



MINUTES OF BRIDGEND TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Monday 15th May 2017 at 7.00pm at Carnegie House Council Chamber

<u>Present:</u>	Stuart Baldwin (Mayor) Freya Bletsoe Steven Bletsoe Kate Boucher Nicole Burnett Stuart Charles Eric Hughes Rebecca Porter	Isabel Robson Gary Sassoon-Hales David Unwin Lyn Walters Paul Warren Alan Wathan Carolyn Webster Tim Wood
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1. To receive apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from: Ceri Evans (away), Angela Morelli (work) and Matthew Voisey (work).

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 24th April 2017.

Resolved: To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 24th April 2017 as a true and accurate record.

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

- There were no matters arising.

5. To note for information Mayoral Announcements and Engagements:

Mayor's Engagements:

- 25th April 2017 Hosted Villenave d'Ornon Student Lunch at Carnegie House
- 29th April 2017 Attended Maesteg Town Council Annual Fund Raising Ball

Deputy Mayor's Engagements:

No Engagements this month.

6. Correspondence:

Section A

To consider the following items of Correspondence:

- 6.1 Email from BAVO re: Dementia Friends Awareness Sessions
Cllr Steven Bletsoe welcomed the opportunity to attend the sessions.
- 6.2 Email from Coity Higher Community Council re: Defibrillator and AED Cabinet
Cllr David Unwin highlighted that there was no electricity supply at the allotment site and that the site was not accessible to the general public. He suggested that a more suitable location would be the Spar shop on Coity Road.
- RESOLVED:** Town Clerk to contact Clerk of Coity Higher Community Council to suggest that the Community Council seek approval from the owner of the Spar shop. If approval is provided the BTC Finance Committee would be asked to consider making a donation towards the cost of the Defibrillator and AED Cabinet.
- 6.3 Email from Urdd re: Invitation to presentation of the Chair and Crown on 17th May 2017
- RESOLVED:** It was agreed that the Mayor and his consort should attend the event.
- 6.4 Email from Laleston Community Council re: Invitation to boules match on 23rd June 2017
- RESOLVED:** It was agreed that the Mayor would provide refreshments for the boules match from the Mayoral Fund. The Clerk was asked to notify the Clerk of Laleston Community Council that the following BTC Members wished to participate in the event: Cllrs. David Unwin, Tim Wood, Alan Wathan, Eric Hughes, Freya Bletsoe, Lyn Walters, Isabel Robson, Steven Bletsoe, Stuart Charles and Stuart Baldwin.
- Cllr Freya Bletsoe noted that she had been gifted a bottle of prosecco and wished to donate it to the refreshments for the event.
- 6.5 Email from One Voice Wales re: Vacancy for public appointments in Wales. **NOTED**
- 6.6 Email from BCBC re: Temporary Road Closure (The Rhiw) Order 2017 dated 28th April 2017. **NOTED**
- 6.7 Email from BCBC re: Temporary Road Closure (The Rhiw) Order 2017 dated 5th May 2017. **NOTED**
- 6.8 Email from Urdd National Eisteddfod re: Invitation for two representatives from BTC to attend a lunchtime sponsors reception on Monday 29th May 2017 and the 2017 Opening Concert on Sunday 28th May 2017

RESOLVED: The Town Clerk should contact the Urdd to seek tickets for the Town Council.

6.9 Email from Dorian Morgan re: BBC Wales Welsh language debate programme in Maesteg. **NOTED**

Section B)

To Consider the following items of Correspondence:

6.10 Information Commissioner's Office May 2017 newsletter. **NOTED**

Section C)

To Consider Correspondence deferred from previous meeting:

6.15 One Voice Wales Model Social Media Policy

Members discussed the Model Social Media Policy and suggested that some out of date and irrelevant information at the beginning of the policy should be removed. Member suggested that the reference to a 'Whistle blower's policy should be removed'.

RESOLVED: To accept the One Voice Wales Model Social Media Policy subject to the amendments listed above.

Cllr Freya Bletsoe queried whether BTC Members that have Admin rights on Facebook Groups should declare an interest. Member proposed that this could be considered under agenda item 6.16.

6.16 One Voice Wales re: Motions for 2017 Annual General Meeting
Members proposed the following motions to be submitted to One Voice Wales for consideration:

- Can One Voice Wales consider and provide clarity regarding a Town or Community Councillor undertaking the role of Admin on a Facebook group or page.
- Can One Voce Wales include a Management Summary on documents issued to Town and Community Councils.

6.18 Letter from Anthony Barrett, Assistant Auditor General. **NOTED**

Section D)

To Consider items of additional correspondence:

6.19 CF31 Business Improvement District: What you need to know

RESOLVED: Town Clerk to write to CF31 BID Manger to extend an invitation to provide quarterly updates to Bridgend Town Council at the October, February and June meetings.

6.20 Email from Ryan Gibson re: Defibrillators

Cllr David Unwin explained that the previous Town Council funded and installed a defibrillator in Bridgend Bus Station. He suggested that if Council would like to increase the number of defibrillators in Bridgend Town Centre, Members could propose possible locations and the cost of the defibrillators could be considered at the next Finance Committee meeting.

RESOLVED: Town Clerk to email all members to seek views on possible locations. Feedback will be collated into a report by the Clerk and submitted to the next Finance Meeting.

6.21 Email from Alistair Nelson re: Update on Walters Road situation (P/16/610/FUL)

Cllr David Unwin explained that this planning application had been considered by the previous BTC Planning Committee and objections to the application had been submitted on behalf of Bridgend Town Council.

Member raised concerns about the width of Walters Road and discussed concerns regarding access and increased traffic.

RESOLVED: Cllr David Unwin was appointed to represent the views of Bridgend Town Council at the BCBC Planning Committee Meeting if required.

6.22 Email from One Voice Wales re: Model Local Resolution Protocol for Community and Town Councils. **NOTED**

6.23 Email from Alastair Rosenberg re: Concerns of Bridgend Indoor Market

Cllr Tim Wood declared a personal and prejudicial interest in matters related to Bridgend Indoor Market and withdrew from the meeting for this agenda item.

Cllr Steven Bletsoe raised significant concerns regarding the content of the letter and suggested that BCBC actions suggest that they do not appear to want to continue to manage the market.

The Mayor explained that as a BCBC Councillor he was aware that a referral had been submitted regarding these concerns.

Member suggested that BTC contacts the BCBC Market Manger to raise the concerns of the Council and request an action plan for Bridgend Indoor Market.

Cllr Paul Warren highlighted that under the terms of the lease, it appears that the cost of empty market stalls would be covered by BCBC at a cost of up to £300 per week.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding the landlord of the Indoor market, possible restrictions on goods that can be sold and the relevance of the the Bridgend Market Act of 1836 in today's current economic situation.

RESOLVED: Town Clerk to write to BCBC to express the view that BTC supports a continued and sustained market in Bridgend Town and request that a representative from BCBC attends a future Bridgend Town Council meeting to explain the business plan for Bridgend Indoor Market.

- 6.24 Email from Centre Manager at ACT Training Bridgend re: Steve & Freya Bletsoe
Cllr Freya Bletsoe provided an explanation of the situation and expressed increasing concerns regarding anti-social behaviour.

Members discussed problem areas within the town including the areas surrounding the Bridgend Bus Station and the Tair Pluen public house.

RESOLVED: Town Clerk to invite the Bridgend Chief Superintendent to the July meeting of the Town Council to discuss these concerns.

Cllr Freya Bletsoe suggested that the Town Council could explore the use of bye-laws to control anti-social behaviour.

RESOLVED: Town Clerk to contact BCBC and South Wales Police to find out what bye-laws exist in Bridgend Town Centre to control anti-social behaviour.

- 6.25 Email from Beth Daniel, Chair of Bridgend Traders Forum re: Complaint against Cllr Freya Sykes

Cllr Freya Bletsoe declared a personal and prejudicial interest in matters related to item 6.25 and withdrew from the meeting for this agenda item.

Cllr Steven Bletsoe declared a personal and prejudicial interest in matters related to item 6.25 and withdrew from the meeting for this agenda item.

Mayor provided a brief overview of the resolutions made by the previous Council in relation to Cllr Freya Bletsoe's conduct on social media however he stated that it was a new Council and he hoped that the Council could move forward.

Cllr Gary Sassoon-Hales commented that it was difficult to take a view on the correspondence as it only showed part of a conversation.

Members acknowledged that the words may have been written in the 'heat of the moment' but accepted that this behaviour was not appropriate from a Town Councillor.

Members highlighted that a section of the post could be interpreted as a threat or bullying and noted that this attitude could not be tolerated by Bridgend Town Council.

Mayor acknowledged that as a result of the last Town Council meeting a letter had been sent to Cllr F Bletsoe regarding her comments on social media, however this post had been written before she had received the letter.

It was noted that training courses for Councillors in the use of social media are available and may be appropriate for this member.

RESOLVED: Town Clerk to issue a final letter to Cllr Freya Bletsoe to explain that her conduct on social media is not appropriate for a member of Bridgend Town Council and that further complaints against her in relation to Facebook posts will be referred directly to the Ombudsman.

- 6.26 Email from BCBC re: Temporary Road Closure Order 2017. **NOTED**
- 6.27 Email from BCBC re: Temporary Road Closure for event Roots Street Festival. **NOTED**
- 6.28 Email from BCBC re: Temporary closure of Old Stone Bridge
- 6.29 Email from One Voice Wales re: Larger Councils Innovative Practice Awards Conference

7. Finance:

7.1 To receive financial summary and approve payments of expenditure.

RESOLVED: Members noted that Interviews for the post of Heritage Walkway Project Manager were held on Thursday 27th April 2017 and Mrs Tracy Evans was duly appointed to the post.

8. Invitation to Bridgend Town Council Mayor and Consort to attend the European days conference in Villenave d’Ornon from 1st – 5th June 2017.

RESOLVED: Mayor and Consort to liaise with Town Clerk regarding arrangements for visit.

The meeting concluded at 9:25pm

Signed
Mayor

Date