



MINUTES OF BRIDGEND TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Meeting Details:

Date: Tuesday 19th April 2022

Time: 6.30 pm

The meeting was held as a hybrid meeting both at Carnegie House and remotely via Microsoft Teams for Business under the Local Government and Elections Act (Wales) 2021.

Chairperson: The Mayor, Cllr Steven Bletsoe

Staff: Mrs L Edwards (Town Clerk), Mrs D Jones (Deputy Town Clerk & RFO) & Mrs S Lewis (Community Engagement & Events Manager), Ms J Brown (Democratic Services Officer)

In Attendance:

Cllr Steven Bletsoe (Mayor) – In Person

Cllr Freya Bletsoe - In Person

Cllr Alan Wathan – In Person

Cllr David Unwin – In Person

Cllr Lyn Walters – Remote

Cllr N Burnett – Remote

Cllr M Blundell – Humphreys - Remote

Cllr Ian Williams – In Person

Cllr Steven Easterbrook – In Person

Cllr S Baldwin – Remote

Cllr Angela Morelli – Remote

Cllr Martin Smidman – In Person

Cllr Tim Wood (Deputy Mayor) – In Person

Cllr R Thomas – Remote

Plus: Members of the public (Remote)

Pre-Meeting Business:

- The Mayor acknowledged that past Mayor, Olivia Byrne had sadly passed away and requested that a minute's silence be observed in her honour.
- The Mayor invited Councillor Stuart Baldwin to speak. Cllr S Baldwin spoke about Olivia's passion to help people throughout her professional career in the NHS and as a Councillor. He spoke of her welcoming and supportive nature and explained that she was a great advocate for fairness and equality. Cllr Baldwin stated that Olivia will be remembered as a great community activist, community servant, community leader and former Mayor of the town who will be missed by all.
- Cllr D Unwin seconded the comments made by Cllr S Baldwin and added that *in public life she was an adaptive and excepting person, a great exponent of Town Twinning* and a true Bridgender. She gave everything for the benefit of the people and will be sorely missed.
- Although it was outside Agenda Item 3, The Mayor invited a member of the public, Mr Burns, to speak as a mark of respect. Mr R Burns thanked the Mayor and explained that over the 40 years that he had know Olivia, he has not met a more generous, socially and internationally minded person and agreed that she will be sorely missed.

The Mayor welcomed Councillors and Members of the Public to the meeting, and before normal business commenced, he was delighted to present past Mayor, Cllr A Wathan, with his Past Mayors

Pendant. The Mayor congratulated Cllr A Wathan and thanked him for his service to Bridgend Town in an unprecedented time of turbulence due to the pandemic and for steering the Council through the purchase of the new Town Hall.

- The Mayor explained that after the distribution of the agenda, a Councillor had approached him to clarify the situation with Purdah. As the Town Clerk was on leave, the Mayor contacted One Voice Wales to seek clarification on whether agenda items 15 and 17 could be discussed at the meeting.
- The Mayor explained that One Voice Wales had provided guidance on what a council is allowed to do in a pre-election period. In relation to agenda 15, regarding the purchase of the Owl system, One Voice Wales advised that if it is part of the council's administration and will be used to support local meetings, Council is able to discuss it during the meeting. In relation to agenda 17, regarding activities to support Ukrainian people coming to the local area, One Voice Wales suggested that it is not part of normal business, it should not be discussed in a pre- election period.
- For these reasons, the Mayor announce that agenda item 17 would not be discussed at the meeting.
- The Town Clerk clarified that the item could not be deferred to the May meeting because the seconder of the motion is not standing for re-election. The Mayor suggested that the motion could be resubmitted by members elected to the Town Council after the May 2022 elections.
- The Mayor also highlighted that any decision that may be required in relation to agenda item 20, should be deferred until the May meeting. This was agreed by Members.

1. To Receive Apologies for Absence

- Cllr C Webster, Cllr C Evans, Cllr M Voisey

Absent: Cllr S Charles, Cllr C Woodman and Youth Representatives; Dafydd Rees & Megan Howley

2. To Receive Declarations of Interests (if any) of Members in respect of the business to be transacted

- Cllr S Easterbrook declared a personal interest as a town trader.
- Cllr A Morelli declared a personal interest in any discussion in relation to Heronsbridge School

3. To receive questions or comments from Members of the Public (Standing Order 3(e) refers)

- A member of the public was invited to speak. He explained that he would like to make 3 points. Point 1: That at the last meeting his question regarding the Ombudsman was not answered. He repeated that he had looked at the Ombudsman for Wales website and found the following comment '*In response to a complaint regarding a Bridgend Town Councillor, the Ombudsman determined that the evidence was suggestive that the Member failed to show respect and consideration to the Clerk during that meeting*'. He once again enquired if the matter discussed at the April Town Council meeting was in relation to this.
- Cllr A Wathan enquired if this point was in relation to the agenda.
- The Member of the Public responded that it was in relation to the last meeting but was not answered. The Mayor reiterated that at the last meeting his question had been answered (the minutes referred).
- The member of the public raised Point 2: He explained that at the April meeting he felt that the Mayor had breached the Code of Conduct by publicly asking a personal question which was disrespectful and a breach of his rights as a member of the public.
- The Mayor once again referred The member of the public to the minutes of the last meeting.
- The Mayor suggested that the member of the public take his complaint to the relevant authority.

- The Mayor asked that the member of public show some respect to The Chair and moved that the meeting continue to the next agenda item.

4. To receive questions or comments from the BTC Youth Representatives

- There were no Youth Representatives present.
- The Mayor thanked the Youth Representatives for their time and for bringing a refreshing change and input of ideas.

5. To Confirm and Sign Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 21st February 2022

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 21st February 2022 be confirmed as a true record and duly signed.

6. To consider matters arising from the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 21st February 2022

- There were no matters arising.

7. To confirm and sign minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 28th March 2022

The Mayor reminded Councillors that the minutes contained confidential items and that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press were excluded from the meeting during the consideration of agenda item 22.1, 22.2 and 22.3 as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 21st February 2022 be confirmed as a true record and duly signed.

8. To consider matters arising from the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 28th March 2022

- There were no matters arising.

9. To note for information Mayoral Announcements and Engagements:

- Saturday 23rd April – Deputy Mayor and Consort - Cor Bro Ogwr Concert
- Mayor and Mayoress – Malta:
 - Saturday 23rd April – Travel to Malta for HMS Urge Commemorations
 - Sunday 24th April – Service at St Pauls Pro-Cathedral
 - Sunday 24th April – Tour of Fort St Angelo with the Royal Naval Association
 - Monday 25th April – Talk on the discovery of HMS Urge at Malta University
 - Tuesday 26th April – Visit to Manoel Island, home of the 10th Flotilla of which HMS Urge was part
 - Tuesday 26th April – Attending a reception given by the British High Commissioner to Malta at the British High Commissioner’s residence
 - Wednesday 27th April – Boat Trip to the site of the HMS Urge wreck: Flowers to be laid at sea and rollcall of those lost
 - Wednesday 27th April – Main Commemoration and unveiling of the HMS Urge Memorial at Fort St Elmo
- The Mayor thanked staff for their assistance.

10. To receive Town Clerk's Report since last meeting (for information)

The Town Clerk drew Member's attention to priorities, ongoing tasks and urgent matters as follows:

Priorities

- The Town Clerk reported that significant progress is now being made on the Town Hall and Website projects and Facilities work. The Town Clerk advised that new allotment tenancy and rent letters have been issued and staff were starting to receive and process the payments.
- The Town Clerk informed Members that work is now also focussing on the annual audit. Hard copies of minutes for Council and committee meetings have been collated and the Mayor and Chairs of committees will be asked to come into Carnegie House to sign copies of all the minutes for 2021/22 that have been approved.

Van Insurance Renewal

- The Town Clerk explained that The Town Council van insurance is due for renewal on 9th May 2022, and that she would be grateful if Council would advise if they wished to renew with the existing provider and provided the cost of the renewal quote, or if Members would like to seek further quotes and call an Extraordinary Finance or Facilities Meeting to review quotes and agree a provider.
- Cllr D Unwin proposed that the insurance be renewed with the existing provider.

RESOLVED: That the van insurance is renewed with the existing provider at the quote provided

Street Trading Licences

- Cllr T Wood declared a personal interest in this item as a market trader.
- The Town Clerk reported that BCBC have received a request to add extra dates for the existing Street Trading consent for Bridgend Market. The Town Clerk explained that the original Street Trading consent had already been granted and that the additional dates are Thursday 12th May, Thursday 9th June, Thursday 14th July, and Thursday 11th August 2022.
- The Town Clerk reported that a renewal application for a Street Trading Consent has been received for a mobile catering van to trade burgers, breakfast rolls, chips, jacket potatoes and hot and cold drinks at the Riverside Tavern (The Old Brewery) carpark and BCBC invite any observations or comments on this application by 28th April 2022 at the latest. The Town Clerk duly advised Councillors that *"as Street Trading Licences are not on the agenda for this meeting, an extra ordinary meeting will need to be convened if you wish to discuss these matters"*.
- Cllr T Wood advised Members that Bridgend Market traders had objected to the application.
- The matter of Street Trading Licences was NOTED by Council.

Safer Streets Funding

- The Town Clerk advised that during the month the BTC Facilities Manager had attended a Bridgend Town Centre ASB Management Meeting with the Bridgend Community Safety Partnership to receive information about Safer Streets Funding.
- The Town Clerk explained that the funding is in its fourth year and £500,000 is available for Bridgend and Maesteg. Applications for this funding are being co-ordinated by Police Inspector

Mike Ruddell and to meet the criteria, projects need to be implemented from end June/July 2022 – 31st March 2023.

- The Town Clerk asked members to note that detailed proposals for funding needed to be submitted as soon as possible to Inspector Ruddle and that Further information about the funding is available online at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safer-streets-fund-round-4-application-process>

Town Twinning

- The Town Clerk advised Council that they may need to consider whether a gift should be purchased for the Villenave d’Ornon visit in May 2022. The Town Clerk explained that an official gift was exchanged between the towns for the 25th anniversary event in Villenave in 2019, however she was bringing it to Members attention for consideration as it was not yet clear whether a gift will be presented to the Bridgend Mayor at the Civic Dinner in May. The Town Clerk also enquired if Councillors would like to delegate this task to staff.
- Cllr D Unwin suggested that in his experience Twinning Visitors had never failed to bring a gift with them and that Council should be prepared.
- Cllr T Wood reported that he had investigated the gift of a weathervane but was mindful of cost and luggage capacity.

RESOLVED: That a decision regarding the purchase of a gift for the Town Twinning visit is delegated to the Town Clerk and that she should clarify if a gifts will be exchanged and act accordingly.

New Legislation

- The Town Clerk advised Council of the following new legislation:
- That further to the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, The General Power of Competence will come into force for Welsh eligible community councils from 5th May 2022. This will provide broader powers to Town and Community Councils in Wales, bringing them in line with English counterparts.
- That Town and Community Councils will be required to meet specific criteria in order to be eligible to use the powers. This includes:
 1. At least two-thirds of the total number of members of the council have been declared to be elected, whether at an ordinary election or at a by-election.
 2. The council has received unqualified auditor’s opinions from the Auditor General for Wales, for two consecutive financial years. The latest unqualified auditor’s opinion must have been received during the 12 months preceding the day on which the council will resolve itself to become eligible.
 3. The Clerk of the Council must hold the CiLCA qualification
 4. Welsh community councils must pass a resolution to exercise the general power of competence and pass a new resolution at each annual meeting to ‘renew’ their eligibility for the general power of competence.
- In addition to this, The Town Clerk stated that One Voice Wales (OVW), SLCC and Welsh Government, with support from Audit Wales, have been developing a bespoke toolkit to help councils stay on top of governance requirements and regularly reflect on how it is serving its community.

Staff Training

- The Town Clerk advised Members that on Wednesday 22nd June 2022 the SLCC are providing a Wales Regional Training Seminar on key issues in the sector. This will include guidance on Statutory Training plans for Councillors and Staff (please see agenda item 19 for further details), guidance on the new Self-Evaluation Tool Kit and information about Operation London Bridge. The training will be held in-person in Llandrindod Wells and the cost of the training is £85 per person. The Town Clerk requested that both herself and the Deputy Town Clerk attend this training. As the training is being held in mid-Wales and begins early on 22nd June, The Town Clerk also sought permission to travel and stay in Llandrindod Wells the night before the event.

RESOLVED: That The Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk attend the training in Llandrindod Wells on the 22nd of June and that permission be granted for them both to stay overnight of the 21st of June.

HMS Urge Booklets

- The Town Clerk referred Members to the complimentary booklets available in The Chamber about the story and history of HMS Urge. It was noted that these had been provided by Francis Dickinson with his *“best wishes for the Council members and for distribution to those who would be interested locally”*. The Town Clerk confirmed that personal copies had been sent to herself, The Mayor, Cllr A Wathan and the Democratic Services Officer. The Town Clerk advised that a copy would be sent to Bridgend Library and the Bridgend History Society and asked that those Councillors not in attendance in The Chamber for the meeting should contact the Democratic Services Officer via email to collect their copy.
- Cllr F Bletsoe thanked Mr F Dickinson for the kind and interesting gift.
- Cllr A Morelli requested that her copy be donated to Bridgend library
- Cllr N Burnett requested that her copy be donated to Pen y Bont Primary School.

11. Facilities

1. To consider draft minutes of the Facilities Committee meeting held on 24th March 2022

- The Chair of the Facilities Committee commended the minutes of the meeting held on 24th March 2022 to Council as a true record and asked if there were any questions. There were no questions.

RESOLVED: To receive and note the minutes of the Facilities Committee meeting held on 27th January 2022.

2. To consider the renewal of insurance for the Town Council van

- This agenda item was resolved under Agenda item 10 – Town Clerks Report.

12. Finance

a. To receive a balance of accounts and payments since last meeting

RESOLVED: Accounts paid, read, and approved by Members

b. To consider draft minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 8th March 2022

- Chair of Finance Committee commended the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 8th March 2022 to Council as a true record and invited questions. There were no questions.

RESOLVED: To receive and note the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 8th March 2022

13. Planning

1. To consider draft minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 11th April 2022

- The Chair commended the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 11th April 2022 to Council as a true record and invited questions. There were no questions.

RESOLVED: To receive and note the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 11th April 2022

2. To consider any planning applications received between 11th – 19th April

- The Chair of Planning presented one additional planning application to Council for consideration:

BCBC App: P/22/225/FUL/ BTC Ref: 22/45

Ward: OLDCASTLE

Location: Land north west of Coity Road (West of Great Western Avenue) Bridgend CF31 1LT

Applicant: Power Initiatives Ltd

Proposal: Installation of a battery energy storage facility, substation, underground cabling and ancillary infrastructure & equipment to include security fence, cctv & gates

Date after 21 consultation days: 03/05/22

RESOLVED: That a decision of No Objection for BCBC App: P/22/225/FUL, be forwarded to BCBC Planning Department.

14. Town Twinning

To receive and consider options and costs for the Civic Dinner on Saturday 28th May 2022.

- The Town Clerk advised that the dinner had been rebooked at Court Coleman Manor and asked that Council consider the following costs:
 1. 3 course dinner for £34.95 a head
 2. 3 course dinner for £39.95 to include wine.
- Cllr D Unwin queried how many people had been included within the civic budget? The Town Clerk clarified that in October 2021 the Town Council agreed to pay for the visiting party, The Mayor and Consort of BTC and The Deputy Mayor and Consort of BTC from the Civic Budget, and that other Councillors that want to attend and the hosting families will pay for themselves.
- The Mayor proposed that option 1 be considered.
- Cllr A Wathan proposed that option 2 be considered and explained that from his previous experience as Mayor representing Bridgend Town Council to mark the 25th Anniversary Dinner in Villenave d'Ornon, wine was included at the Civic Dinner.
- Cllr D Unwin stated that he understood the restraints of the public purse and therefore was prepared to personally fund the wine bill for the visiting party (limited to a number of 24).

- The Mayor amended his proposal for Council to agree option one at a cost of £34.95 per head with Cllr D Unwin covering the cost of the wine for the visiting party (up to 24 people).

RESOLVED: That Council fund the cost of a 3-course dinner at £34.95 a head for the visiting party, The Mayor and Consort of BTC and The Deputy Mayor and Consort of BTC from the Civic Budget and that Cllr D Unwin will fund the cost of the wine for the visiting party (up to 24 people).

- The Mayor thanked Cllr D Unwin and asked other Members who wished to attend to liaise with the Democratic Services Officer.
- The Town Clerk asked Councillors to consider a budget for a gift if one is required.
- Cllr D Unwin proposed that a budget of up to £50 be considered.

RESOLVED: That a budget of £50 be allocated for purchasing a gift at The Town Clerk's discretion.

- Cllr T Wood advised that in addition he would be happy to donate a photograph.

15. To consider a motion from Cllr S Bletsoe regarding audio visual equipment for future hybrid meetings:

"That Bridgend Town Council purchase an "Owl" Labs 360 degree visual/audio meeting system to integrate with laptop for all committee and full council meetings of the Council"

- The Mayor explained that hybrid meetings are now a legal requirement for the Council and noted that up until this point, Council has used a makeshift system which was not up to professional standards. The Mayor gave a brief overview of the functionality of the 'Owl' Labs system.
- The Mayor asked The Town Clerk if she had anything to add. The Town Clerk noted that she was unable to find a comparable system with the same functionality as the Owl system. She also explained that the system only appears to be available on Amazon in the UK and noted that the Town Council do not have a debit card to purchase this item online. The Town Clerk explained that if a member of staff purchases the item on a personal debit/credit card and is reimbursed for the item, VAT cannot be reclaimed by Council.
- The Mayor proposed that *'Members ask staff to purchase, in the most cost-effective way possible, an "Owl" Labs 360 degree visual/audio meeting system to integrate with laptop for all committee and full council meetings of the Council'*
- Further to questions from Members about the functionality of the Owl device, the Mayor called for a short recess to conduct further research. This was agreed by Council.

Short recess

- Cllr S Baldwin advised The Mayor that the microphone had not been turned off in the Chamber during the recess.
- The Town Clerk gave her apologies for the oversight.
- The Mayor welcomed Members back to the meeting and checked the roll call.
- The Mayor asked the Town Clerk to provide an update. The Town Clerk clarified that the Owl device supported up to 20 users and could be purchased through Amazon in the UK or through the manufacturer who is based in America.

- The Mayor updated his motion as follows: *“That Bridgend Town Council staff purchase an “Owl” Labs 360 degree visual/audio meeting system to integrate with the laptop for all committee and full council meetings of the Council in the most cost-effective way possible”.*
- The Mayor added that the cost was detailed in the proposal which had been circulated.
- The Town Clerk queried the status of the original motion.
- Cllr S Baldwin queried if the system had the functionality required and spoke about future proofing.
- Cllr A Wathan advised that the responsibility of the purchase should not be borne by staff.
- The Mayor advised that in his opinion, this is a product that Council should invest in.
- The Town Clerk was asked to provide her opinion. She advised that Council did need to purchase an audio/visual system for hybrid meetings but highlighted that she had not tested the Owl system and is therefore unable to make a recommendation on this particular product.
- Cllr L Walters advised that she was concerned about the system capacity.
- Cllr F Bletsoe confirmed that she had seen the Owl System in action and not everyone spoke at once. She also noted that there is an add on option to connect two devices if required in future.
- The Mayor asked Council to make a decision on the proposed the motion *“That Bridgend Town Council purchase an “Owl” Labs 360 degree visual/audio meeting system to integrate with laptop for all committee and full council meetings of the Council”*
- Cllr S Baldwin supported the motion.

RESOLVED: That Bridgend Town Council purchase an “Owl” Labs 360 degree visual/audio meeting system to integrate with laptop for all committee and full council meetings of the Council

- A member of the public requested to speak. The Mayor announce that with deep regret he would not be inviting the member of public to speak again at the meeting and that he was welcome to speak to him privately outside the meeting.

16. Community Engagement & Events

To receive a report from the Community Engagement & Events Manager regarding the Battle of Britain exhibition and consider postponing until autumn 2022

- The Community Engagement and Events Manager referred to reports produced by both The Democratic Services Officer and herself which had been previously circulated and advised that based on greater engagement with schools and a revised itinerary the exhibition could be included in the autumn programme. The Community Engagement and Events Manager stressed to Members that the decision was still tentative and based on future developments in Ukraine.
- Cllr I Williams declared a personal interest.
- Cllr M Smidman declared a personal interest.
- Cllr D Unwin thanked the staff for their efforts and proposed that the event be deferred to the autumn.

RESOLVED: That the Community Engagement & Events Manager postpone the Battle of Britain exhibition until autumn 2022

17. To consider an agenda item agreed at the March Town Council meeting to discuss activities to support Ukrainian people coming to the local area.

a) **To consider a Motion from Cllr M Smidman and Cllr L Walters that:**

"Bridgend Town Council resolves to set aside the £20,000 that was to be spent on Wartime Bridgend to assist any refugees who come to the town. The support that we propose will come in three stages:

- 1. We will purchase vouchers from a supermarket to be decided, up to the value of £100 per family. This will help them to obtain essential items e.g. necessary clothing, toys and equipment for the children, and any extras that they might need for school.*
- 2. We will organise a series of coffee mornings where refugees can meet each other in an informal and relaxed setting.*
- 3. We will encourage the refugee families to participate in the Council's Autumn Programme with specific activities/projects to support them and help them integrate in the local community. We will also be looking to involve local support services in offering counselling and support.*

This list is not exclusive and there may be other activities that the council will decide to support over the course of the year. We obviously don't know how many refugees will come to Bridgend, but we believe that the proposals outlined above will provide a structure to guide us. The situation will be reviewed by the end of the financial year. If, at that point, it is no longer deemed needed, and there is any money left, it will be transferred back into general reserves."

NOTE: This agenda item was not discussed at the meeting. Please see pre-meeting discussions.

18. Town Hall

1. To receive an update from the Town Clerk regarding the Tender Process and timescales for appointing a contractor

- The Town Clerk explained that further to the Expressions of Interest process, over the past couple of weeks she had been working with the Architect and Quantity Surveyor to finalise the tender package for the Town Hall Refurbishment.
- Total Building Control have been appointed to undertake the Building Inspector works in place of Celtech who originally won the contract but then ceased trading.
- Chris Stevens has been appointed as Principal Designer. Unfortunately, due to the current climate in the construction industry she was unable to obtain three quotes for this work. This is a specialist role that is urgently needed as part of the tender process and the value was within the threshold of Financial regulations where *'the value is below £3,000 and above £100 the Clerk or RFO shall strive to obtain 3 estimates'*.
- The final Request for Quotation (RFQ) document along with the tender invitation and briefing document was circulated to the Town Hall Working Group for review and issued to 7 contractors on 5th April 2022. The RFQ was accompanied by 37 specification documents.
- It was noted that the Pre-construction Information from the Principal Designer and comments from the building control inspector were not available at the time of issue of the tender and sent as an addendum.

RESOLVED: To note the update from the Town Clerk and the work to date on the Town Hall refurbishment project

2. To receive an update regarding rough sleeping at the Town Hall property and damage to a glass panel on the side of the door

- The Town Clerk reported that unfortunately there were 2 people sleeping in the doorway and 2 people sleeping in the car park.
- The Town Clerk advised Councillors that she had assessed the damage and although the security glass was badly cracked, it was secure and would remain in situ until the doors are replaced as part of the forthcoming programme of works.
- The Town Clerk further advised that the matter had been reported to the police and that the CCTV footage was just out of range.
- Cllr T Wood queried if the alarms had gone off. The Town Clerk confirmed that the alarms had gone off several times during the past week, however the exact time that the damage was caused could not be pinpointed.
- The Mayor suggested that the CCTV be reconfigured.

19. To consider The Draft Statutory Guidance for Community and Town Councils, note the key changes and discuss the dates to implement the relevant provisions of The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021. The relevant dates are listed below:

- a. Duty on councils to publish annual reports – 1 April 2022
- b. Eligibility to be able to exercise the general power of competence for the community and town council sector – 5 May 2022
- c. Duty to make opportunity for public to participate in council meetings – 5 May 2022
- d. Duty to consider training for councillors and council staff – 1 April 2022, with first training plan to be published by November 2022.

RESOLVED: That the dates be noted by Council.

20. Welsh Language Scheme

To consider a communication from the Welsh Language Commissioner regarding the new blue plaque in the Rhiw Shopping centre and consider the introduction of a Welsh Language Scheme.

- Members read and acknowledged the communication from the Welsh Language Commissioner.
- Cllr D Unwin highlighted that a Welsh language Scheme is not mandatory for this tier of government.
- Mayor advised that this is a complicated issue requiring further discussion and proposed that the contents be considered by the New Council.

RESOLVED: To defer the consideration of a Welsh Language Scheme to the Council appointed at the May elections.

21. Consultations:

a. Heronsbridge School

The Local Authority is commencing a consultation process for the above proposal. Copies of the consultation papers are available on the BCBC website via the following link:

<https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/my-council/equalities-and-engagement/consultations/current-consultations> The consultation period will run from 04/04/2022 to 18/05/2022.

Bridgend Town Council is invited to attend a consultation session with BCBC on Tuesday 17 May 3:30pm to 4:30pm. A link to the remote meeting will be sent to Councillors by email following the election.

- The Town Clerk reported that she had written to BCBC to request an extension of the dates of the consultation and that BCBC had replied to confirm that they were unable to grant the request – **NOTED to defer and inform new councillors after the May 2022 election.**

b. Anti-social behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 Public Space Protection Order

Bridgend County Borough Council is seeking your views on proposals to extend existing Public Space Protection orders (PSPO) to:

- a) Prohibit the drinking of alcohol in specified areas
- b) To limit public access to parts of the highway by installing a gate which is locked at specified times.
- c) To control dogs in public areas

The consultation will be open until 2nd May 2022 - **NOTED**

22. Correspondence:

a. Email from Ewenny Community Council regarding Footpath 10, Ewenny Moors

- Cllr D Unwin highlighted that whilst the Town Council undertake maintenance work to footpaths, the Town Council's agreement does not extend to putting in a new path surface.
- It was agreed by Council that this matter should be referred back to BCBC for consideration.
RESOLVED: That The Town Clerk respond to Ewenny Community Council and refer the matter to BCBC for consideration.

b. Email from Welsh Government - A remote working strategy for Wales

NOTED.

23. Town and Community Forum

- a) To consider items for inclusion on the Town and Community Council Forum agenda - NOTED
- b) To consider feedback from meetings of the Town and Community Council Forum - NOTED
- c) To identify proposals for inclusion on the TCC Charter Action Plan which would aid the development of the Charter - NOTED

24. Personnel (In Confidence)

RESOLVED: That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of agenda item 24.1 and 24.2 as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

- The Mayor asked that Members of the public to leave the meeting.
- The Mayor asked all Members accessing the meeting remotely to turn on their cameras and confirm that they were on their own to ensure confidentiality.

CONFIDENTIAL

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The Mayor thanked all Councillors for their service and wished those re-standing in the local elections good luck.

The Town Clerk thanked Councillors on behalf of the staff, acknowledging that the last two years had been busy and turbulent. The Town Clerk also sent best wishes to those Councillors not re-standing.

Meeting closed: 8.21 pm

Signed

Date

Mayor