

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting 18th June 2025

Present In Person: Councillors H Llewellyn; R Carrol; P Collins; J McCarthy; D Ingram-Jones; Y Price; J Bissex, C Bissex-Foster; S Hamer-Thomas

Also Present: Mr. T Oliver (Deputy Town Clerk); PCSO V Williams; PSCO B Harris

1. Gwent Police Report

The Council received an update from PCSO V. Williams and PCSO B. Harris. Officers reported that crime levels remained stable, with a notable reduction in anti-social behaviour across the area. They outlined recent enforcement actions, including efforts to address off-road biking and drug-related offences. Positive community engagement was also highlighted, including police surgeries, attendance at local events, and support for vulnerable residents. The Council expressed its thanks for the officers' continued visibility and proactive work within the community. PCSO V. Williams and PCSO B. Harris left the meeting at this point.

2. To discuss the Town Council Sports Scheme subsidies with an Officer from the CCBC Sports Development Team

The Officer from the CCBC Sports Development Team was unable to attend and sent apologies. Members discussed the Town Council Sports Scheme subsidies and RESOLVED to apply an equal subsidy to each participant. The promotional material was reviewed, and minor amendments were suggested to improve the visibility of the Town Council logo. Members also considered the promotional strategy and agreed to promote the scheme via social media and through engagement with local schools. The Deputy Clerk was instructed to relay this information to the Officer from the CCBC Sports Development Team.

3. To receive a visitor from Hope Rescue and hear about their Pop-Up Events in the Community.

The scheduled visitor from Hope Rescue did not attend the Full Council meeting.

4. To receive Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs M. Ingram-Jones, J. Davies, and C. Andrews.

5. To receive Declaration of Interests or dispensations on any item(s) on this Agenda.

No declarations received.

6. Press and Public Participation Session.

One member of the public was present in the gallery. There were no press representatives and no public participation.

7. To review and approve DRAFT Unapproved Minutes of the following meetings:

a) Annual Meeting of Bargoed Town Council 28/05/2025

b) Ordinary Meeting of Bargoed Town Council 28/05/2025

Members reviewed and unanimously approved the minutes of the Annual Meeting and the Ordinary Meeting of Bargoed Town Council.

8. To note draft unapproved minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee 22nd May 2025, deferred from the previous meeting.

Members noted the content of the draft unapproved minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee 22nd May 2025.

9. To consider options for marking the 40th anniversary of Bargoed Town Council and provide instruction to the clerk and the Engagement & Wellbeing Committee as appropriate.

Members discussed options for marking the 40th anniversary of Bargoed Town Council and agreed to explore a collaborative project with local schools to produce a local history book or digital album. The Engagement & Wellbeing Committee was tasked with taking the project forward.

10. To receive information from the Deputy Clerk and make a decision about funding for a play about the 1984 Miners strike to be delivered in the community.

The Deputy Clerk presented information regarding local venues that could host the proposed performance, should Members choose to proceed. It was noted that the theme of the performance may be emotive. Members voted on whether to move forward and begin making arrangements.

The Council RESOLVED to proceed with the project and begin making arrangements.

- Votes Against: Cllrs H. Llewellyn and R. Carrol
- Abstentions: Cllrs P. Collins and J. Bissex
- Votes For: Cllrs J. McCarthy, D. Ingram-Jones, Y. Price, J. Bissex, C. Bissex-Foster, and S. Hamer-Thomas

11. To receive information from the Deputy Clerk; approve the Scarecrow Trail Theme and provide instruction to the Town Centre Working Group to enable the Deputy Clerk to finalise arrangements with Traders and Schools before the Town Council Recess.

The Deputy Clerk presented a proposed theme for the Scarecrow Trail. Members agreed that the theme should be simplified to encourage greater participation from local businesses. It was RESOLVED to task the Engagement and Wellbeing Committee with taking the project forward.

12. To consider views regarding the amendment of properties listed in zone 509 of the residents permit parking scheme (Heolddu Road, Bargoed) to include number 9C.

Members raised no objections to the inclusion of 9C in Zone 509 of the residents' parking permit scheme.

13. To note the content of the following:

- a) Proposed cleaning and greening enhancements for the county borough – *Noted*
- b) Feedback from the introductory briefing with the Integrated Wellbeing Network Lead – *Noted*
- c) Feedback from the introductory briefing with the Divisional Director of ABUHB – *Noted*

14. To note and approve the details of the Summer Event for Children as provided by the Parent Network and provide instruction to the Deputy Clerk in respect of contracting with the Parent Network.

Members noted and unanimously approved the proposed details for the Summer Event for Children. It was RESOLVED to allocate £2,080 towards the event, and the Deputy Clerk was instructed to make the necessary arrangements with the Parent Network.

15. To receive an update from the Deputy Clerk on actions taken by the Town Clerk to date in respect of the second Artificial Cone Tree; consider any quotations received to date and discuss potential alternative locations in Aberbargoed. Members are requested to provide instruction to the Deputy Clerk.

The item was deferred to the next meeting due to no quotations being received. Members instructed the Deputy Clerk to contact an alternative venue in Aberbargoed as a contingency, should the current location prove unsuitable.

16. To receive verbal feedback from the Deputy Clerk and Member delegates on:

a) SLCC Gwent branch meeting at Chepstow Town Council

The Deputy Clerk provided an update on the recent SLCC Branch Meeting. He informed Members about Martyn's Law, the upcoming job evaluation process expected in Autumn 2025, and the availability of Welsh Government funding for all conferences and training. He also noted that the SLCC is working with the UK Government on the proposed Civility and Respect Bill.

b) Annual Report Working Group

Cllrs D. Ingram-Jones, P. Collins, and C. Bissex-Foster updated the Full Council on the progress of the Annual Report Working Group. They noted a shift in focus for the report, which will now emphasise volunteer opportunities, guidance on becoming a councillor, and community engagement.

c) Finance & Governance Toolkit Working Group

Cllrs H. Llewellyn and P. Collins updated the Full Council on the progress of the Finance & Governance Toolkit Working Group. They noted that this is a long-term project and highlighted the valuable learning opportunities it presents. The agreed next step is for the Clerk to update the health check against the identified actions and to compile a file structured around the self-assessment themes.

17. To note the following:

a) Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru are consulting on a review of the electoral arrangements of Caerphilly. [6-week consultation period begins on the 11th June 2025 and closes on the 22nd July 2025] [Electoral Reviews: Policy and Practice 2025 | DBCC](#) - *Noted*

b) CCBC consultation on their proposal on Expanding Specialist Resource Base Provision across the County to address the demand for specialist provision and ensure more complex Additional Learning Needs (ALN) and ASD needs for pupils across the Council can be met. [consultation period 2nd June 2025 to the 13th July 2025] <https://conversation.caerphilly.gov.uk/the-development-of-additional-learning-provision-through-specialist-resources-bases-in-caerphilly-borough> - *Noted*

The Mayor thanked Members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 7:30 PM.