



MINUTES OF BRIDGEND TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Monday 24th April 2017 at 7.00pm at Carnegie House Council Chamber

<u>Present:</u>	Cllr R Morgan (Mayor) Cllr D Burns Cllr R Burns Cllr O Byrne Cllr R Thomas Cllr E Hughes Cllr A John	Cllr C Webster Cllr C Lewis Cllr M Lewis Cllr H Morgan Cllr B Parish Cllr S Baldwin Cllr D Unwin
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1. To receive apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from, Cllr M John, Cllr F Sykes
 Absent: Cllr R Marsh, Cllr M Voisey

2. To receive Members' Declarations of Interest in respect of the business to be transacted:

- There were no Declarations of Interest

3. To Confirm and Sign Minutes of Previous Council Meeting held on 20th March 2017.

Resolved: To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 20th March 2017 as a true and accurate record.

4. To Consider Matters Arising from the Council Meeting held on 20th March 2017.

P523 Bullet point 9. Cllr R Burns highlighted that the Standing Orders Working Group had recommended a new section in Standing Orders to create a Personnel Committee however he explained that the number of Councillors to sit on the committee had not been agreed. Cllr Burns asked Members to consider how many Members should be included on the committee.

Resolved: To update section 4g of Standing Orders to include 6 Members on the Personnel Committee.

P527 Bullet point 15.2 Chair of Finance and Personnel Committee explained that the project included a vacancy for a Heritage Walkway Project Manager on a fixed term contract. He advised that the post had been advertised publicly and interviews had been arranged for Thursday 27th April 2017.

5. To note for information Mayoral Announcements and Engagements:

Mayor's Engagements:

- 25th March 2017 Young Singer of the Year, Maesteg Town Hall
- 23rd April 2017 Bridgend Scout District St George's Day event

Deputy Mayor's Engagements:

No Engagements this month.

6. Correspondence:

Section A

To consider the following items of Correspondence:

6.1 E-Mail from M Gilbert re: Welsh Govt. – Safe Routes in Communities Approval

- Chair of Finance and Personnel Committee expressed disappointment that BTC had not been involved in the consultation for this project. He highlighted that approximately £1,000,000 had been spent on cycle tracks in the area in the past three years and suggested that the money could have been better spent on other projects.
- Cllr S Baldwin explained that the money had been provided by Welsh Government and ring-fenced specifically for cycle paths. He highlighted that the money was not available to spend on other projects.
- Members discussed Welsh Government funding for the BCBC transport plan and suggested a letter should be sent to M Gilbert to ask who was consulted for this project.
- Cllr R Burns suggested that the Town Clerk should check whether BTC had been consulted on this project before writing to Mr Gilbert.

Resolved: Town Clerk to research whether BTC had been consulted on the Safe Routes in Communities. If BTC have not been consulted, Town Clerk should write to M Gilbert to ask who was consulted for this project.

6.2 E-mail from O.V.W re: Tree Charter: Become a Local Council Charter Branch. **NOTED**

6.3 Email from Local Govt. Resource Centre re: Services to Local Councils, following an election

- Members discussed the importance of training for new Councillors.
- Cllr R Burns noted that the LGRC does not advertise any clients in Wales on their printed literature and highlighted that there is different legislation in Wales.

- Chair of Finance and Personnel Committee drew attention to correspondence item 6.9 from One Voice Wales regarding New Councillor Induction Training in Wales. **NOTED**
- 6.4 Email from Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation re: Impact review 2016. **NOTED**
- 6.5 One Voice Wales agenda for Bridgend/Vale/Cardiff area meeting 24/04/2017. **NOTED**
- 6.6 Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales –Community and Town Council Engagement Events Report on Findings March 2017. **NOTED**
- 6.7 Email from Ellen Franks, Management Support Officer, BCBC re: School Modernisation Programme. **NOTED**
- 6.8 Letter from Kidney Wales re: Walking Forward for Kidney Wales 18th April – 17th May 2017. **NOTED**
- 6.9 Email from O.V.W re: New Councillor Induction Training
 - Members discussed the importance of training opportunities. It was highlighted that financial regulations for Town and Community Councils have changed recently and it is important that both new councillors and those that may be re-elected to the Council are aware of the latest regulations and protocols for Councillors.
 - Chair of Finance and Personnel noted that the cost for all 19 BTC Members to attend the training session would be £760.00 and recommended that Council approves this cost.

Resolved: All councillors elected to BTC in the new term of office should be offered Induction Training. Town Clerk to contact One Voice Wales to book induction training at Carnegie House.

- 6.10 Temporary Road Closure to HGV's of Cowbridge Road Access to Retail Park 22nd May – 4 th June 2017. **NOTED**
- 6.11 BCBC: March 2017 Town Centre Footfall Figures. **NOTED**

Section B) Opportunity to Consider items of correspondence e-mailed to Members.

- 6.12 One Voice Wales March 2017 Information Bulletin. **NOTED**
- 6.13 Email from O.V.W re: White Paper Reforming Local Government-Resilient & Renewed. **NOTED**
- 6.14 Email from O.V.W re: WEFO Priority 3 Call for Small Scale Community Energy Proposals. **NOTED**
- 6.15 One Voice Wales: Social Media Policy

Town Clerk highlighted that One Voice Wales had issued an updated model Social Media Policy and asked Members to consider whether the Council wished to adopt the policy.

 - Members discussed the use of social media by Members of the Council and deliberated between the issues that can be caused by the use of social media versus freedom of speech.

- Members spoke of the importance of abiding by the Code of Conduct at all times and stressed that Councillors must use social media in a professional manner and ensure information provided is factually correct.
- Cllr H Morgan moved that the model Social Media Policy should be adopted by BTC.
- Cllr R Burns suggested it would not be appropriate to adopt the policy at the last meeting of the current Council and suggested that the item could be deferred for consideration by the new Council.
- Cllr H Morgan withdrew the motion.

Resolved: Correspondence Item 6.15 is deferred to the next meeting of Bridgend Town Council.

6.16 One Voice Wales re: Motions for 2017 Annual General Meeting

- Cllr H Morgan highlighted that BTC had never submitted a motion to the One Voice Wales AGM and asked Members to consider this item.
- Members felt that this matter should be deferred for consideration by the new Council.

Resolved: Correspondence Item 6.16 is deferred to the next meeting of Bridgend Town Council.

Section C

Opportunity to Consider items of additional correspondence.

Mayor provided a 5-minute recess for Members to read the additional correspondence

6.17 Letter from CF31 BID Manager re: Social media and communications with Bridgend Town Council

- Chair of Finance and Personnel Committee stated that an individual Member of BTC does not have the right to speak on behalf of the Town Council without prior consent from Council. He reminded Members that all correspondence to CF31 should be directed through the Clerk.
- Members expressed concern that the BID Manger had been berated on social media by a Member of the Council and it was noted that Cllr F Sykes had caused offence to a number of people on social media during her time in office; including several BTC Members and BCBC Officers.
- Members suggested that complaints made against Cllr Sykes behaviour on social media should be monitored. If the issues persist, the future Council should insist that this behaviour will not be tolerated and could consider reporting Cllr Sykes to the Ombudsman.

Resolved: The Town Clerk should write to Mr Jenkins to explain that the communications from Cllr Sykes do not reflect the views of the Council and all correspondence from the Council should go through the Clerk.

6.18 Letter from Anthony Barrett, Assistant Auditor General

Resolved: Correspondence Item 6.16 is deferred to the next meeting of Bridgend Town Council.

6.19 Letter from Cllr F Sykes re: Communication received from BID manager, Justin Jenkins

- Members considered the letter and suggested that Cllr Sykes is reminded of the protocols of the Council.

Resolved: The Town Clerk to contact Cllr Sykes to remind her of the protocols of the Council and remind her that as a Councillor she is bound by the Code of Conduct at all times.

6.20 Letter from Cllr F Sykes re: Response to Town Council with regards to Cllr D Burns' letter which arose under Item 4 of the meeting on Monday 20th March.

- Members considered the letter and noted that although the letter contained elements of truth they did not believe it was an accurate representation of the events that had taken place.

Resolved: Town Clerk to respond to the letter from Cllr Sykes to notify her that it was considered by Council and noted.

7. Finance:

7.1 To Approve Payments of Expenditure.

- Chair of Finance and Personnel Committee thanked the staff for updating the financial reports for Council and also suggested that a description for each payment could be included in future reports.

Resolved: Accounts paid, read and approved by Members.

7.2 To Confirm the Minutes of the Finance and Personnel Committee Meeting of 24th March and 31st March 2017.

- Chair of Finance and Personnel Committee noted that the Town Council had experienced a period of rapid growth in recent years and noted that the precept had increased substantially. He highlighted that there have been significant changes to financial regulations and thanks the staff and Finance & Personnel

Committee for their hard work ensuring that the finances of the Town Council are carefully managed and in order ready for the new Council.

Resolved: To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Finance and Personnel Committee Meeting of 24th March 2017 and 31st March 2017 as a true and accurate record.

8. Reports

8.1 The Blight of Graffiti around Bridgend

- Chair of Finance and Personnel Committee spoke about the explosion of graffiti around Bridgend Town and noted that it had erupted over the past few months. He suggested that the Probation Service and Youth Offender Service should be contacted to explore how they can help clean up the damage.
- Council recommend that it is a topic that should be investigated by the new Council and suggested that representatives from the Probation Service and Youth Offender Service are invited to the June or July meeting of the Town Council.

Resolved: Town Clerk to contact the Probation Service and Youth Offender Service to discuss this suggestion.

8.2 Arts Project Officer Update Report – Brent Davies (Enclosed)

- Noted

8.3 Closure of Co-op Bank

Resolved: Town Clerk to send a letter to the Credit Union, 1 Balloon Street, Manchester to express Bridgend Town Council's disappointment at the closing of the Co-op bank in Bridgend.

8.4 Attendance Record Report

Resolved: Town Clerk to update the Bridgend Town Council Website with the Members Attendance record on a regular basis.

9. To Consider Grant Aid Policy and Application process

- Chair of Finance & Personnel Committee explained the need for the Grant Aid Policy in order to achieve transparency with the BTC grant aid process.
- Members reviewed the policy and welcomed the method for dealing with the distribution of public funds.

Resolved: To implement the Grant Aid Policy and to review in 3 years.

10. To Confirm the Minutes of the Allotment Committee Meeting of 13th. April 2017

Resolved: The Minutes of the Allotment Committee Meeting of 13th. April 2017 had been circulated and were commended to Council and approved.

11. To Confirm the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting of 19th April 2017

- Chair of Planning Committee stated that the Committee had ‘no objection’ to 12 applications, one application had been objected and one application had been deferred to the main Town Council meeting pending further information.
- Town Clerk provided further details from the BCBC Case Officer.
- Member of Planning Committee suggested that the Council should object on the following grounds:
Reduction in the provision of off street parking would
 - a. increase ‘on street’ parking to the detriment of local highway safety
 - b. reduce local residential accessibility and amenity
 - c. have a negative precedent to good residential design required in Supplementary Planning Guidance and particularly the application of Town Planning Policy of the Local Development Plan.

Resolved: The Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting of 19th April 2017 had been circulated and were commended to Council and approved.

Mayor thanked fellow Members for their work with Bridgend Town Council and wished those re-standing in the upcoming elections, every success for the future of the Council.

Chair of Finance & Personnel Committee thanked the Mayor for his exemplary performance and praised the way that the Mayor had represented the Town Council during his Mayoral year.

Chair of Finance & Personnel Committee also highlighted the work of Chair of the Carnegie House Board, Cllr R Burns, he commented that he was instrumental in the move to Carnegie House and congratulated him on the growth of Carnegie House during his term of office.

Cllr H Morgan spoke of his pride in the current Mayor.

Members unanimously joined together to wish the new Council good luck for the future.

The meeting concluded at 9:15pm

Signed
Mayor

Date