

**BRIDGEND TOWN COUNCIL
CYNGOR TREF PEN-Y-BONT AR OGWR**

Town Clerk
LEANNE EDWARDS
Deputy Town Clerk
DEBRA JONES
Tel: (01656 815757)
Email: bridgend.tc@bridgend.gov.uk

**COUNCIL OFFICES
CARNEGIE HOUSE
WYNDHAM STREET
BRIDGEND
CF31 1EF**



Clerc y Dref
LEANNE EDWARDS
Cynorthwywr i Glerc y Dref
DEBRA JONES
Ffon: (01656 815757)
E-bost: bridgend.tc@bridgend.gov.uk

**SWYDDFEYDD CYNGOR
TY CARNEGIE
STRYD WYNDHAM
PEN-Y-BONT AR OGWR
CF31 1EF**

29th May 2019

Public Statement Re: Bridgend Town Council Annual Meeting – May 2019

At the Annual meeting of Bridgend Town Council on Monday 20th May, two councillors were nominated for the position of Mayor. The outgoing Mayor called for a secret ballot, this was seconded and there was no objection from any Councillors present. Members proceeded to vote on ballot slips and Cllr Alan Wathan was elected to the office of Town Mayor for the year 2019/20.

Subsequently, the Mayor called for a vote to be taken to elect a Deputy Mayor for 2019/20. A motion for a secret ballot was proposed and supported by Members and Cllr S Bletsoe was elected to the office of Deputy Mayor for the year 2019/20.

It has since been highlighted by a Councillor present at the meeting, that the Standing Orders of Bridgend Town Council adopted at the time of the Annual meeting, do not include any reference for allowing a secret ballot to be conducted. It should also be noted that the Standing Orders do not prohibit the conducting of a secret ballot.

Bridgend Town Council has a precedence of holding secret ballots if a motion for a secret ballot is proposed and seconded at a meeting. The Council has undertaken this practice for many years and many decisions of Council have been decided using this method.

A query has now been raised by a Councillor present at the Annual Meeting that as standing orders do not permit a secret vote then the validity of the entire meeting is brought into question. Legal advice has been sought from specialist solicitors on this matter and it appears that in law this is a grey area.

Although this may bring into question past decisions made by Council using this method, it would not be practical to reconsider these historical decisions and therefore any decisions taken before the Annual meeting of Council on 20th May 2019 still stand.

The Council has received advice that the decisions taken at the recent Annual Meeting must be brought into question and that the Council should call an Extra-ordinary meeting to re-run the nominations for and to elect a Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Bridgend Town Council for 2019/2020 using the voting method of 'show of hands'. All the decisions taken at the Annual meeting and subsequent meetings also need to be ratified by Council.

Further to the Annual Meeting on 20th May, the outgoing Mayor formally resigned as a Councillor by submitting his written resignation to the newly appointed Mayor, Cllr Alan Wathan however now that the position of Mayor has been brought into question, it appears that the resignation is not valid and Cllr Paul Warren is still a Councillor of Bridgend Town Council. He is also therefore still the outgoing Mayor.

An Extraordinary meeting of Bridgend Town Council has been scheduled for Tuesday 4th June 2019 at 7pm.

Leanne Edwards
Town Clerk