



**BARGOED**  
**TOWN COUNCIL**

Bargoed Police Station  
Hanbury Road  
BARGOED  
CF818XF

Website: [www.bargoedtc.org.uk](http://www.bargoedtc.org.uk)

### **Minutes of the Full Council Meeting 18<sup>th</sup> September 2024.**

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

Also Present: PC D Evans (Gwent Police); PCSO L McKean (Gwent Police); Mrs H Williams (Town Clerk); Mr T Oliver (Deputy Clerk)

Meeting Chairperson: Councillor H Llewellyn (Mayor)

The Mayor sought confirmation from the Clerk of the two newly elected Members having signed their declaration of acceptance of office.

### **3. To receive confirmation from the Clerk of the induction, in accordance with the Local Elections (Declaration of Acceptance of Office (Wales) Order) 2004, of two new Members to the Bargoed ward and welcome them to the meeting.**

The Clerk confirmed, as proper officer, she had witnessed the signature from both new councillors on their declaration of acceptance of office along with agreement to uphold the All Wales Code of Conduct for Members.

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

The Bargoed ward manager, PC Evans, reviewed statistics with Members noting an increase in Crime statistics from June to July for all areas, particularly in Bargoed (+29) largely related to vehicle crime, while anti social behaviour had seen a reduction in all areas. Vehicle crime continued to be an issue in August but PC Evans was pleased to report a significant reduction in the statistics for Bargoed during August (-15), however a mixed picture in regards to anti-social behaviour 3 (-1) Bargoed, 5 (+2) Aberbargoed, 1 (+1) Gilfach; primarily attributed to nuisance calls.

Engagement sessions have been very successful, and officers are attending most community events to also increase their visibility.

A member enquired about recent issues of vehicles driving through the lane and the park in Aberbargoed and whether the police could assist. PC Evans advised they have already carried out a site visit with CCBC but funding is not currently available for fencing/gates. PCSO McKean suggested if the community were able to located video footage with the car registration the police would be able to act.

A member asked about the car park situation at Morrison's and if officers were able to advise what they believe to be the over-riding reason for the reduction in ASB statistics. PCSO McKean noted the installation of ANPR cameras for certain, as there is only one small area for youths to congregate now and as soon as the police are spotted in the area they very quickly disperse. The mayor thanked the officers for their presence and they left the meeting at 18.14pm.

### **2.To receive a visitor from Caerphilly County Borough Council to talk about Age Friendly Communities.**

Unfortunately, due to Covid there was no presentation.

**4. To receive Apologies for Absence.**

All Members were present.

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

**6. Press and Public Participation Session.**

No enquiries received by the Clerk.

**7. To receive, approve and sign Minutes of the last Meeting of Full Council 17<sup>th</sup> July 2024.**

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

**8. To consider the qualifying criteria in line with the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 for eligibility to use the General Power of Competence (GPoC).**

For the benefit of new members, the Clerk was asked to remind the meeting of the three qualifying criteria for a council to be eligible to use the General Power of Competence (GPoC). Members confirmed they meet the criteria and RESOLVED Bargoed Town Council eligibility to use the power.

**9. To receive a report from the Mayor including:**

**Feedback on strategic planning, work with the clerk on arrangements for the meeting room, countersigning the CiLCA training bursary, and civic activity undertaken since the last meeting.**

The mayor reported his participation in the town council strategic planning workshop noting how much more knowledgeable he felt after the session with members. He moved on to advise about attending the recent Bargoed Town Stakeholder Meeting (noting several other members of town council were also present). In addition, the mayor reported having taken a presentation bouquet to Mr & Mrs Gilbert in Gilfach who were celebrating their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, and of working with the Clerk to consider options for expanding the meeting table to accommodate additional chairs. Members resolved to support the purchase of additional meeting chairs with slimmer chairs being required. The mayor finally reported having countersigned a successful Welsh Government bursary application being made by the Clerk as the Deputy Clerk has been in post a full year (today) and is eligible to start the certification course which will take a year to complete. Members congratulated the Deputy Clerk.

The mayor finished his report with a reminder for all members that there is an introductory meeting in the calendar with the new police and crime commissioner for 21<sup>st</sup> October 2024.

**10. To receive draft unapproved minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee meeting 25<sup>th</sup> July 2024 and consider the committee's recommendation under minute reference 11(a) to provide match funding.**

Members noted the content of the draft unapproved minutes, and moved on to discuss the committee recommendation of providing match funding for the provision of CCTV at the rugby field in Bargoed park. The clerk provided an update of circumstances from PC Evans, who advised the possibility of £500 funding from the Police & Crime Commissioner; and that the secretary of Bargoed RFC was waiting on quotations from CCBC officers in order to complete an application to the CCBC Community Empowerment Fund (deadline date of 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024).

Members talked about community safety, how big a part of the community the rugby club is, and the anticipated positive impact a CCTV system will have in reducing anti-social behaviour at this site.

The mayor asked for a vote by show of hands, and Members unanimously RESOLVED to approve match funding of up to £5,000 to support the installation of CCTV at the rugby field in Bargoed park.

**11.To receive a report and recommendations from the Deputy Clerk on the Engagement and Wellbeing Committee and provide instruction regarding the future of the committee and current engagement initiatives.**

The Deputy Clerk verbally reported on concerns having been discussed with the committee chair about time constraints and diary difficulties, member absences and a period of significant change in the local wellbeing arena. He moved on to advise that the recommendation is that the committee be dissolved, with full council absorbing the decision-making capacity and appointing working groups to carry out decisions regarding engagement and wellbeing activities. This recommendation includes full council revisiting the need for the committee in January 2025. Members spoke at length about the committee, its membership, non-attendance and some of the difficulties experienced.

A Member suggested if this committee is to be dissolved perhaps the Events & Environment committee should also be dissolved as most members are on that committee. The clerk advised there are seven members of the Events & Environment committee this year.

A Member of the Engagement & Wellbeing committee expressed displeasure that committee members had not been made aware of the recommendation prior to the meeting.

The mayor sought a suggestion from members of the committee, with a proposal for a swift special meeting to be arranged to discuss the situation as there are engagement activities taking place within a few weeks so any delay would be problematic.

The clerk asked for committee members availability the following week but no convenient date could be identified. The committee chair (CA) proposed a motion to temporarily suspend the committee until January 2025 with full council managing all engagement and wellbeing activities in the interim period. The deputy committee chair (M-IJ) seconded. The mayor asked for a show of hands, unanimous resolution to temporarily suspend the committee.

Members moved on to deal with the current engagement initiatives resolving to approve £60 expenditure for the Scarecrow Trail trophy; confirming Cllrs Bissex-Foster and McCarthy to visit Park Primary and Cllrs Andrews and Llewellyn to visit Giflach Fargoed Primary Schools. Cllrs McCarthy and M-IngramJones to visit St Gwladys school, and the deputy clerk will liaise with members once a response has been received from Ysgol Gymraeg Giflach Fargoed. The Deputy Clerk was instructed to circulate the current list of participating traders to Members for further engagement to be carried out.

Cllr D IngramJones requested the revised engagement date for Morrison's to be a weekend date if possible. Cllr Davies will liaise with the Deputy Clerk to make arrangements. Youth Representatives to be asked to participate in the initiative and the town council survey to be used. The Deputy Clerk was instructed to arrange for the survey to be online as soon as possible. Bargoed library budget allocation for community activities was delegated to the Policy & Resources committee for approval.

**12.To receive feedback from the town council representative to the One Voice Wales Area Committee meeting 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024 (item deferred from last meeting).**

Cllr M-IngramJones reported. The main focus of the meeting was the former Community Health Council, now known as Llais, which is entirely separate to Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, and helps residents with the provision of advocacy support, mental health services, making complaints and dealing with queries.

The usual One Voice Wales reports were disseminated along with confirmation of meeting dates and a move to face to face meetings. The next two meetings of 2<sup>nd</sup> October and 15<sup>th</sup> January will be remote and the April/July meetings will be in person.

**13.To receive items of correspondence and provide instruction to the clerk.**

1. Sight Cymru invitation for their team to attend a meeting of town council to introduce members to their lottery funded "Widening Vision" project which would include the identification of initiatives that will enable Bargoed to become a more sight-friendly town. Clerk instructed to arrange a special meeting date.

2. Caerphilly County Borough Council briefing note on the update to the Bargoed Town Centre Audit. – content noted, CCBC Ward Members advised a planned walk through would be taking place the following day as several concerns have been noted regarding the remedial/cleansing works.
3. One Voice Wales invitation to attend the National Conference at the Royal Welsh Showground 16<sup>th</sup> October – noted.
4. CCBC Decarbonisation Team invitation to attend an event at Penallta House Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September 6pm-8pm to discuss the Caerphilly Net Zero Focus Group to share ideas and learn about local efforts towards a greener future - noted
5. Bull Dozer Films invitation to share details of an opportunity for young people to attend three film-making sessions in Cardiff in November – clerk instructed to circulate details to members as soon as possible.
6. Fly-tipping Action Wales communication about a new toolkit for community councils to use in an attempt to reduce fly tipping. Hard copy notices will follow the electronic resources. Members are being asked to support the initiative and make residents aware that they will get fines for inappropriate disposal of their household waste, and to widely circulate the notices – noted.  
Tenovus Cancer Care leaflet received along with an offer of someone coming to speak with Members to tell them more about the services they offer in the community - Clerk instructed to arrange a special meeting date.
7. Communication from Gwent Police about the Heddlu Bach Cadet programme with an offer to not only support town council events with the provision of volunteers, but if members would like to let them know of organisations or community projects that might welcome additional volunteer support they would welcome this also – clerk instructed to advise the team of the potential to get involved in the Trunk or Treat event being delivered by the Parent network.

**14. To consider a request from the Parent Network for a contribution towards the costs of the Trunk or Treat Event at the underground carpark in Morrison's Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2-4pm.**

RESOLVED to make a donation of £250 to support the purchase of decorations, fruit and treats for the event.

**15. To provide feedback to Caerphilly County Borough Council in respect of their review of the Statement of Licensing Policy under the Gambling Act 2005.**

No objections/recommendations to be made.

Cllr Bissex left the meeting 19.13pm.

**16. To complete the Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner's consultation on behalf of Bargoed Town Council.**

Members completed the consultation on behalf of Bargoed Town Council.

**17. To receive items from the Youth Representatives.**

Neither Youth Representative were in attendance.

Cllr Bissex rejoined the meeting 19.24pm.

**18. To receive information from the Clerk about the Urban park geocache trail, an activities calendar along with general administrative reminders.**

The clerk provided members with feedback regarding the geocache trail, with a recommendation it is temporarily disabled in the urban park as long term maintenance is problematic. An activities calendar was circulated. Members were advised of a full council photograph session being looked at, and town council badge stock having been depleted. Members recommended the civic budget

be used to replenish the stock to 24/25. This concluded the business of the meeting. The Mayor thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 19:31pm