



**CONTINUATION OF MINUTES OF BRIDGEND TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Monday 19th February 2018**

Wednesday 7th March at 7.00pm at Carnegie House Council Chamber

Present:	Cllr. Stuart Baldwin (Mayor) Cllr. Steven Bletsoe Cllr. Kate Boucher Cllr. Nicole Burnett Cllr. Angela Morelli Cllr. Isabel Robson	Cllr. David Unwin Cllr. Lyn Walters Cllr. Paul Warren Cllr. Alan Wathan Cllr. Tim Wood
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To receive apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from: Cllr. Freya Bletsoe, Cllr. Ceri Evans, Cllr. Eric Hughes, Cllr. Gary Sassoon-Hales, Cllr. Carolyn Webster, Cllr. Stuart Charles, Cllr. Matthew Voisey

Absent: Cllr. Rebecca Porter

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.

11. To Consider the draft minutes of the Personnel Committee Meeting of 5th February 2018

RESOLVED: That under 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 25a and 25b 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.

12. To Consider the draft minutes of the Wellbeing Committee Meeting of 7th February 2018

- Cllr P Warren presented the minutes to Council. It was noted that the Wellbeing Committee had agreed to support a report from Cllr T Wood regarding defibrillators and recommended to full Council that this project should be progressed.
- Cllr T Wood advised that several organisations had offered funding towards the project and explained that the funding would need to be secured from the organisations by BTC before the end of the financial year.

RESOLVED: To authorise Cllr T Wood to progress the defibrillator project within the budget allocated by Bridgend Town Council with additional funding from external contributions.

RESOLVED: Deputy Town Clerk/RFO to send 'Request for Contribution' letters to relevant organisations as soon as possible.

- Town Clerk advised that she had sought further clarity regarding the Welsh Language guidance published by the Welsh Language commissioner and had been informed that the scheme is voluntary for local councils to adopt if they wish and there are no plans to make the scheme compulsory. However, for those councils that have a Welsh Language scheme in place already, then the expectation is that they must continue with the scheme as originally approved by the former Welsh Language Board. She advised that Councils that do not have a Welsh Language Scheme are encouraged to introduce a scheme in future. This was noted by Members.
- Mayor expressed concern about the aspirations of the well-being plan and proposed that BTC should write to BCBC Cabinet Member Denisha Patel to discuss matters.

RESOLVED: Town Clerk to write to BCBC Cabinet Member Denisha Patel to request a meeting to discuss the well-being plan.

- Deputy Mayor explained that in order to meet the duties of the Act, the approach proposed by the BTC Wellbeing Committee is to map out the work currently undertaken by BTC to the four wellbeing objectives set out in the BCBC Wellbeing Plan and review this at the next committee meeting.

RESOLVED: To accept the Minutes of the Wellbeing Committee Meeting of 7th February 2018

13. To Consider the draft minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting of 14th February 2018

- Cllr L Walters and Cllr N Burnett declared an interest in the agenda item and left the room.
- Chair of the Planning Committee provided further information regarding an objection to planning application P/18/60/FUL. He explained that the application was for a taxi office and stated that the Planning Committee had considered the increased frequency of traffic entering and exiting the area across a pavement and objected on the grounds of highways access and concerns for pedestrian safety.
- Cllr S Bletsoe enquired whether there was an update on the situation regarding agenda 8.2. Chair of Planning explained that a response had been received explaining that BCBC do not have the time to notify Town and Community Councils of all work being undertaken in their areas and therefore the response had been noted.
- Deputy Mayor raised concern regarding communication from BCBC to BTC. He suggested that a strongly worded letter should be sent to BCBC.
- Mayor suggested that this matter could be dealt with under the revised Town and Community Charter.

14. Finance:

a) To receive a balance of accounts as at 19th February 2018 and approve Payments of Expenditure

RESOLVED: Accounts paid, read and approved by Members.

b) To Consider the draft minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting of 13th February 2018

- Chair of Finance Committee highlighted that on Page 5, the minutes was missing for agenda item 20. He advised that the minutes should read 'Three quotations were received and duly considered by the Finance Committee. It was agreed to award the contract to PJ Lee Architects for the sum of £2,450.00.

RESOLVED: Deputy Town Clerk/RFO to update the minutes of the Finance meeting of 13th February 2018 as detailed above.

- Chair of Finance explained that agenda item 17 included a proposed grant aid donation to the Firefighters Benevolent Fund. He highlighted that Bridgend Fire Service will be providing assistance with Beacon Lighting events throughout 2018 and that Fire-fighters Richard Thomas and Gordon Thomas would be carrying out clean-up work on the steep inclines at the sides of the Graig steps throughout the year. Cllr D Unwin added that the first clean-up had already taken place and that 25 bags of rubbish had been removed. He commended the fire-fighters for their efforts.
- Chair of Finance explained that the Fire-fighters had suggested that half of the grant aid could go towards a charity within the wards of Bridgend Town Council. He added that they had suggested that £250 could be provided to the Compassion Church in Nolton Street, Bridgend, in recognition of the work undertaken to provide shelter for homeless people during the recent extreme weather.
- Cllr S Bletsoe declared an interest in this agenda items and did not participate in discussion.

RESOLVED: To amend the grant aid donation to £250 for the Firefighters Benevolent Fund and £250 to the Compassion Church, Bridgend.

- Chair of Finance referred to agenda item 18 and noted that a breakdown of costs for a £5,000 donation to St John's House had been received.
- Chair of Finance advised that in order to consider page 7 of the minutes, members of the public would need to be excluded.

RESOLVED: That under 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 25 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.

RESOLVED: To accept the Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting of 13th February 2018 subject to the amendments detailed above.

15. To Consider the draft minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Bridgend Town Council on 13th February 2018

RESOLVED: To accept the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Bridgend Town Council on 13th February 2018

16. Consultations:

1. The Auditor General consultation on a revised Code of Audit Practice. **NOTED**

2. BCBC Supported Bus Service Consultation 2018-19.

- Deputy Mayor highlighted that there had been a good response to the public consultation event and encouraged those that had not already responded to respond as soon as possible.

3. Electoral Review Bridgend

- Town Clerk advised that initial documents provided for this review had contained many discrepancies. Chair of Finance highlighted that many street names were missing from the report and other streets referenced obvious incorrect numbers for electors and questioned the quality of the data provided by BCBC.
- Cllr N Burnett explained that the issues regarding the data had been raised and addressed by BCBC.

4. Local toilets strategies: Statutory guidance for local authorities.

- Chair of Finance stated that the consultation was about the strategy across Wales and did not see how comment could be made on a local level. The consultation was noted.

17. To Consider the following items of Correspondence:

1. Heol Tre Dwr (20MPH Speed Limit Zone) Traffic Order 2018. **NOTED**

2. Keep Wales Tidy Spring Clean Cymru 2018 – 1st – 4th March 2018. **NOTED**

3. Cefn Glas Post Office – Branch Temporary Closure.

- Deputy Mayor highlighted that work had started and noted that the shop would need to close for two weeks.

4. Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984 Section 14 Emergency Closure – Angel Street. **NOTED**

5. Response from BCBC re: Rhiw Car Park Closure Time

- Cllr S Bletsoe stated that he did not feel that the response from BCBC was satisfactory and suggested that they are ignoring their own by-laws regarding parking in town. He added that the car park behind Wilko is too far for those with disabilities wishing to visit the Dunraven Place area of town during the evening. He stated that other towns keep their multi-storey car parks open in the evening and suggested that BCBC must do more to support the night time economy.
 - Mayor explained that he had discussed this with the BCBC Head of Neighbourhood Services and had been told that there are additional costs to keep the car park open during the evening. He added that he had been advised that BCBC will not keep the Rhiw Car Park open in the evenings because the car park behind Wilko is free after 6pm and is not at full capacity.
 - Members questioned the additional costs to keep the Rhiw car park open due to the fact that the lights are kept on all night anyway and that the barrier system is operated by operators in the CCTV office which is staffed during the evening.
 - Members discussed issues regarding anti-social behaviour and noted that since people now live above the car park, this situation has changed.
 - Members expressed disappointment with the response from BCBC and suggested that this matter could be raised at the next BCBC Town Members meeting.
- ### 6. Review of the Electoral Arrangements for the County of Bridgend. **NOTED**
- ### 7. Email from BCBC re: National Cycle Network (NCN) Route 885 - Phase 2 works.
- Cllr D Unwin referred to a press article regarding additional funding for cycle routes and expressed disappointment that the public are not consulted in how this money is spent.

8. Email from One Voice Wales Re: Women's Suffrage Centenary Grant Scheme – 'Celebrating Women in Wales'. **NOTED**
9. Email from One Voice Wales Re: Future Generations Framework & guidelines. **NOTED**
10. The Ombudsman's Casebook - Issue 31. **NOTED**
11. Email from One Voice Wales Re: End to local government fees for child burials. **NOTED**
12. Letter from BCBC Head of Neighbourhood Services Re: Tree Planting & Rhiw Car Park.
 - Cllr D Unwin explained that BTC had not been required to obtain a licence for tree planting in the past and stated that locations had been provided in the initial correspondence.
 - Cllr D Unwin expressed concern that a request to provide funding towards free parking at the Rhiw car park had been included at the bottom of a letter about tree planting, six weeks before the end of the financial year.
 - Members questioned how the figures were calculated and highlighted that no statistics had been provided to explain the benefit to the Town Centre.
 - Cllr S Bletsoe stated that he would like to see fully costed figures and projections from BCBC.
 - Mayor stated that the precept for 2018/19 had already been set and there is no budget available. He also questioned whether other local community councils had been asked to contribute.

RESOLVED: To note the correspondence and request that the matter is included on the agenda for the next BCBC Town Members meeting.

13. Email from One Voice Wales Re: Tax policy work plan 2018 and developing new taxes in Wales. **NOTED**
14. Springboard Weekly Footfall Figures (week 6) 4th – 10th February 2018
 - Cllr S Bletsoe noted that the 'Footfall by Location' data within the report did not include figures for the two footfall cameras on Nolton Street.

RESOLVED: Town Clerk to contact BCBC to enquire why these figures are not included in the report.

15. Letter from One Voice Wales Re: Membership renewal costs and application form.

RESOLVED: To approve the costs to renew BTC membership of One Voice Wales for 2018/19

16. Review of Community and Town Council Sector in Wales – February Newsletter 2018. **NOTED**

18. Public Toilets in Bridgend Town Centre (Cllr S Bletsoe)

a) To discuss BCBC consultation regarding public toilets and request that the two BTC representatives on the BCBC Town Members Meeting are given a mandate to discuss this matter at the Town Members meeting on behalf of Bridgend Town Council.

- Cllr S Bletsoe explained that the Regeneration Committee had discussed options for new toilet facilities in Bridgend Town Centre and had agreed to carry out further research, meet with the supplier of the toilet facilities and identify suitable locations.
- Town Clerk advised that she had not contacted the supplier but it is on her to do list.

RESOLVED: Cllr S Bletsoe given delegated authority to invite the supplier to the next meeting of BTC Regeneration Committee to discuss this project and report back to full Council in due course.

- Cllr S Bletsoe expressed disappointment that it had been reported in the press that BCBC are closing toilet facilities in the town and suggested that BTC could issue a press release to indicate that research is being undertaken regarding new toilet facilities.

- Cllr L Walters suggested that the matter could be raised at the BCBC Town Members meeting to advise BCBC that toilets are being considered and that further information will be provided when available.
- Cllr D Unwin suggested that any information provided must be carefully worded to explained that BTC are investigating alternative toilet facilities and do not intend to take over existing BCBC toilets.

b) To request that the Regeneration Committee is able to release a press statement to express progress to date in regard to supplying toilet facilities in Town and how important BTC consider them to be.

RESOLVED: Not to issue a press statement until further details have been discussed with the toilet supplier and reported back to full Town Council.

19. Brynteg Comprehensive School Sports Achievements (Cllr S Bletsoe)

To consider the best way to commemorate the continued achievement of sports men and women that attended Brynteg comprehensive school and recognise the fact that the most successful school in production of Welsh Internationals is within the boundary of Bridgend Town Council.

- Cllr D Unwin explained that he is a governor of Brynteg School and highlighted that there is a board on the wall in the school to recognise sporting and all other lifestyle achievements. He added that if something is proposed for the Town Centre that the school should be consulted.
- Members highlighted that sports men and women from other local schools may need to be considered.
- Deputy Mayor suggested a tiled mosaic within the town could be a suitable way to commemorate these achievements and could be funded by BTC.
- A lengthy discussion took place regarding the types of achievements that could be commemorated, how they can be commemorated and which schools should be included.
- Cllr S Bletsoe highlighted that Brynteg School had produced more Welsh International rugby stars than any other school in the country.

RESOLVED: To agree in principle to support a project to celebrate the achievements of students from local schools and for this to be included as an agenda item for the next Regeneration Committee meeting for further consideration.

- Mayor drew attention to a letter that had been circulated regarding Empty Shop Business Rate Exemption. He explained that it had been a resolution at a previous Council meeting for Cllr S Bletsoe to prepare the letter. Members reviewed the letter and agreed that it should be sent.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm

Signed

Mayor

Date