To review and confirm the 2023-2024 Annual Report, consider quotations for printing and provide instruction to the clerk.

The clerk thanked those members who worked with staff to produce the draft annual report for 2023-24 along with the additional comments/edits suggested by those members who attended the two review sessions facilitated by staff. Members celebrated the work and the format of the document, thanking both staff for their commitment. RESOLVED to approve the publication of the annual report after printing. Councillor Y Price left the meeting at this point.

Members reviewed quotations with the deputy clerk and RESOLVED to approve 50 printed copies with expenditure of £110.34 from the engagement budget. The Deputy Clerk was instructed to contact Solo as soon as possible.

11. To receive draft unapproved minutes of the Community Engagement Committee meeting 4th April 2024, and consider recommendations in relation to the appointment of two new Youth Representatives to join town council from June 2024.

Minutes noted.

The committee chair presented the following recommendations to Members: Two young ladies to be appointed as youth representatives with effect from June 2024 (Miss Elena Jones, Miss Ella Harding), and a third young lady (Miss Holly James) to be co-opted to committee as a youth engagement & wellbeing consultant. Members RESOLVED to approve both recommendations, instructing the clerk to contact the young ladies at the earliest opportunity and to reach out to the Integrated Wellbeing Network regarding youth attendance with town council representatives.

12. To receive draft unapproved minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting 24th March 2024, discuss a date for the next strategic planning workshop and consider a policy recommendation in respect of the Growth Fund. Members are required to provide instruction to the clerk.

The chair verbally reviewed the draft minutes providing a committee recommendation for full council to review their growth strategy. Members discussed a date for the next strategic planning workshop agreeing on 8th July 2024. The clerk was instructed to secure the use of Cartref Community Hall for the day providing the WIFI is accessible. The clerk will agenda the growth strategy after the workshop.

13. To receive draft unapproved minutes of the Events and Environment Committee meeting 25th March 2024, and consider a proposal for a Scarecrow Trail in Bargoed Town Centre in October 2024. Members are requested to confirm a budget allocation for the activity from the New Project Activity budget 2024-25.

Draft minutes noted by Members. The chair briefly run through all the wellbeing events currently on the calendar and explained the way a scarecrow trail works. The clerk provided details of a nursery rhyme theme for consideration by committee. Members approved the development of a scarecrow trail, instructing staff to work with committee members to engage with traders in the town, and to obtain two

quotations for large shields for use with the Bargoed in Bloom Competition and the Scarecrow Trail. An initial budget allocation of £250 for the scarecrow trail. Councillor Williams left the meeting at this point.

The meeting is no longer quorate, therefore all recommendations from item 14 onwards will be ratified by full council at the next ordinary meeting 1st May 2024.

14. To consider a motion from Cllr Carroll for Bargoed Town Council to nominate a local resident for the attention of the Lord Lieutenant.

Councillor Carroll spoke about his belief that Mr John Pritchard should be nominated by Members for an MBE for his services to the community at Taraggan Educational Gardens on the Park estate. Members supported the recommendation and instructed Cllr Carroll to seek approval from Mr Pritchard.

15. To receive information from the clerk and discuss the 'Meanwhile Space' in Bargoed Town Centre.

The clerk presented details of a request from Caerphilly County Borough Council for support in identifying an organisation/community group who may be interested in running, and becoming a keyholder of, the space in Bargoed. Members discussed the project and instructed the clerk to provide a response that town council is unable to think of any local organisation that may be interested at this time.

16. To receive items from the clerk:

(i) Committee reorganisation and updated Committee Terms of Reference; New terms of reference were approved with a change in name for the one committee, to become the Engagement and Wellbeing Committee.

(ii) Premises update; feedback was provided to the meeting on a recent update from the facilities team at Gwent Police, but as it is the pre-election period a new lease is unable to be completed.

(iii) A request for new furniture and reorganised office space. Officers request a budget allocation.

The request was approved, but members instructed the clerk to reach out to CCBC to ascertain if any furniture/monitors are available from premises being closed first. Otherwise, quotations and plans to be drawn up for consideration by members.

(iv) Appeal for funding from Caerphilly Miners Centre. No financial support to be provided at this time.

(v) Members suggestions for a location for the planters removed from the wall outside the town hall. Aberbargoed ward members to visit local premises for discussion with owners.

(vi) Code of Conduct Training handouts. These documents to be made available to members electronically.

(vii) Collaborative working with Gwent Police & Aberbargoed Fire Station on Santa's sleigh in the community and removing Santa at the Winter Fair. Members instructed the clerk to advise the events officers at CCBC that they will not be supporting the inclusion of Santa at the winter fair, but will be working collaboratively with local emergency services to take the sleigh into the community. Selection boxes will be provided to the emergency services and also the two local foodbanks. The grotto at a local business during the Winter Fair should be promoted as being available during the Winter Fair.

This concluded the business of this meeting.

The mayor closed the meeting at 20.02pm