



Bargoed Town Council

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Minutes of the Full Council Meeting 29th May 2024.

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

Also Present: PCSO L McKean; PCSO N Bateman (Gwent Police); Mr J Griffiths (Focus Futures Project);
Town Clerk: Mrs H Williams

Meeting Chairman: Councillor H Llewellyn (Mayor)

The Mayor welcome everyone to the meeting.

- 1. To receive a report from Gwent Police** - Officers reviewed the monthly stats with Members noting Gilfach increase in one crime and anti-social behaviour was down across all four ward areas. Members remarked on positive feedback from the team participation in the May Fair, and that walking surgeries are successful. CCBC Gilfach Ward Member attending alongside officers in the Gilfach ward. Councillor Bissex advised that historically these surgeries were very popular amongst residents. A member asked for clarification on the term Pop Plan and officers explained that vehicle issues have improved at Morrison's since the ANPR camera installation. Attention reverted to Bargoed park and recent issues of vandalism and antisocial behaviour with glass being buried in the rugby pitch and bins being set alight. Members were keen to work with partners to source funding for CCTV at the rugby ground and stadium. Members instructed the clerk to facilitate a meeting and to explore available funding. The mayor enquired from officers about parking on pavements – who should reports be submitted? Always CCBC Parking enforcement unless the vehicle is causing an obstruction and then it should be to the police. Officers were thanked and they left the meeting 18.24pm
- 2. To welcome a visitor from the Focus Futures Project and receive a presentation about the service** - The mayor welcomed Mr Griffiths who explained that the project aims to support individuals who wish to set up new businesses, to engage with entrepreneurs and provide free services such as business plans, sourcing funding, marketing, access to business advisors. The project is time flexible and works in a similar way to Business Wales but much more locally focussed, more community based. Welsh Government are funding the service until the end of December. Members asked if people have to contact the team one to one? Mr Griffiths advised he is happy to make presentations to groups as well, or attend any local events.
- 3. To receive Apologies for Absence.** - Councill Y Price is away.
- 4. To receive Declaration of Interests or dispensations on any item(s) on this Agenda, if appropriate.** - No declarations received
- 5. Press and Public Participation Session.** – No enquiries received
- 6. To receive, approve and sign Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Bargoed Town Council 1st May 2024.** – Approved and signed by the Mayor
- 7. Mayor's report** – firstly the Mayor congratulated the CCBC events team and Members for a tremendous May Fair and advised he had a photo taken with Barbie. He explained he attended the musical tea and coffee morning during Dementia Action Week which was very well received.

8. To receive, review and approve the internal auditor's report for 2023-24 and approve the internal audit testing requirements for the 2024-25 financial year – Members reviewed the internal auditor's report noting no issues brought to their attention and thanked the clerk for her work. Members approved the schedule of testing for this year's internal audit.

9. To receive the final report of the Boundary Commission on the review of Caerphilly Community Boundaries, and provide instruction to the clerk regarding any further comments – Members RESOLVED to accept the report recommendations despite not fully agreeing with the number of councillors. An increase of three members is seen as operationally viable.

10. To review and approve the bank reconciliation and payments lists for May 2024 – members reviewed the bank reconciliation and payment list RESOLVING to approve both documents. The Mayor was instructed to sign each.

11. To receive items from the clerk and provide authorisation or instruction as follows:

(i) Wreath for D Day (£35 expenditure required) - RESOLVED to approve expenditure.

(ii) To confirm the town council feedback in response to continued use of CCTV in the Bargoed ward - Bargoed Town Council are working hard to identify and introduce new initiatives that will increase the footfall in the town and boost the local economy. In addition to this, there is an increasing number of residential properties being developed within the town centre. Members feel very strongly that the town centre should be a safe place for residents to live, to visit and to trade or conduct their business, and the CCTV contributes to this. There are increasing high numbers of anti-social behaviour incidents and low-level crime and the number of incidents recorded by the CCTV accounts for only one quarter of the reported incidents. The continuation of the existing CCTV is essential, and Bargoed Town Council would also welcome an expansion to the number of CCTV cameras that operate within the area.

(iii) Feedback on the OAP Pantomime (£2,227.47 expenditure to be authorised) RESOLVED to approve the expenditure and instruct the clerk to make necessary arrangements as soon as possible.

(iv) Two-year combined specification for festive lighting – RESOLVED to approve the specification.

(v) Receive update on maintenance agreement for Aberbargoed Community Clock and alternative option for repair – RESOLVED to sign up to a maintenance agreement with the manufacturer and request an immediate visit to rectify the clock face. Budget availability to be considered when calculating next year's precept.

12. To receive verbal feedback from Members who attended the One Voice Wales webinar briefing on the Cost of Living - the Member apologised as was unable to attend.

13. To note the content of the Neighbourhood Care Network News 4, circulated to members electronically prior to the meeting – contents noted.

14. To receive information from the clerk and consider additional elements for the Bargoed in Bloom period July 2024 – the clerk reported on a request from the competition organisers about potential funding from town council for wheelbarrows to be planted by the primary schools. No costings or details of locations yet received. Members advised in principle the idea is a good one, but security, vandalism, maintenance and watering are areas that need to be confirmed prior to a decision being made. The clerk advised having worked with the biodiversity working group on a suggestion for floral banners on Royale Square to decorate the pillars during the Bargoed in Bloom period in July 2024 and potential for the Meanwhile Space to host a flower wall for photographic opportunities also, with a Bargoed in Bloom vinyl banner also to go in this area. Members RESOLVED to instruct the clerk to liaise with CCBC officers, obtain further costs for insuring the hired product and for the production of the banners and they delegated the decisions to the Events & Environment Committee.

This concluded the business of this meeting. The mayor closed the meeting at 19.26pm.