



Minutes of the Full Council Meeting 19th February 2025.

Present: Councillors H Llewellyn; R Carrol; P Collins; J Davies; J Bissex; C Bissex-Foster; J McCarthy; Y Price.

Also Present: PCSO Sadziek and PCSO Wilkins; Mr T Oliver (Deputy Town Clerk); Mrs H Williams (Town Clerk)

Meeting Chairperson: Councillor H Llewellyn (Mayor)

1. To receive a report from Gwent Police.

PCSO Sadziek reviewed the crime and ASB statistics across Aberbargoed, Bargoed and Gilfach for the past month noting a slight increase in Bargoed. Specific incidents of note include vehicle theft. A recent speed operation monitored in excess of 400 vehicles with 17 being sent on to undertake speed awareness training. The officer explained recent changes in the role of the PCSOs with a larger focus on community engagement activities. Officers have observed increased numbers of youths covering their faces when offending, and therefore CCTV is invaluable in identifying other factors such as clothing/footwear etc.

A member sought information about recent offences being reported. The officer will be checking and reporting back. Dates for the next surgeries 4th March, 25th March, 22nd April all at Aberbargoed library 5.00-5.30pm.

A member spoke about a survey published by the Daily Telegraph on crime statistics in the Bargoed area over the past three years. Details will be sought and the inspector will report back at her online surgery. Members will receive an invitation shortly.

A member asked about who makes the decision about where speed operations are carried out. PCSO Wilkins confirmed that the local teams work with partner organisations as well as their in house teams to identify areas of significant concern.

2. To receive Apologies for Absence

Cllr Andrews (CCBC); Cllr D IngramJones (CCBC); Cllr R Price (family); Cllr S HamerThomas (away); M IngramJones (sick).

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

4. Press and Public Participation Session.

No enquiries received by the clerk.

5. To receive, approve and sign Minutes of the Full Council Meeting 29th January 2025.

RESOLVED to approve the minutes.

6. To consider an application to the small grants programme from Aberbargoed Community Action Team and review remaining budget availability for 2024-2025.

RESOLVED to instruct the deputy clerk to vire funds to the donations budget and make a donation of £250 towards the costs of the refreshments at the Aberbargoed Community Action Team event in March 2025. The deputy clerk reminded Members of the remaining budget available for small grants for this financial year.

7. To discuss the 80th Anniversary of VE Day and the UK wide initiative for community celebrations on Bank Holiday Monday 5th 2025. Members to consider offering grants to local voluntary organisations who wish to deliver inclusive community events to mark the anniversary. The Deputy Clerk spoke about the UK wide initiative and the opportunity for town council to adopt a similar approach to that of the Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee and offer small grants to local organisations. RESOLVED to promote small grants to encourage community celebrations, and to instruct the Events & Environment Committee chair to work with the Deputy Clerk to facilitate a meeting with the local RBL branch and St Gwladys' Church to discuss arrangements for Thursday 8th May memorial service.

8. To consider reintroduction of the Engagement & Wellbeing Committee, and explore the opportunity of full council meetings discussing Events & Environment activities with effect from April 2025.

The Deputy Clerk and Events & Environment Committee chair spoke about the business of the Events and Environmental activities being brought to full council with working groups looking at specific items when required. Members spoke at length about commitments, agenda items and the practicality of bringing all committee business to the full council meetings.

RESOLVED to wind up the Events & Environment Committee at the March 2025 meeting, and bring its future business to the full council agenda. The Deputy Clerk was instructed to add the Engagement & Wellbeing Committee item to the March 2025 full council meeting agenda.

9. To receive a verbal report from the Clerk regarding:

i. The Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru Policy and Practice document and consultation response – the deputy clerk provided members with the document on screen and explained the consultation. Members will provide personal responses to the consultation.

ii. Community Health & Wellbeing Sessions delivered by Forces Fitness CIC. Members are requested to review the information provided and consider an invitation to meet and discuss a proposal for youth sessions in school holidays.

RESOLVED special meeting of full council to meet with the organisation and discuss arrangements.

iii. Arrangements for the St David's Day Event at Gilfach Bargoed Community Centre, Members are required to confirm availability for set up Friday evening, logistics Friday and Saturday, and early arrival on the 1st March.

Members will be present from 4pm Friday and from 10.30am Saturday, with furniture being returned 3.30pm onwards.

iv. Confirmation from the Independent Remuneration Panel of correct publication of the statement of allowances.

The deputy clerk confirmed accurate publication of the statement of allowances has been received from the Independent Remuneration Panel.

v. Invitation from Transport for Wales for two delegates to attend an online Local Authority Open Event on 5th March 2.30-4.30pm for information on short-term disruptions to rail services on the Caerphilly line. Cllr Bissex Foster and Cllr McCarthy to attend on behalf of Bargoed Town Council.

10. To receive feedback from delegated Members to One Voice Wales committees and consider items from the Clerk as follows:

i. Area Committee Consultation– Cllr M IngramJones to feedback

Cllr M IngramJones apologised for not being present and asked for the clerk to feedback that the consultation has been completed and

- ii Larger Councils Committee Meeting – Cllr McCarthy to feedback
Almost a decade anniversary of the Future Generations Act and the consensus of the meeting was that town & community councils are largely overlooked in the delivery of the outcomes of the Act, and that the consultation should look to engage more with town and community councils. AGM attendance is being encouraged.
 - iii Representative plus reserve to attend One Voice Wales online AGM 11th March '25
Cllr McCarthy will attend on behalf of Bargoed Town Council.
 - iv Expressions of interest in attending the following:
 - 27th March 2025 – Joint event with planning aid Wales
 - 14th May 2025 – Joint event with SLCC on Ethics
 - 2nd July 2025 – Innovative Practice Conference (Builth Wells)
- Clerk was asked to email Members to seek interest in attendance.

11. To note the following:

- i. Draft unapproved minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee 23rd Jan 2025.
Noted
- ii. Pre-notification of a planning application for 14 dwellings on Ty Fry Road, Aberbargoed.
Noted. A Member commented that additional housing is to be welcomed.
- iii. Gwent Employer News January 2025.
Noted
- iv. Correspondence from Hospice of the Valleys.
The deputy clerk provided members with sight of a thank you letter on screen.

The Mayor thanked Members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 7:15pm.