



**MINUTES OF BRIDGEND TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at 7.00pm at Carnegie House Council Chamber**

<b>Present:</b>	Cllr. Stuart Baldwin (Mayor) Cllr. Freya Bletsoe Cllr. Steven Bletsoe Cllr. Kate Boucher Cllr. Nicole Burnett Cllr. Stuart Charles Cllr. Ceri Evans Cllr. Isabel Robson	Cllr. David Unwin Cllr. Matthew Voisey Cllr. Lyn Walters Cllr. Paul Warren Cllr. Alan Wathan Cllr. Carolyn Webster Cllr. Tim Wood
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**1. To receive apologies for absence:**

Apologies were received from: Cllr. Angela Morelli, Cllr. Rebecca Porter, Cllr. Gary Sassoon-Hales  
 Absent: Cllr. Eric Hughes

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

- Declarations of interest were recorded in the Declarations of Interests Register.

**3. To Confirm and Sign Minutes of Town Council Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2017.**

**Resolved:** To confirm and sign the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2017 as a true and accurate record.

**4. To Consider Matters Arising from the Town Council Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2017.**

- Page 37. Mayor stated that he had sent an email to the Head of Regeneration at BCBC and the BCBC Town Centre Manager regarding the format of the footfall figures report and had requested that he and the Town Clerk meet with the BCBC officers to discuss options for future reporting.
- Page 38. Notice of Motion Re- Community Skip Scheme. It was highlighted that there had been an amendment to the motion and that it was the amendment to the motion that had been agreed by Council.

**RESOLVED:** That the amended Motion agreed by Council at the December meeting was to suspend the current skip scheme and introduce a trial period in Wildmill and then move the skips around all BTC wards with further discussion regarding the timing and location for the skips.

- Page 39. Consultations: Cllr Webster stated that she had submitted a BCBC referral regarding consultation times between BCBC and BTC and was currently awaiting a response.

- Page 39. Proposed move of the Post Office in Cefn Glas. Cllr Warren provided further details about this move and stated that there would be a period of 4-5 weeks without a Post Office in this location whilst the move takes place.

## 5. To note for information Mayoral Announcements and Engagements:

Mayor's Engagements:

- None

Deputy Mayor's Engagements:

- None

## 6. To Consider Town Clerks Report

Town Clerk presented a report detailing the projects and services delivered by Bridgend Town Council from 18 December 2017 – 15 January 2018.

- It was noted that during the month BTC staff had assisted the police with the provision of CCTV footage. Town Clerk explained that there is no CCTV coverage of the front of the building in Wyndham Street and she will now seek a quote for the installation of an additional camera to cover the entrance to the building.
- Town Clerk stated that the secretary of the Town Twinning Association has responded to the letter sent regarding the decision to dissolve the BTC Town Twinning Advisory Committee. She advised that an approach had already been made to another individual for the position of President of the Town Twinning Association, however, the Association welcomes the Mayors involvement in the forthcoming Town Twinning visits of Villenave d'Ornon to Bridgend in March (Students), April (Villenave Town Twinning Association) and May (Villenave Choir).
- Cllr S Bletsoe enquired if the person that had been approached had accepted the position of President of the Town Twinning Association and questioned how this would impact the new BTC Mayor in May 2018.
- Cllr Unwin highlighted that the official relationship between Bridgend and its twin towns is still between Bridgend Town Council and the Councils of the twin towns, however, the day-to-day administration of town twinning activities and social events is now managed by the Town Twinning Association.
- Town Clerk explained that the Town Mayor would still retain responsibility for civic duties at official Town Twinning exchanges.

**RESOLVED:** Town Clerk to contact the Town Twinning Association to clarify the position of the President of the Town Twinning Association and the remit of the Mayor of Bridgend Town Council for Town Twinning events.

- Town Clerk advised that she had contacted the Station Commander at Bridgend Fire Station to initiate plans to clear out the beacon, carry out a risk assessment and make arrangements for the fire brigade to light the beacon during 2018. She explained that the Town Council would now need to consider dates for these events.
- Town Clerk advised that the Regeneration Committee would be re-scheduled for Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2018.
- Town Clerk provided a schedule of One Voice Wales training courses available to staff and Councillors. Mayor highlighted that many of the training courses were taking place at Carnegie House and encouraged Members to attend.

- Town Clerk highlighted the importance of the Town & Community Council Sector Review currently taking place. She commented that emails had been sent to Members about this review and strongly recommended that the Council provide a response to the panel.

**7. To Consider Arts Project Officer Update Report re: Carnegie House Arts Centre**

- Chair of the Carnegie House Board presented the Arts Project Officer report.
- Members were informed about the events planned for the remainder of the Arts Council of Wales funded programme managed by the Awen Culture Trust up until the end of their contract on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018.
- Members were provided with an overview of statistics for the Christmas events arranged by BTC in conjunction with the Bridgend Lions Club. It was highlighted that during the Christmas period there had been 1,903 visitors to Carnegie House and 515 children had visited the Christmas grotto.
- Members were provided with information about other events and activities planned at Carnegie House between January and 31<sup>st</sup> March which are not be funded by the ACW grant.
- It was noted that a further grant had been secured from the Arts Council of Wales. This funding will be used for the 'New Roots Audience Development project'. The grant money will also be used to fund a new post of Audience Development Worker. Applicants have been shortlisted and interviews are due to take place Friday 19th January at Carnegie House.
- It is anticipated that future events planned for 2018 will focus on art, culture and wellbeing but will be more suited to the needs of the local community and attract larger audiences.

Motion to amend the order of the agenda items

- Mayor proposed that agenda item 9. In relation to Personnel matters should be deferred until the end of the meeting in order to exclude members of the public from the meeting. Cllr Voisey opposed this motion and stated that due to the important nature of the items to be discussed he did not think the order of the agenda items should be changed. The motion was withdrawn.

**8. a). To Consider the draft minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

- Chair of Planning Committee notified Members that the planning application for the Heritage Walkway project had been submitted on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2018 and a decision would be due within 8 weeks. He noted that the work involved in preparing the application had been very demanding and officially thanked the Heritage Walkway Project Manager, Mrs Tracy Evans for all her work on this application.

**RESOLVED:** To accept the minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> January 2018

**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 9a and 9b as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

**RESOLVED:** That members of the public and representatives of the press be permitted to re-join the meeting.

## 10. Finance:

**To receive a balance of accounts as at 15th January 2018 and approve Payments of Expenditure**

**RESOLVED:** Accounts paid, read and approved by Members.

## 11. Consultations

1. Welsh Government consultation on a proposal that healthcare services for people in Bridgend should be provided by Cwm Taf UHB instead of Abertawe Bro Morgannwg UHB. Further information is available at: <https://consultations.gov.wales/consultations/proposed-health-board-boundary-change-bridgend>

**RESOLVED:** Members can respond to the consultation on an individual basis.

2. Planning law in Wales Consultation. Closing date for responses is Thursday 1 March 2018. Further information is available at: <https://www.lawcom.gov.uk/project/planning-law-in-wales/>

**RESOLVED:** Cllr M Voisey appointed to fully research this consultation and provide feedback to Members at the February Town Council meeting.

3. BCBC Notification of consultation Re: Age policy guidelines and testing regime for taxis and private hire vehicles in Bridgend County Borough.

**RESOLVED:** Members should respond to the consultation on an individual basis.

4. BCBC Consultation Re: A48 Speed Limit Proposal

Cllr C Evans registered a personal interest in this agenda item.

- Members expressed concern that the letter sent from BCBC to BTC contained the personal details of a different consultee.
- Members discussed the details of the proposal. It was noted that the initial proposal is for a temporary reduction of the speed limit from 60mph to 50mph with a further reduction to 40mph when further road management proposals have been put in place.

**RESOLVED:** Town Clerk to respond to the consultation to support the reduction in the speed limit but to press for a 40mph speed limit for the entire stretch of road.

5. Bridgend Public Services Board Draft Well-being Plan. Closing date for responses is 23rd January 2018.

**RESOLVED:** Members should respond to the consultation on an individual basis.

6. Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 Section 8: Local Toilets Strategies – Consultation Document.
  - It was noted that BCBC Members are strongly challenging the proposed cuts to toilet provision in Bridgend Town Centre.
  - Members discussed the proposal and were strongly opposed to further cuts to toilet facilities in the Town Centre. It was suggested that this matter should be deferred to the Regeneration Committee to formulate a response.

**RESOLVED:** Deferred to the Regeneration Committee to submit a response.

## 12. Correspondence:

Members considered the following items of Correspondence:

1. One Voice Wales Community and Town Council Consultation Events – Next Steps. **NOTED**
2. Email from One Voice Wales Re: Expert Panel on Assembly Electoral Reform - Report publication. **NOTED**
3. Email from One Voice Wales Re: Review of the Community and Town Council Sector
  - Town Clerk provided further information about the Review of the Community and Town Council Sector. She explained that it will be used to inform the future role of Community and Town Councils and she urged the Council to consider submitting a collective response on behalf of Bridgend Town Council.

**RESOLVED:** Members can respond to the consultation on an individual basis.

4. Newsletter from the South East Regional Engagement Team. **NOTED**
5. Request for feedback Re: Abertawe Bro Morgannwg Community Health Council from Clare Jenkins, Chief Officer. **NOTED**
6. One Voice Wales - December 2017 News Bulletin. **NOTED**
7. Advance Notification of Urgent Temporary Road Closure - Angel Street, Bridgend 20.00 - 22.30 on 17/01/18. **NOTED**
8. Weekly footfall figures for Bridgend for Week 49, 51 & 52, 2017 and Week 1, 2018. **NOTED**
9. Email from Simon Green Re: Bridgend Coalition of Disabled People Access Certificate Petition – Update.
  - Cllr C Webster declared an interest in this agenda item.
  - Members commented that this is a good idea in principle, however, expressed concerns about the scale it would need to go to in order to cover all forms of disability. Members felt that the scope could be too wide ranging and consideration would need to be given to how it could be implemented and how it would be reviewed.
  - Members expressed support for the concept and acknowledged the challenges associated with the plans.
10. RE: ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14 - TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE BREWERY LANE ANGEL STREET WATER STREET ORDER 2017
  - Deputy Chair raised concerns about the proposed footpath closures and alternative pedestrian routes. He stated that yet again the disabled bays are being closed outside the Civic Offices when they have only recently been opened after being closed for over 18 months during the refurbishment works carried out at Civic Offices. He also added that the proposed footpath closure from Brewery Lane to Angel Street would have the potential to drastically reduce footfall from the 'New Embassy Bridge' and the 'Old Stone Bridge' into town at the Dunraven Square area.
  - Deputy Chair explained that the proposed alternative route to address the above closure will send people walking from Angel Street to Brewery Lane (and vice versa) across the dual carriageway from the Old Stone Bridge, past the Ex Serviceman's Club and United Church, up to the pedestrian crossing before the Rugby Club, across that section of road towards Raven's Court and then onto Brewery Lane and expressed dissatisfaction with this as an alternative route.
  - Members supported the comments made by the Deputy Chair.

- It was noted that the funding for the scheme had been ring fenced from European funding.
- Members highlighted that there are not high levels of bicycle users in Bridgend like there are in some European towns.
- Members expressed concern about the disruption the project would cause in terms of access to Bridgend Town Centre, particularly the impact on disruption to travel plans for those with disabilities that have planned safe routes into the town centre and the impact the work will have on town centre businesses.

**RESOLVED:** To respond to the consultation to express concern regarding the disruption that this project will cause in relation to planned safe routes into the Town Centre and the impact on Town Centre businesses.

**13. To Consider the BCBC Review of the Town and Community Council Charter and discuss how the Charter could be updated to create an effective framework for maintaining and developing working relationships between Councils across the County Borough.**

- Deputy Chair highlighted that he is on the BCBC working group for the Charter.

**RESOLVED:** Members to submit their comments about the Town and Community Charter to the Deputy Chair so that he can represent their views at the working group meetings.

**14. To consider items deferred from December 2017 meeting:**

1. To discuss Town Clerks statement re: Christmas Lights in Bridgend Town Centre and discuss the option to set-up a working group for Christmas lights 2018
  - Town Clerk referred to the statement that was issued in December 2017.
  - Chair of Finance Committee stated that Christmas lights are usually considered by the Finance Committee and offered to present a report at the next meeting.
  - Member commented that Christmas lights is an annual project that should be managed by the Facilities Manager when the new member of staff has been appointed.
2. To Consider information regarding DBS Checks for Members
  - Members agreed that Basic DBS checked should be undertaken. Town Clerk to progress.

**Meeting closed at 9.25pm**

Signed .....

Mayor

Date .....