



MINUTES OF BRIDGEND TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 20th January 2020 at 7 pm Council Chamber, Carnegie House

Present:	Cllr Alan Wathan (Mayor) Cllr Stuart Baldwin Cllr Freya Bletsoe Cllr Steven Bletsoe Cllr Ceri Evans Cllr Angela Morelli	Cllr Steven Easterbrook Cllr David Unwin Cllr T Wood Cllr N Burnett Cllr S Charles
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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 R Porter, Cllr R Thomas, Cllr M Voisey, Cllr L Walters, Cllr Carolyn Webster. Absent Cllr R Marsh.

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

- Cllr Nicole Burnett - Prejudicial interest in Item 9, BCBC Planning Matters.
- Cllr Ceri Evans – Personal interest in item 13, HMS Urge.

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

- There were no questions raised from members of the public present.

4. To confirm and sign minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on December 17th 2019

RESOLVED: The Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 17th December 2019 were confirmed as a true record and duly signed.

5. To consider matters arising from the Town Council Meeting held on 17th December 2019.

- There were no matters arising from the minutes of 17th December 2019.

6. To note for information Mayoral Announcements and Engagements:

Mayor's Engagements:

- Saturday 21st December 2019 – Bridgend Royal British Legion Carol Service.

Deputy Mayor's Engagements:

- Thursday 19th December 2019 – Represented The Mayor, Carol Service at Coychurch Crematorium.

7. To receive Town Clerk's Report for December/January (for information)

Town Clerk provided a verbal update on work and matters for Bridgend Town Council between December 2019 and January 2020 (for information only).

Precept: Town Clerk reported that Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) had been informed of the Bridgend Town Council (BTC) Precept requirement for 2020/21.

Councillor Vacancies: Town Clerk reported that further to the Councillor vacancies in the Oldcastle and Newcastle wards, elections had been called for both vacancies. She advised that she was awaiting notification from the electoral office and would advertise the notices in due course.

Tree Planting Scheme: Town Clerk reported that BCBC had contacted BTC regarding a tree-planting project and advised that a meeting would take place shortly.

Bridgend Athletic Club: Town Clerk reported that £20,000 grant funding had been paid to Bridgend Athletic Club and a further £5,000 would be paid on receipt of relevant paperwork.

Website: Town Clerk advised Council of recent BTC website issues, which would be resolved shortly.

Antisocial Behaviour: Town Clerk reported that the Facilities Manager attended a bi-monthly antisocial behaviour group meeting and advised that a proposal was put forward to remove the benches outside the Job Centre for a trial 6 week period. It was suggested that this is included as an agenda item for discussion at the next Town Council meeting.

RESOLVED: To include an item on the agenda for the February Town Council meeting to discuss the temporary removal of benches outside the job centre.

A timetable of Council meetings for 2020 was circulated to Members for information.

Defibrillator: Town Clerk reported vandalism to the defibrillator sited at the top of Wyndham Street; she highlighted that this is the third instance of vandalism. Town Clerk explained that the Police have suggested that Members consider whether the defibrillator should be relocated. Members discussed this proposal. Town Clerk was asked to seek costs for a new secure cabinet.

Cllr F Bletsoe asked when the police would be invited to attend a council meeting.

RESOLVED: To include an agenda item for the next Community Engagement and Wellbeing Meeting to discuss the defibrillator sited at the top of Wyndham Street.

RESOLVED: To invite the Chief Superintendent to attend the February Town Council meeting and for Members to submit questions to the Town Clerk one week prior to the meeting.

Bridgend Festival of Light – Friday 21st February 2020: Town Clerk informed Members that planning was well under way for the event and outlined details of the project. Town clerk asked Members to promote the event within their networks where possible.

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

Planning Committee (1)

- There were no nominations for this vacancy.

9. To consider draft minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting of 15th January 2020

Cllr N Burnett declared a prejudicial interest in Item 9, BCBC Planning Matters and left the Chamber for this item.

- Chair of Planning Committee presented the minutes to Council; he highlighted the recent shop closures within Bridgend Town Centre and suggested that BTC should take the initiative and approach national business organisations. Chair stated that from a planning perspective it would be irresponsible not to take any action possible to assist with this issue.
- Cllr S Bletsoe made the Chair aware that a Welsh Government task force had been set up in response to the closure of Ford (Bridgend) and proposed that the Regeneration Committee could work with them.
- Cllr S Baldwin clarified that the approach to national business was agreed at planning. The Mayor drew Members attention to page 3 of the planning minutes, which clarified the matter.

RESOLVED: To receive and note the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 15th January 2020.

Cllr N Burnett returned to the Chamber.

10. Finance:

1. To receive a balance of accounts as at 20th January 2020 and payments since last meeting

RESOLVED: Accounts paid, read and approved by Members

2. To consider draft minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting of 12th December 2019

- Chair of Finance referred Members to the minutes of the meeting, which were duly noted.

3. To receive the Constitution of the Bridgend Market Traders Association and a quotation for the cost of capital works for the development of a toilet facility in the Indoor Market and discuss the release of funding of £10,000 for this project.

- The Town Clerk referred Members to the Market Traders Constitution; Chair of Finance commented that he believed it to be satisfactory.
- The Town Clerk asked Members to decide how the grant payment of £10,000 should be paid, and if any clause should be attached.
- The Mayor introduced the Chair of The Bridgend Market Traders Association (BMTA), who gave an overview of the project to date.
- Members discussed the signage of the toilets and suggested that they are both labelled unisex. The Chair of the BMTA stated that he would report Members feedback to BCBC. The Chair of the BMTA advised that the proposed completion date is 4th March 2020.
- Mayor proposed that one payment in full is made to the BMTA. Members agreed.
- Chair of Finance proposed that a request of a report to be presented to Council six months after payment of the grant is made. Members agreed.

RESOLVED: To pay in one instalment a grant of £10,000 to the Bridgend Market Traders Association and to request a six-month progress report to Council following payment of the grant.

11. Confidential and commercially sensitive agenda item

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

CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

Additional Premises Project

- 1. To consider removing the confidentially arrangement for this agenda item and discuss the approval of a press release for the Additional Premises Project.**

- 3. To consider and approve the Business Plan for the Additional Premises Project.**

- 4. To consider the appointment of a solicitor to deal with the purchase of a property and sale of Evergreen Hall lease on behalf of BTC.**

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

Recess 5 minutes

1. To consider removing the confidentially arrangement for this agenda item and discuss the approval of a press release for the Additional Premises Project.

- The Mayor thanked the public for their patience and asked the Town Clerk to give an overview of the press release. The Town Clerk highlighted:
 - The growth of BTC over the past 5 years.
 - That since BTC moved into the former public library building in 2014, a highly successful Arts Centre had been established, contributing to the economic wellbeing of the town.
 - BTC now employs 15 members of staff in order to fulfil its statutory duties and to deliver the services it provides.
 - A commitment to continued support of local residents and that the additional premises will protect and improve community facilities and will enable the Council to extend current services.
 - BTC is custodian of the Town Centre War Memorial, Randall Memorial and Ruhamah Burial Ground and also of a lease for the Evergreen Hall at Angel Street.
 - BTC has responsibility for organising the annual Remembrance Parades and large-scale events such as Wartime Bridgend, Bridgend Light Festival, Christmas Lights and Christmas Grotto.
 - That demand for committed initiatives and partnerships for 2020 currently exceed what can be delivered in the space currently available at Carnegie House.
 - BTC are pursuing the purchase of Ty'r Ardd from BCBC, subject to Cabinet approval on the 25th of February 2020.
 - The building will be used for multiple purposes, including relocating the Evergreen Hall facility for older people and for other community use.
- It was agreed that the press release should be issued on Tuesday 21st January 2020 through official channels.
- Cllr S Baldwin proposed that the press release be embargoed until 12noon on the 21st January 2020.

RESOLVED: That the press release be embargoed until released by the Town Clerk at 12 noon on 21st January 2020.

- The Mayor asked for questions from the public.
- A member of the public enquired if details of funding would be included in the press release. The Mayor advised that no funding details would be provided at this stage.
- A member of the public asked if Evergreen Hall would be relocated. The Mayor clarified that Evergreen Hall would be relocated.

2. To receive an update from the Town Clerk and BTC Task & Finish Working Group regarding the progress for the Additional Premises Project and next steps.

- Town Clerk referred to the revised sale date of end of April 2020 taking place in the 2020/21 financial year subject to BCBC Cabinet approval and stated that she would report to Council accordingly.

12. To consider letter from BAVO regarding appointing a Councillor to sit on the Suncredit Solar Grants Panel.

- Members discussed the letter; Cllr F Bletsoe proposed as in previous years that the current Mayor should be appointed.

RESOLVED: That the current Mayor be appointed to sit on the Suncredit Solar Grants panel.

13. HMS Urge: To consider an invitation for representatives of Bridgend Town Council to attend a ceremony in Malta in April 2020 for the declaration of the wreck of HMS Urge as an official war grave.

- The Town Clerk referred Members to the report provided and highlighted that there is a contingency budget for such an event. She asked Members to consider if they would like to accept the invitation and discuss who they would like to send. Town Clerk suggested The Mayor and Consort could attend as protocol and highlighted that the BTC Military Advisor and/or a Bridgend Veteran Zone representative could also be considered.

Cllr C Evans declared a personal interest in this item.

- Cllr D Unwin proposed that given the unique situation, the involvement of the people of Bridgend with HMS Urge and the level of interest expressed by both the public and the media regarding the discovery of the wreck, the invitation should be accepted.
- Cllr S Baldwin expressed concern regarding the expense to send four people and did not support sending four representatives to Malta based on the cost to Bridgend Town Council.
- Cllr A Morelli enquired whether it would be possible to just send flowers.
- Cllr S Easterbrook highlighted that this is an historic occasion and stated that in his opinion, the people of Bridgend should be represented at the event. He felt that BTC should accept the formal invitation.
- Cllr S Bletsoe proposed sending The Mayor, the Mayor's Consort, the BTC Military Advisor and The Chair of the Bridgend Veteran's Association who is also an ex-submariner. This was seconded.
- Mayor called for a vote on the proposal from Cllr S Bletsoe.
- Cllr S Baldwin proposed a vote to only send the Mayor and Consort.
- Town Clerk advised the Mayor that the first proposal had been seconded and should be dealt with first.
- A discussion took place between Cllr S Baldwin and Cllr F Bletsoe. Cllr S Baldwin requested a recorded vote.

Vote:

To send The Mayor, the Mayor's Consort, the BTC Military Advisor and The Chair of the Veteran's Association to a ceremony in Malta in April 2020 for the declaration of the wreck of HMS Urge as an official war grave.

Those in Favour: 7 (Cllrs. D Unwin, T Wood, S Easterbrook, F Bletsoe, C Evans, S Bletsoe, S Charles)

Those not in Favour: 3 (Cllrs. A Morelli, N Burnett, S Baldwin)

RESOLVED: That the Mayor, Mayors Consort, BTC Military Advisor and Bridgend Veterans Zone representative attend a ceremony in Malta in April 2020 for the declaration of the wreck of HMS Urge as an official war grave.

- The Mayor informed Members that with his Royal Navy background he considered it a great privilege to attend the event representing the people of Bridgend and thanked Members for their support.

14. Correspondence:

1. Email from BCBC Street Lighting Department re: Feedback on Festive Lighting 2019.
- Cllr D Unwin informed Members that he was pleased with the service in relation to Christmas Lighting 2019 however he and BCBC were disappointed with the removal of the lighting in the indoor market by external contractors, which is being addressed.
2. Email from Bruno Peek, Pageantmaster re: VE Day 75.

- Cllr D Unwin proposed that this be considered by the Community Engagement and Wellbeing Committee.
- 3. Email from BCBC re: BCBC (OFF- STREET PARKING PLACES) to amend the parking charges in the car parks as specified in the Notice and Order. **NOTED**
- 4. Email from One Voice Wales re: One Voice Wales National Awards Conference Thursday 26th March 2020. **NOTED**
- 5. Email from One Voice Wales re: Training schedule for the South Wales region. **NOTED**
- 6. Email from BCBC re: SE Regional Engagement Team e-Newsletter. **NOTED**
- 7. Email from BVCBC re: Temporary Closure - Footpath 16 Bridgend. **NOTED**
- 8. Email from BCBC re: Application form for Town & Community Council Grant Fund 2020/21 and notification of closing date on 28th February 2020.
- Cllr D Unwin advised Members that The Finance Committee had resolved to support the Bridgend Association of Bowls Tennis and Squash Clubs.

15. Town and Community Forum

- a) **To consider items for inclusion on the Town and Community Council Forum agenda.**
It was noted that the next meeting is 31st March 2020 and that agenda items would need to be submitted by mid-February 2020.
- b) **To consider feedback from meetings of the Town and Community Council Forum.**
Feedback had been noted at last meeting.
- c) **To identify proposals for inclusion on the TCC Charter Action Plan which would aid the development of the Charter.**
Cllr Unwin proposed that 15:C should be left off the agenda. The Town Clerk reported that it was requested as a standing Agenda item by BCBC.

Meeting closed 8.33 pm.

Signed
Mayor

Date