



MINUTES OF BRIDGEND TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Meeting Details:

Date: Monday 20th March 2023

Time: 6.30 pm

The meeting was held as a hybrid meeting both at Carnegie House and remotely via Microsoft Teams for Business under the Local Government and Elections Act (Wales) 2021.

Chairperson: The Mayor (Cllr Tim Wood)

Staff: Mrs L Edwards (Town Clerk), Mrs D Jones (Deputy Town Clerk & RFO), Ms J Brown (Democratic Services Officer), Mrs D Elliott (Community Engagement and Events Manager) – Remote

In Attendance:

Cllr Ann Lloyd – In Person

Cllr David Unwin – In Person

Cllr I Williams – In Person

Cllr Tim Wood (Mayor) – In Person

Cllr M Blundell-Humphreys – In Person

Cllr S Bletsoe – In Person

Cllr A Wathan – In Person

Cllr A Felton – In person

Cllr D Brown – In Person

Cllr C Webster – In person

Cllr F Bletsoe – In Person

Cllr S Easterbrook - Remote

Cllr I Spiller – Remote

Cllr D Evans – In Person

There were no Members of the Public present during the formal meeting.

Pre-meeting Business 6.30-7.00pm:

Prior to the formal meeting, The Mayor welcomed Superintendent Marc Attwell to the Council Chamber to give an update to Members on current policing in Bridgend Town.

1. To Receive Apologies for Absence

- Cllr N Deere, Cllr B Johnston, Chaplain Mavis Martin

2. To Receive Declarations of Interests (if any) of Members in respect of the business to be transacted

- Cllr T Wood made a declaration of personal interest as a Bridgend Town Trader in matters pertaining to Town Centre business and in any discussions relating to BCBC as a BCBC Councillor
- Cllr S Bletsoe made a declaration of personal interest in any discussions relating to BCBC as a BCBC Councillor
- Cllr F Bletsoe made a declaration of personal interest in any discussions relating to BCBC as a BCBC Councillor
- Cllr I Williams made a declaration of personal interest in any discussions relating to BCBC as a BCBC Councillor and in matters relating to Oldcastle School and Brynteg School
- Cllr D Unwin made a declaration of personal interest in matters relating to Merthyr Mawr Community Council, The National Milestone Society and Brynteg School
- Cllr S Easterbrook made a declaration of personal interest as a Bridgend Town Trader in matters pertaining to Town Centre business, in agenda item 10 (Planning) as a member of BCBC Development Control Committee and in any discussions relating to BCBC as a BCBC Councillor
- Cllr A Wathan made a declaration of personal interest in any discussions relating to BCBC as a BCBC Councillor
- Cllr I Spiller made a declaration of personal interest in any discussions relating to BCBC as a BCBC Councillor

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

- There were no questions or comments from Members of the Public.

4. To confirm and sign minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 20th February 2023

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 20th February 2023 be confirmed and signed as a true and correct record.

5. To consider matters arising from minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 20th February 2023

- The Town Clerk drew Members attention to the incorrect page numbers and advised that she would correct them.

Page 371 – Item 10.

- The Town Clerk updated members on the status of the unveiling of the Blue Plaques for Caroline Williams and John Thomas. The Town Clerk advised Members His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant had agreed to unveil the plaque for John Thomas on Wednesday 19th April.
- The Town Clerk explained that further to a very recent enquiry from a member of the Bridgend History Society regarding the location of the siting of the plaque for Caroline Williams, it appears that 12 Newcastle Hill may not be the correct address to site the plaque. She explained that Bridgend History Society had originally suggested this address, however she had since looked at the 1841 Census and that the address for Caroline Williams is recorded as 'East Side Newcastle Hill' but there is no house number.
- The Town Clerk noted that following this, the family moved to London. The 1861 census shows Caroline Williams father, Mr John Morgan Williams had returned to the area and resided at 43 West Street, however there is no evidence that Caroline Williams lived at this address.

- It was noted that there is a baptism record for Caroline Williams at the Church on Newcastle Hill and a local historian has provided further information about Caroline Williams attending The Unitarian Chapel at the bottom of Newcastle Hill.
- Cllr S Bletsoe noted that Caroline Williams ashes were interred at The Unitarian Chapel.
- The chapel is now closed and is owned by HD Ltd.
- Members discussed possible locations for the siting of the Blue plaque including on the outside wall surrounding The Unitarian Chapel. After discussion Cllr D Unwin proposed that more research be conducted.

RESOLVED: That the Blue Plaque dedicated to John Thomas will be unveiled on Wednesday 19th April at 1pm and that the outdoor team be authorised overtime.

RESOLVED: That staff carry out more research into the blue plaque location for Caroline Williams and report back to Council.

6. To confirm and sign minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 27th February 2023

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 27th of February 2023 be confirmed and signed as a true and correct record.

7. To consider matters arising from minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 27th February 2023

- There were no matters arising.

8. To consider a correction to the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 26th September 2022 regarding agenda item 18 – Correspondence

- The Town Clerk referred to her report that had been previously circulated. She explained that at the Town Council meeting on Monday 26th September 2023 Council discussed an item of correspondence under agenda item 18 regarding the Civility and Respect Pledge. Unfortunately the minutes of the September meeting, contained the wording for agenda item 18 from the July minutes regarding the ‘Summer of Fun Activities 2022’ and do not contain the discussion held or resolution for agenda item 18 on the agenda for the September meeting. To rectify this mistake, it is proposed that the minutes of the September meeting are amended as follows:

To remove the wording:

18. Correspondence: a) Email from BCBC: Summer of Fun Activities 2022

- Cllr D Unwin advised Members that Council had supported the scheme for many years and that this year a donation had been made of £3,850
- The Deputy Town Clerk/RFO confirmed that the BTC Logo had been included in all marketing.
- Cllr N Deere reported that the scheme had developed and now extended for 6 weeks to include ages 8 – 11 years and 12 plus years. Cllr N Deere thanked Councillors on behalf of HALO for their support.

To replace the wording for agenda item 18 with the following wording:

18. Correspondence: b) Letter and email from SLCC, NALC, OVW and County Associations: To consider a resolution to sign up to the Civility and Respect Pledge

- Members were referred to the documents and asked if Council would like to sign up to the Civility and Respect Pledge.
- It was proposed that the document was a sensible definition of respect and Members moved to sign the pledge.
- The Deputy Town Clerk referred Members to the statements contained in the letter.

RESOLVED: Council resolved to agree to the statements and sign up to the Civility and Respect Pledge

- Cllr D Unwin proposed that the amendment be accepted and corrected accordingly.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 26th September 2022 are amended to remove the discussion about the summer play scheme and that the following wording is inserted in its place:

18. Correspondence: b) Letter and email from SLCC, NALC, OVW and County Associations: To consider a resolution to sign up to the Civility and Respect Pledge

- Members were referred to the documents and asked if Council would like to sign up to the Civility and Respect Pledge.
- It was proposed that the document was a sensible definition of respect and Members moved to sign the pledge.
- The Deputy Town Clerk referred Members to the statements contained in the letter.

RESOLVED: Council resolved to agree to the statements and sign up to the Civility and Respect Pledge.

9. To note for information Mayoral Announcements and Engagements

- Saturday 4th March – St David’s Day Concert - Capel Y Tabernacl Bridgend
- Sunday 12th March – Blessing of the new standard for the Welsh Guards – Nolton Church, Bridgend. The Mayor thanked the Ogmere Branch of the Welsh Guards for including him in this historical day.
- Cllr F Bletsoe asked if His Majesty’s Lord Lieutenant had been invited to the Remembrance Sunday Service; the Democratic Services Officer advised that the invitation had been sent and accepted.
- For information, the Mayor advised Members that an invitation had been received from Seeheim Jugenheim to attend a 40th Anniversary Celebration; he explained that the invitation could not be placed on the current agenda as it was received on the morning of the meeting and proposed it be placed on the April full council meeting agenda.

RESOLVED: To include the Civic Invitation to Seeheim Jugenheim on the agenda for discussion at the April full council meeting.

10. Planning

1. To receive minutes of Planning Committee meeting held on 13th March 2023

Cllr S Easterbrook left the meeting for this agenda item

- Cllr D Unwin presented the previously circulated minutes to the meeting.

Page 2 - Planning Appeal Reference: P/20/923/FUL The erection of a class A3 restaurant and drive-thru (Burger King).

The Chair of Planning Committee clarified that the appeal meeting had lasted 4 ½ hours and that he was grateful to Cllr F Bletsoe for her excellent input. He advised Members that in his opinion, the BCBC Planning Department did not perform well or with adequate information at the meeting; Cllr F Bletsoe agreed with the Chair of Planning Committee's comments.

Page 3 - b. Bridgend College – Move to Cheapside

The Chair of Planning Committee explained that he thought this application would be discussed at the BCBC Development Control meeting on 23rd March 2023, however it is not on the agenda. He noted that there is currently no Section 106 agreement in place for this development. He was not satisfied with this situation and advised that he will pursue the matter.

Page 3 - d. Zia Nina - Clock renovation

The Chair of Planning Committee asked that the wording of this paragraph be corrected:

FROM 'The Chair advised Members that he was satisfied with the progress of the clock remedial works and deep cleaning.'

TO: 'The Chair advised Members that he was not satisfied with the progress of the clock remedial works and deep cleaning.'

RESOLVED: To amend the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 13th March 2023 on page 3 to read 'The Chair advised Members that he was not satisfied with the progress of the clock remedial works and deep cleaning.'

Page 4 - I. The Ranch Property Nolton Street Update

The Chair of Planning Committee confirmed that an enquiry had been sent to BCBC to seek information about legal action for this property. Cllr S Bletsoe proposed that he also submit a BCBC referral in relation to this property: Members agreed.

Cllr S Easterbrook returned to the meeting

RESOLVED: To receive and note the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 13th March 2023.

11. Finance

a. To receive a balance of accounts and payments since last meeting

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

b. To note minutes from the Finance Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 14th March 2023

Page 2 – Evergreen Hall.

- The Chair of Finance Committee advised Councillors that he was impressed and satisfied that the Evergreen Hall Charity were now in a position to accept the funds held in an Escrow account further to the relinquishing of the Evergreen Hall lease, and that the

transfer should take place in 2-3 weeks.

Page 4 – Update on damp issue works at Carnegie House

- The Town Clerk advised Councillors that work had started to remove the old mortar.
- Cllr S Bletsoe queried if this was a temporary or permanent fix.
- The Deputy Clerk/RFO advised Council that the material used is lime mortar, which conforms to the requirements for Listed Buildings and that the contractor appointed to carry out the work is registered with CADW. She explained that unfortunately lime mortar is not particularly weatherproof and the work may need to be done again in the future, however council are now aware that there are possible grants available. The Deputy Clerk/RFO further advised that the Facilities Officer had secured a grant of £6,000 for the current work and is hopeful that the works will be completed in the grant timeframe.
- It was noted that after the exterior of the wall has been re-pointed, the wall may take up to a year to dry out therefore it will be a while before the internal appearance of the wall can be addressed.

Page 3 - Ruhamah Burial Ground

- The Chair of Finance highlighted a correction to the minutes. He noted that the purchase cost of the burial ground is not £500 and that the minutes should read that the purchase cost is a nominal fee of £1 and that the cost of the Statutory Disposal Notices is £500.

RESOLVED: To amend the minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 14th March 2023 to reflect that the purchase cost of Ruhamah Burial Ground is a nominal fee of £1 and that the cost of the Statutory Disposal Notices is £500.

Page 5 – National Non Domestic Rates (NNDR)

- The Chair of Finance explained that staff had contacted BCBC to claim rates relief on the empty Town Hall property and a rebate of £5,993.81 had recently been confirmed.
- It was noted that BCBC would be contacted again to claim for empty property status due to the delay in handing over the building for occupancy.
- The Deputy Clerk/RFO noted that the Town Hall is currently listed as Offices and Premises with car parking spaces however, when the building work is finished, an NNDR revaluation will be sought due to the change of usage to a Community Centre and Premises.
- The Chair of Finance Committee thanked the Deputy Clerk/RFO for her efforts.

RESOLVED: To receive and note the minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 14th March 2023.

12. Community Engagement & Well-being

a. To note minutes from the Community Engagement & Well-being Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 8th March 2023

- The Chair of the Community Engagement and Well-being Committee thanked the Manager for her excellent reports.
- The Community Engagement and Events Manager confirmed that progress had been made on plans for Armed Forces Day. She updated Members that the assault course was no longer viable as a health and safety certificate could not be issued due to the concrete slabs at the location, however she assured Council that she is looking at alternatives.

- Members were advised that staff have been asked to investigate organising a float-based Christmas carnival event running from Nolton Street to Derwen Road, a Christmas event in the town centre and to seek sponsorship to fund the events.
- Members were shown a sample of a King's Coronation Wildflower Seed Pack that is proposed to give out to local children. The seed pack design was well received.
- After a short discussion about children living in the BTC wards but attending schools outside the area, Cllr S Bletsoe proposed that an extra 500 packs be ordered in addition to the 1,400 already agreed, to be distributed from the BTC Office at Members discretion.

RESOLVED: That an additional 500 packs of seeds to celebrate The King's Coronation are ordered to be distributed from the BTC Office at Members discretion.

The Mayor called for a recess at 8.03 pm.

Meeting recommenced at 8.10 pm.

13. Town Hall

a. To receive an update on Town Hall insurance issue and timescales for the repairs and completion of the Refurbishment Project

- The Town Clerk referred Members to an email response that she had received from the contractor's insurance company regarding the Town Hall leak. The Town Clerk clarified that the insurer will not accept liability and therefore the repairs will not be covered by insurance.
- The Town Clerk confirmed that she had liaised with the BTC Architect/Project Manager for his views that morning, and he felt that the Council could either:
 1. Look to complete the repair works at a budget. The works will be itemised, and cost negotiated with the contractor. This option would mean BTC are to find the excess funding and ask that the contractor contribute something. The benefit is that this option would be the quickest to allow the contractor to complete the contract, hand back the building, get full BTC insurance cover set-up and progress with the replacement heating scheme.

OR

2. Challenge the insurers decision via legal proceedings. The arguments are that the contractor did not take the joint named all-risk policy stated in the letter of intent and the sub-contractor failed to turn off the stop cock. There is a risk of this option prolonging the whole works. In the email it is apparent that the insurer are refusing the claim. This option could be expensive and could take a significant amount of time.
 - The Town Clerk stressed that the decision could be deferred if Members felt that they needed more time to discuss.
 - Cllr D Unwin queried if any discussion had been held reference the cost of the legal route. The Town Clerk explained that she would need to seek a solicitor who specialises in this field and as the Council had not yet agreed to pursue further legal advice, she had not progressed this any further.
 - Councillors held a thorough and meticulous discussion about the cost and time implications of both options, the deterioration of the building, the best interest of residents, the responsibilities Council have to the Public Purse and the liability of the contractor.

- Members felt that it would be a gamble to pursue the legal route using public funds given that the cost is unknown and there is no guarantee that the Council would succeed.
- Cllr A Wathan proposed that a meeting of negotiation be held with the contractor to request that they fund some of the repair work and that this discussion should be recorded in minutes.
- Members supported this proposal and suggested that the Town Hall Working Group should meet with the contractor to discuss these matters.

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk organise a meeting between The Town Hall Working Group and the Town Hall contractor within the next 14 days, and that this meeting should be recorded in minutes.

b. To consider a quote from the Quantity Surveyor for the heating replacement system design and install phases

- The Town Clerk referred Councillors to the previously circulated quote from the Quantity Surveyor. Cllr D Unwin noted the cost of the quote from the architect and proposed that Council accept the quote from the Quantity Surveyor for the heating replacement system design and install phases at a cost of £2,800.

RESOLVED: That Council accept the quote from the Quantity Surveyor for the heating replacement system design and install phases at a cost of £2,800.

c. To consider a draft briefing document to seek quotes for a company to prepare the technical specifications and documents required for the tender process for the new heating system

- The Town Clerk referred members to the previously circulated draft briefing document and queried if Members had any questions or would like to propose any changes, particularly to the marking scheme. Councillors did not want to make any changes to the marking scheme.
- Cllr D Unwin proposed that Council approve the draft brief for issue and suggested that Council allow 15 working days for responses, subject to the availability of the Architect/Project Manager to review the quotes and provide a professional view ahead of the April Town Council meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk issue the briefing document to seek quotes for a company to prepare the technical specifications and documents required for the tender process for the new heating system and provide 15 working days for responses, subject to the availability of the Architect/Project Manager to review the quotes ahead of the April Town Council meeting.

Cllr I Spiller left the meeting at 8:34pm

d. To consider a response from BCBC re Town and Community Council Fund options

- The Deputy Clerk/RFO advised that she had contacted BCBC regarding the possibility of transferring the two previously agreed grants from the BCBC Town and Community Council Fund towards two Town Hall projects, to help fund the heating replacement scheme.
- Members were provided with a copy of an email that suggested two options, subject to the approval of BCBC Town and Community Council Fund panel and Cabinet:

Option 1 – To retain the original 2021/22 applications for flooring and accessibility adaptations at Ty'r Ardd (which total £20,500 grant) and submit a new application under the

2023/24 round for the boiler/heating system work. The Town Council would need to submit the application by Friday 3rd March 2023. There is no guarantee that the application would be successful – it would still have to be recommended by the grants panel and then approved by Cabinet as is the usual process. The grant limit would also be in place, totalling £20,000.

Option 2 is to request that the 2021/22 applications be repurposed for the heating system, meaning that the Town Council could get the work done and have £20,500 to claim against it, but would not then be able to then claim for the flooring and accessibility adaptations. It would save the Town Council completing and submitting an application form by 3rd March, although BCBC would still need to inform the Town and Community Council Fund panel and Cabinet of the changes and have those changes approved.

- Cllr F Bletsoe explained that she had spoken to the BCBC Corporate Director of Communities about the proposed BCBC heat network. She informed Members that the scheme will be developed in two rounds; the first round will be for NHS buildings and the second round for public buildings. She noted that she had made a request for the Town Council to be approached for the second round, which is likely to be in approximately two years' time.
- Members were unanimous in agreeing Option 2: to request that the 2021/22 applications be repurposed for the heating system instead, meaning that £20,500 could possibly be claimed towards the cost of the heating system, but that the Town Council would not be able to claim for the flooring and accessibility adaptations.

RESOLVED: That the Deputy Clerk/RFO respond to BCBC to request that the 2021/22 applications be repurposed towards the cost of the replacement heating system.

14. To receive an update regarding the Notice of Vacancy for a BTC Councillor in the Oldcastle ward and consider a co-option process to fill this vacancy

- The Town Clerk reported that an election had been called for the Morfa ward and that no election had been called for the Oldcastle ward.
- The Town Clerk referred Members to a document explaining the co-option process and asked if there were any questions.
- Cllr S Bletsoe asked the Town Clerk to clarify the voting procedure if there are more than two applicants. The Town Clerk confirmed that the candidate with the lowest number of votes would be eliminated, and the vote will be retaken until only two candidates remain; at this point, the candidate with the highest number of votes is co-opted.

RESOLVED: To proceed with a co-option process to fill a vacancy for a Town Councillor in the Oldcastle ward and that the closing date for applications should be one week before the April Town Council meeting.

15. Councillor Remuneration

To receive the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Annual Report February 2023 and consider changes to Councillor Remuneration payments

- The Deputy Clerk/RFO referred Members to the annual report which had been previously circulated. She highlighted a number of changes, which include an additional expenses payment for all Councillors to cover the cost of consumables, possible changes to the tax on Councillor remuneration payments, a reduction in the number of senior payments available and the need for a Councillor Remuneration policy decision.

- The Deputy Clerk/RFO suggested that a Working Group and/or the Finance Committee consider the changes and draft the remuneration policy required for approval by full Council.
- After discussion, Cllr D Unwin proposed that a Working Group of the Finance Committee consider the report in detail and that a meeting is set up to discuss a BTC policy for Councillor Remuneration Payments.
- Members discussed reclaiming Councillor Remuneration payments from Councillors that leave the Town Council before the end of the year.
- The Deputy Clerk/RFO explained that this is part of the policy required but that she is not aware that any Councillors that have left the Council have claimed remuneration.
- Members were advised that Council must allocate sufficient remuneration budget for all Councillors and if it is not claimed, it is put back into reserves.

RESOLVED: That a Working Group of the Finance Committee review the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Annual Report February 2023 and consider a Town Council policy for Councillor Remuneration payments.

- The Deputy Clerk/RFO clarified that if Members did not wish to receive remuneration, then the Member must advise her writing.

**16. To discuss a motion submitted by Cllr D Unwin (deferred from January meeting):
‘To consider the weekly news items issued by BCBC Media Office and to establish ways in which they can be curtailed and be more relevant to the true situations and foundations of making claims put into the public domain’**

- Cllr D Unwin noted that although he accepts it is not within the power of BTC to curtail press releases from the BCBC Media Office, this situation is of great concern. He highlighted that BCBC Cabinet Members are regularly quoted in press releases and there appears to be no opportunity for the opposition to comment.
- Cllr S Bletsoe advised that this matter had been raised at BCBC and that a WLGA report was presented to Cabinet and it was not complimentary about BCBC Communications. He added that he has a meeting scheduled with the BCBC Chief Executive to discuss these concerns and will report back.

17. Town Twinning (deferred from February Town Council meeting)

To consider and discuss a letter from Villenave d’Ornon regarding the Youth Exchange and a Civic invitation to the Associations Forum in Villenave d’Ornon on 6th – 10th September 2023

- Cllr D Unwin explained that at the last Council meeting it was agreed that he and Cllr I Williams would seek a meeting with the Head Teacher of Brynteg School to discuss the Youth Exchange. Further to this, he advised that he had spoken with the Head of Brynteg School on the telephone.
- Members were informed that the Head Teacher had clarified that the school is unable to proceed with a youth exchange without the authority of BCBC, and that BCBC have insisted that DBS Checks are carried for host families in France. Further to this, France do not have the same procedures of safeguarding as those in the UK, and unless DBS checks are conducted, very sadly the youth exchange cannot go ahead.
- It was noted that this situation is outside the remit of Bridgend Town Council and the decisions lay with other authorities.

- After discussion, Members proposed that The Town Clerk seek a date for an online meeting with representatives from Villenave d’Ornon, to be attended by: the BTC Mayor and BTC Deputy Mayor, Cllr A Felton, Cllr I Williams and Cllr D Unwin, Head Teacher of Brynteg School, Head of French Department at Brynteg School, BCBC Cabinet Member for Education and the BCBC Director of Education.
- **RESOLVED:** That the Town Clerk contact Villenave d’Ornon to seek a date for an online meeting to be attended by: the BTC Mayor and BTC Deputy Mayor, Cllr A Felton, Cllr I Williams and Cllr D Unwin, Head Teacher of Brynteg School, Head of French Department at Brynteg School, BCBC Cabinet Member for Education and the BCBC Director of Education.
- The Town Clerk asked Councillors to now consider the Civic invitation to the Associations Forum in Villenave d’Ornon on 6th – 10th September 2023.

Cllr F Bletsoe stated that she would recuse herself from this item of discussion and left the meeting.

- The Town Clerk advised Members that the Bridgend Town Twinning Association had decided not to attend on this occasion. The Deputy Clerk/RFO advised that the reason for this is because of the cost due to the Rugby World Cup being held in Bordeaux in September.
- The Town Clerk clarified that on previous occasions Villenave d’Ornon offer to provide hosts so there may not be a cost for accommodation.
- Cllr I Williams referred to controversy over previous civic duties abroad.
- It was noted that an invitation to Langenau in July has already been accepted and Members expressed concern about the public perception of attending two overseas visits within six months.
- It was highlighted that it is not the Mayor or Mayor’s Consort that make the decision to attend, it is a decision of full Council.
- Cllr I Spiller suggested it may be unwise to accept an invitation from one Twinned Town and not accept an invitation from the other and therefore suggested that Council consider this in more detail and defer it to the next meeting.
- The Town Clerk was asked to make enquires to clarify if the Mayor and Consort can be hosted.
- Cllr I Spiller suggested that a diplomatic letter is sent to Villenave d’Ornon to explain that the Town Council is currently undertaking a project to develop a new Town Hall which requires a significant investment locally and therefore needs to consider budgets.
- Cllr A Felton highlighted that time had been spent forging European links and supported maintaining them.
- Members agreed to defer this item.
- Cllr S Bletsoe highlighted that he had not made a declaration but requested that it is recorded in the minutes that he did not take part in the discussion.

RESOLVED: for the Clerk to write a letter to Villenave d’Ornon to clarify what the arrangements would be in order that costings can be ascertained and reported back to full council.

Cllr F Bletsoe returned to the meeting

18. To receive a 6 monthly survey of empty shops/business units and associated matters relating to Bridgend Town Centre (Cllr D Unwin)

RESOLVED: To defer this agenda item to the April meeting.

19. Correspondence:

a) Arcadis Consulting - Bridgend Heritage Trail proposed route and supporting information

RESOLVED: To defer this agenda item to the April meeting.

b) Membership of One Voice Wales - Renewal of Membership for 2023-2024

RESOLVED: To defer this agenda item to the April meeting.

c) Email from local resident re: Bridgend Town Centre

RESOLVED: To defer this agenda item to the April meeting.

Meeting closed at 9.28 pm

Signed

Date

Mayor