



MINUTES OF BRIDGEND TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Monday 25th November 2019 at 7.00pm at Carnegie House Council Chamber

Present:	Cllr Alan Wathan (Mayor) Cllr Freya Bletsoe Cllr Steven Bletsoe Cllr Nicole Burnett Cllr Robbie Thomas Cllr Rebecca Porter	Cllr Steven Easterbrook Cllr David Unwin Cllr Matthew Voisey Cllr Lyn Walters Cllr Tim Wood Cllr Angela Morelli
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In Attendance: Mrs L Edwards (Town Clerk), Mrs D Jones (Deputy Town Clerk & RFO) & Miss J Brown (Democratic Services Officer).

1. To receive apologies for absence:

Cllr Stuart Baldwin, Cllr Carolyn Webster & Cllr Stuart Charles

Absent: Cllr Kate Boucher, Cllr Ceri Evans & Cllr Roger Marsh

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

- Cllr N Burnett – Prejudicial interest in Item 11, BCBC Planning Matters.
- Cllr M Voisey – Prejudicial interest in Item 11, BCBC Planning Matters.

3. To receive questions or comments from Members of the Public (Standing Order 3(e) refers)

- Mayor requested that agenda item 14 be brought forward for discussion in light of the attendance of a member of the public. This was agreed by Members.

14. Newbridge Fields

To consider the following motion from Cllr L Walters:

'Further to a recent call in meeting at BCBC regarding sports pitches increased fees, BTC consider preparing and issuing a press release to advise the public that BTC has not been formally contacted by BCBC to be involved in any CAT for Newbridge Fields. As and when BCBC have a detailed plan (following them consulting with all user groups of Newbridge Fields), BTC will consider the proposals.'

- Members discussed the content of a possible press release.
- Town Clerk advised that there had been a number of public enquiries regarding this matter and reported that Bridgend Town Council had been mentioned during a recent public BCBC meeting regarding sports pitch fee increases.
- Town Clerk explained that she had contacted the BCBC CAT Officer and had been advised that there are complications surrounding a Community Asset Transfer of Newbridge Fields due to it being a large public open space with multiple use. She explained that BCBC will be considering establishing a working group to explore options and will invite key stakeholders and users to meet in the New Year; she stated that BTC have been identified as a key stakeholder.
- Mayor invited member of the public to speak.

- Member of the public introduced himself as the Chairman of Bridgend Sports RFC and explained that his questions had been answered within the statement made by the Town Clerk. He reported that the club's usage fees will increase from £56 to £305 per pitch, per game under the new pricing structure and that they have up to three games per weekend. He added that the WRU annual donation to the club totals £1,400, and with 36 weekends of games, income is not sufficient. He referred to the charges for the mini and junior sections and advised that in light of the additional charge, the club would have no choice but to pass on the cost, therefore the price per session for the children would likely increase to £10 per session, which would be both unaffordable and unsustainable for families.
- Cllr M Voisey commented that he was perplexed by BCBC's decision to increase fees at such a significant rate and believed it would destroy grass roots sport in Bridgend. He added that the fees have not increased over the years and there should have been a small increase each year to avoid this situation.
- Cllr N Burnett declared a personal interest in the agenda item and explained that her father is involved with Bridgend Sports Club.
- Cllr N Burnett provided an explanation about the rationale used by BCBC when making their decision regarding the price increases; she referred to the grass cutting department inability to access grants available for the provision of sport pitches. She explained the need for sports clubs to take responsibility of sport facilities to be able to apply for grants. She added that she did regret however, that BCBC have not been more forthcoming in communicating the wider details of this decision.
- Members further discussed this matter at length.
- Cllr L Walters proposed that discussions on this matter are deferred until the BCBC working group meeting is held in January 2020. She reiterated that her motion is to issue a press release in relation to the lack of consultation on Newbridge Fields only.
- Members further discussed the content of the press release.
- Cllr F Bletsoe highlighted that Bridgend Town Council was approached by BCBC for a CAT of pavilions in Newbridge Fields during the previous term of office. She proposed an amendment to the wording to reflect a CAT would be for fields only and not buildings. It was agreed to change the wording to: *'Further to a recent call in meeting at BCBC regarding sports pitches increased fees, BTC consider preparing and issuing a press release to advise the public that BTC has not been formally contacted by BCBC to be involved in any CAT for the grounds of Newbridge Fields. As and when BCBC have a detailed plan (following them consulting with all user groups of Newbridge Fields), BTC will consider the proposals.'* Members agreed.
- Members debated whether to include information regarding a grant for Bridgend Athletics Club and agreed that it is not relevant to this matter.
- Cllr S Bletsoe proposed the wording "BTC remains supportive and committed to grass roots sports in our town". Members agreed.

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk issue a press release to advise the public that BTC has not been formally contacted by BCBC to be involved in any CAT for the grounds of Newbridge Fields, and that BTC remains supportive and committed to grass roots sports in our town.

4. To confirm and Sign Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 21st October 2019.

- Cllr D Unwin referenced a date error on page 54; Clerk to amend accordingly.

RESOLVED: The Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 21st October 2019 were confirmed as a true record and duly signed.

5. To Consider Matters Arising from the Town Council Meeting held on 21st October 2019.

- Page 52: (Item 14) Cllr D Unwin reported that a 'robust' response was sent and that no response had been received to date. He suggested that if no response is received within the next month, the Town Clerk could follow this up.

- Page 53/54: Cllr D Unwin enquired if a meeting schedule for the Town and Community Council Forum had been set. Town Clerk stated that she had been advised that the dates are not scheduled in advance.
- Page 54: Cllr T Wood enquired if a reply had been received reference the financial outcome of the BID. Cllr D Unwin recommended that the Town Clerk pursue the matter.

6. To Confirm and Sign Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 4th November 2019

RESOLVED: The Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 4th November 2019 were confirmed as a true record and duly signed.

7. To Consider Matters Arising from the Town Council Meeting on 4th November 2019

- There were no matters arising from the minutes

8. To note for information Mayoral Announcements and Engagements:

- The 'Witches and Wizards' event at Carnegie House raised £100 for the Mayors charity, Friends of Heronsbridge School.
- The Remembrance Café at Carnegie House raised £1,100 for Veterans charities.
- The Mayor announced that a vacancy had arisen in the Oldcastle ward due to the 6-month absence rule. He explained that due to the fact the Town Council had moved the date of the November full Council meeting because of workload, an extraordinary general meeting was called. He noted that the extraordinary Council meeting was not quorate therefore did not go ahead. The Town Clerk reported that she had informed the Electoral office of the vacancy.

Mayor's Engagements:

- Monday 21st October 2019 – Acceptance of Gideon Bible in Council Chamber.
- Friday 31st October 2019 – Witches and Wizards Charity event at Carnegie House
- Saturday 9th November 2019 – Attended Children and Family Remembrance Service
- Sunday 10th November – Attended Sunday Remembrance Service
- Monday 11th November – Attended Armistice Day Services of Remembrance
- Monday 18th November – Attending funeral of 98-year-old Bridgend Veteran. A survivor of the sinking of the HMS Dorsetshire. Full protocol observed at the request of the family.
- Saturday 23rd November – Welcoming Father Christmas to Carnegie House

Deputy Mayor's Engagements:

- The Deputy Mayor supported the Mayor at the Remembrance events on 9th & 10th November

9. To Receive the Town Clerks Report

Town Clerk provided a verbal update on work and matters for Bridgend Town Council between October/November (for information only).

- Town Clerk reported that during October and early November staff had spent time planning for the Remembrance Events, which took place on the 9th, 10th and 11th of November. She commented that the staff had received excellent feedback from the public about the Remembrance events and the new memorial benches in Dunraven Place.
- Cllr R Thomas thanked the Town Clerk and BTC staff for the outstanding effort.
- Members were advised that the Christmas Lights had been installed and that the Christmas Parade and switch on had been a success. It was reported that an issue with the Christmas tree had been quickly resolved and that the Christmas grotto was fully booked on the first weekend.
- Cllr M Voisey reported that the lights were not working on a lamppost near Wilko. Cllr D Unwin advised that it is lamp standard 4A. The Town Clerk will arrange for this to be fixed.

- Town Clerk informed Members that there had been two staff resignations during the month. These were from the Community Engagement and Events Manager and one of the Outdoor Maintenance Workers. Members were advised that the Personnel Committee had been briefed and in the case of the Community Engagement and Events Manager the post will be advertised. It was reported that the Outdoor Maintenance Worker post had been offered to the temporary Outdoor Worker and he had accepted the position.
- Members were advised that the BCBC Town Members Major Projects Group meeting had been cancelled this month.

10. To fill vacancies on the Council Committees listed below:

Planning Committee (1)

- There were no nominations for this vacancy.

11. Planning:

1. To consider draft minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting of 13th November 2019

Cllr N Burnett and Cllr M Voisey declared a prejudicial interest in Item 11, BCBC Planning Matters and left the Chamber for this item.

- Cllr F Bletsoe queried the siting of a bench in Heol Loveluck. Cllr D Unwin advised that the bench will be moved by the end of January 2020.
- Chair of Planning Committee commended the minutes to Council.

RESOLVED: To receive and note the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 10th July 2019.

Cllr N Burnett and Cllr M Voisey returned to the Council Chamber and re-joined the meeting.

12. Finance:

1. To receive a balance of accounts as at 25th November 2019 and payments since last meeting

- Members reviewed the balance of accounts and payments since last meeting.

RESOLVED: Accounts paid, read and approved by Members.

2. To consider draft minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting on 20th November 2019.

- Chair of Finance advised that it had been a lengthy meeting. He explained that Members had reviewed projects and considered budget requests for 2020/21. He commented that the committee had been supplied with limited detail in the Facilities Management report, which had prevented them making informed decisions. He added that that the committee is awaiting further information and also need financial information for the additional premises project before a draft budget can be agreed.
- Chair of Finance suggested that a Task and Finish Working Group meeting should take place at 10am on Thursday 12th December and could be followed by a further Finance Committee meeting at 11am on the 12th December to discuss the draft precept budget recommendation for consideration at the Town Council meeting on 16th December.
- Town Clerk explained that she had received an invitation to attend a meeting at BCBC regarding the additional premises. It was agreed that the Town Clerk should attend with the Project Manager and the Town Mayor.
- Cllr N Burnett stated that she was concerned about the possible proposed reduction in BTC external event funding especially in light of the Community Engagement and Event Manager leaving the employment of the Town Council.
- Chair of Finance commended minutes to Council.

RESOLVED: To receive and note the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 20th November 2019.

13. Personnel Committee

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 13 as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

Cllr R Porter left the meeting at 8pm.

RESOLVED: The public and representatives of the press were permitted to re-join the meeting.

14. Newbridge Fields

- This agenda item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

15. Selection of Mayor and Deputy Mayor for 2020/2021

To consider the following motion from Cllr A Wathan:

'To request that the Town Council consider selecting the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for 2020/2021 at the April Town Council Meeting and for the selected Councillors to become Mayor and Deputy Mayor elect prior to their formal appointment at the AGM of the Town Council in May.'

- Mayor presented his motion to Council and explained his rationale for the proposal.
- Cllr S Bletsoe suggested an amendment to the motion to for this suggestion to continue in future years except the election year. Cllr D Unwin seconded this amendment.
- Cllr F Bletsoe suggested that any Mayor Elect should undertake Charing Skills training with One Voice Wales. Members agreed, however the Mayor reminded Members that training is optional and is not compulsory.
- It was proposed that a vote be taken on the amended motion.
 - 10 in favour of the motion.
 - 1 abstention.

RESOLVED: That in future years except an election year, the Town Council select the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the forthcoming Mayoral year at the April Town Council Meeting.

- Mayor highlighted that agenda item 16 is a confidential item.

16. Confidential and commercially sensitive agenda item

To discuss Additional Premises Project:

- a) To receive an update from the Town Clerk and BTC Task & Finish Working Group regarding the recent site visit, project management arrangements and project timescales.**
- b) To consider any decisions required by Council for the Additional Premises Project**

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 16 as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

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RESOLVED: The public and representatives of the press were permitted to re-join the meeting.

17. Consultations:

- South Wales Fire and Rescue Service consultation on proposed objectives and plan for developing our plan for 2020 – 2021. Please see online survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/PRBTKDV> closing date for responses December 13th 2019. **NOTED**

18. Correspondence:

1. Email from BCBC re: Community Chest Funding - **NOTED**
2. Email from Seafarers UK re: Merchant Navy Day - **NOTED**
3. Email from Biodiversity Policy Team, Welsh Government re: The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty - **NOTED**
4. Email from the Board of Community Health Councils in Wales re: Representing the interests of people in the NHS in Wales: Our plans and priorities in 2020-2021 – **NOTED**
5. Email from BAVO re: Cwm Taf Morgannwg Social Value Forum - 12 December 2019 - **NOTED**
6. Email from Llangynwyd Middle Community Council re: Bespoke Training opportunity at Llangynwyd Village Hall, Maesteg - **NOTED**
7. Email from One Voice Wales re: Successful Community Asset Transfers - **NOTED**
8. Email from Older Peoples Commissioner re: Newsletter special bulletin - **NOTED**
9. Letter from Welsh Government re: Sustainable Drainage systems (SuDS) – Proposed amendment to the sustainable drainage (Enforcement) Order 2018 - **NOTED**
10. Email from BCBC re: Mayor's Citizenship Awards 2020 - **NOTED**
11. Letter from Welsh Government re: Guidance on securing biodiversity enhancements in development proposals - **NOTED**
12. Letter from Mr Burt, Bridgend Athletic RFC Club Press Officer re: Proposed > 500% Costs of Sports Pitches & Pavilions - **NOTED**
13. Presentation from Cardiff University re: Deliberative Democracy - How can people be more involved in the decisions that affect them? - **NOTED**
14. Email from the Bevan Foundation re: Beyond cities: resilient local economies and communities conference, Thursday 28th November in Merthyr Tydfil - **NOTED**
15. Email from Older People's Commissioner for Wales re: Everyday Ageism Campaign - **NOTED**
16. Email from BCBC re: Temporary Road Closure - Merthyr Mawr Road, Bridgend from its junction with A48 to its junction with Bowham Avenue - **NOTED**
17. Email from BCBC re: Town and Community Council Fund 2020/21 – **Cllr D Unwin advised Members that this had been dealt with at the finance committee meeting.**
18. Letter from BCBC re: 2020-21 Precept request Bridgend Town Council – **Noted that this matter was in hand.**

19. Town and Community Forum.

- To consider items for inclusion on the Town and Community Council Forum agenda
This item was not discussed by Members.
- To consider feedback from meetings of the Town and Community Council Forum
This item was not discussed by Members.
- To identify proposals for inclusion on the TCC Charter Action Plan which would aid the development of the Charter
This item was not discussed by Members.

Meeting closed 20:40

Signed

Date

Mayor