



## MINUTES OF THE BRIDGEND TOWN COUNCIL REGENERATION COMMITTEE MEETING

### Meeting Details:

Date: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Time: 6.30pm

Location: Meeting held remotely via video conference under the Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Meetings) (Wales) Regulations 2020

Chairperson: Cllr F Bletsoe

Staff: L Edwards (Town Clerk), D Jones (Deputy Town Clerk/RFO), J Brown (Democratic Officer)

### In attendance:

Cllr Steven Bletsoe – PRESENT

Cllr Freya Bletsoe – PRESENT

Cllr S Easterbrook - PRESENT

Cllr Ceri Evans - APOLOGIES

Cllr David Unwin - PRESENT

Cllr Alan Wathan - APOLOGIES

Cllr Tim Wood - PRESENT

### 1. To receive apologies for absence:

- Cllr C Evans and Cllr A Wathan.

### 2. Declarations of Interest (if any) of Members

- Cllr T Wood declared a personal and prejudicial interest as a Town Trader.
- Cllr S Easterbrook declared a personal and prejudicial interest as a Town Trader.

### 3. To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Regeneration Committee Meeting 26<sup>th</sup> May 2021

**RESOLVED:** The minutes of the Regeneration Committee meeting of 26<sup>th</sup> May 2021 were received and confirmed as a true record and duly signed.

### 4. To consider matters arising from the Regeneration Committee Meeting 26<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Page 2 – Tudor Plaque

- Cllr D Unwin enquired if any progress had been made on the installation of the Tudor Plaque. The Democratic Officer advised that permissions had been granted from The Rhiw Manager and that a preliminary guest list and order of event had been circulated to the committee for review subject to COVID regulations.
- Cllr D Unwin suggested that the plaque be installed prior to Christmas.
- Members discussed Councillors availability; Cllr S Bletsoe proposed that the unveiling event take place on a Saturday with the plaque being installed the Friday prior.
- The Town Clerk advised that she would liaise with the Facilities Manager regarding the completion of a risk assessment and added that invitations are normally issued with 10 days' notice.

**RESOLVED:** That the Tudor Blue Plaque be unveiled on a Saturday prior to Christmas.

### **Page 2 – Telephone Boxes**

- Cllr D Unwin enquired if a response had been received from BT. The Town Clerk advised that BT have responded and reported that the Facilities Manager has liaised with the steel banding provider who will remain on site to replace the banding following completion the BT works.
- The Town Clerk advised that the Community Engagement and Events Manager would prepare a brief for the artwork.
- Cllr D Unwin suggested the repositioning of the telephone boxes to a more suitable location, if in fact they could be moved. Cllr D Unwin recommended, subject to planning and conservation consent, that there could be two different locations.
- The Mayor advised that he liked where the phone boxes were situated but that other ideas should be considered. After discussion Members agreed that this was a viable idea, suggesting possible locations of the Rhiw, the start and finish of the Heritage Trail and the open space beside the Post Office.

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Clerk contact BCBC Planning for advice on the relocation of the telephone boxes and that this be placed on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

### **Page 3 – Reverse Vending Machines**

- The Chair advised the Committee that the Reverse Vending Machines would need to be placed indoors therefore the previously identified locations may not be suitable. The Chair reported that she had spoken to The Rhiw Manager, who had agreed in principle to ask if one could be sited within the centre but would require further details to do so.
- The Town Clerk queried if other companies could be approached.
- The Mayor proposed that the Chair be given permission to provide the Rhiw Manager with further details on behalf of the Committee and to approach other companies.

**RESOLVED:** That the Chair of the Regeneration Committee contact the Rhiw Manager regarding the placement of a Reverse Vending Machine and approach other companies who would be able to supply the machines.

### **Page 4 – Signage for the new toilet facilities in the Rhiw Market**

- Cllr D Unwin enquired on the progress of the toilet signage. The Chair advised that she would send them to the Rhiw Manager as soon as possible.
- Cllr T Wood confirmed that BCBC were responsible for the digital signage display.

- The Mayor queried if the toilets were popular. Cllr T Wood reported that approximately 150 people a week used the toilets and that the market had received compliments and good feedback in relation to cleanliness and disabled access.

**5. To consider the status of projects for 2021/22 and discuss next steps:**

- The Chair proposed that current projects should be completed before anything new was proposed. Cllr D Unwin agreed with the Chair and proposed that it was realistic for 3 or 4 projects to be progressed over the next 6 months. The Mayor pledged his support to this proposal and referenced the Business Awards.
- The Chair proposed that although she was reluctant to do so, The Business Awards be postponed and reviewed in 2022. Cllr D Unwin seconded the proposal.
- Cllr S Easterbrook agreed and stated that traders were focussing on business post COVID; Cllr T Wood agreed.

**RESOLVED:** That The Business Awards be postponed to the 2022/23 financial year.

**a) BTC Blue Plaque Scheme**

- The Town Clerk confirmed that The History Society and Civic Trust had advised on wording for all 3 proposed plaques and that this information had been circulated.
- The Mayor proposed that the plaques be in keeping with those already in place. Cllr D Unwin advised that The Tudor Plaque did incorporate The Tudor Rose and thought that the design of a Harp would be fitting.
- The Town Clerk shared on screen photographs of the current plaques installed.
- Following discussion Members approved the wording and design for the 3 plaques.

**RESOLVED:** The following wording and design be approved for the 3 Blue Plaques to be installed:

Bridgend Town Council  
Monsignor Dilwyn John Lewis  
1924 – 2000  
Designer – Priest – Benefactor  
2022

Bridgend Town Council  
Caroline Elizabeth Williams  
1823 – 1908  
Pioneer of higher education for women in Wales  
2022

Bridgend Town Council  
John Thomas  
1826 – 1913  
Pencerdd Gwalia  
Harpist to Queen Victoria  
[Harp image]  
2022

- The Mayor proposed that the locations suggested by The History Society be adopted.
- The Town Clerk advised that the plaque location proposed for Caroline Williams was now a private house.

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Clerk write to the owners of the property seeking their view and if approved research the planning requirements for installation.

- John Thomas – Cllr D Unwin proposed that the plaque be installed on the side of the Poco Poco Building (3 Elder Street, Bridgend).

**RESOLVED:** That The Town Clerk contact the owner of the property to ask for permission to proceed with the installation of a Blue Plaque.

- Cllr T Wood queried if the plaques could have a QR code. The Chair advised that this could be incorporated into a future project.

#### **b) Blue Plaque Trail**

- Cllr D Unwin proposed that the Blue Plaque Trail be deferred. Members agreed.
- Cllr D Unwin proposed that as the Blue Plaque Trail would complement the established Heritage Walkway Trail, the Perspex coverings of the Heritage Trail boards should firstly be repaired. Members were in agreement and proposed that the costs be allocated to the Blue Plaque Trail budget.

**RESOLVED:** That The Blue Plaque Trail Project be deferred.

**RESOLVED:** That The Town Clerk seek quotes for the renewal of the Perspex on the Heritage Trail Boards.

#### **c) Community Noticeboards**

- Cllr D Unwin requested that future quotes be presented excluding VAT for comparison.
- The Mayor queried if the quotes could be presented in one format with the VAT removed.
- The Town Clerk suggested that the quotes could be suitably adjusted and presented to the next committee meeting.
- The Chair proposed that the committee proceed and asked Members which company they would prefer.
- Cllr D Unwin proposed Greenbarnes UK based on the competitive price. The Mayor seconded the choice of Greenbarnes UK be engaged to provide 3 noticeboards.
- The Mayor asked for clarification on whether the boards should be double or single sided and whether they should be the contemporary or decorative style.
- It was noted that the locations of the noticeboards would need to be confirmed before a decision could be made.
- The Town Clerk reminded the committee of a resolution from the Community Engagement and Wellbeing Committee meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2021:  
**RESOLVED:** *That The Town Clerk obtain quotes for notice boards made of metal, which were to be double sided and painted dark green with the Town Crest and gold lettering.*
- Members reviewed the proposed locations for the noticeboards and it was highlighted that the location of the noticeboards would determine whether they could be double or single sided.

- The RFO advised that this should be recorded in the minutes in order to clarify any difference in cost as the original quotes were based on the resolution for double sided noticeboards.
- The Town Clerk shared on screen proposed location photographs.
- Members discussed the location of the noticeboards and agreed to pursue the following locations with BCBC:
  - a. Oldcastle Ward – On Langenau Strasse up against the wall backing on to South Street, level with South Wales Monuments
  - b. Newcastle Ward – On Park Court Road next to bench approaching junction with Angel Street and Glan-Y-Afon level with outdoor Bowls Hall pavilion
  - c. Morfa Ward – Outside the entrance to Pen y Bont School, Minerva Street

It was highlighted that BCBC should be asked to confirm the suitability of the specific locations.

**RESOLVED:** That The Town Clerk seek permission with BCBC Highways and Planning Department for Single sided Community Notice Boards to be installed in the locations agreed.

**RESOLVED:** That BTC engage Greenbarnes UK to provide 3 Community Noticeboards which would be of a Contemporary design and single sided. The colour should be green and gold with ‘Bridgend Town Council’ written in full and no Town Crest.

- It was noted that revised costings would need to be sought for single sided noticeboards but that the costs should be less than the quotes already received.

**d) Finger post signs**

- Cllr D Unwin advised that this is a summer project that could be deferred until next year.

**e) Tree and wildflower planting schemes**

- Cllr T Wood referred Members to the poster which he had circulated and reported that 7 Cherry Trees had been promised through The Sakura Cherry Tree Project to be distributed as follows:
  - Newbridge Fields x 3
  - St Marys School x 2
  - Pen y Bont School x 1
  - New Town Hall x 1
- The Mayor advised that Penybont School had already secured a site.
- After discussion The Chair suggested that the Town Hall Tree be placed in a large tub until renovations were complete.
- The Town Clerk queried if The BCBC Parks Manager should be contacted in relation to Newbridge Fields.
- After discussion Members proposed that Cllr T Wood identify 3 locations within Newbridge Fields and inform the Town Clerk who will liaise with the BCBC Parks Officer.

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Clerk liaise with the BCBC Parks Officer in order to gain permission to plant trees on Newbridge Fields.

- Cllr T Wood confirmed that he would confirm details of delivery and planting.
- The Chair suggested that The Mayor perform the tree planting ceremonies.
- Cllr D Unwin queried if full scale maps had been obtained in order to plot planting schemes. The Town Clerk advised that the digital mapping system had been placed on hold by Full Council. The Mayor proposed that flower planting is deferred until a mapping system is in place.

**RESOLVED:** That The Committee would proceed with The Sakura Cherry Tree Project and that the Wildflower Planting Scheme be deferred awaiting provision of a mapping system.

**6. To consider a budget review to date for Regeneration projects**

- The RFO referred Members to the budget review which had been circulated which also contained a reminder of the 2021/22 budget allocated. The RFO invited questions.
- Cllr D Unwin asked that the budget for the finger post signs project be included.
- Members reviewed and accepted the budget report.

**7. To consider Regeneration projects for 2022-23 and discuss costings required for the budgeting and precept process in November 2021**

- Members reiterated the view of the Committee to progress with projects already agreed prior to proposing any new projects moving forward.
- The RFO asked Members to consider over the coming weeks 2022/23 projects in readiness for discussion at the next meeting of Committee where 2022/23 budgets will be discussed; she asked Members to contact her if they require her to seek quotes/costs for projects to be presented and included in the Regeneration 2022/23 budget request.

**8. To consider a date for the next Regeneration Committee meeting to determine the budgetary requirements for Regeneration projects for 2022-23**

- The Town Clerk advised, having discussed the matter with the RFO and Chair of Finance that it would be more realistic for Council to approve their 2022/23 budgetary requirements at the December meeting of Full Council.
- Members considered a date for the next Regeneration Committee meeting and it was proposed that it be held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

**RESOLVED:** That the next Regeneration Committee Meeting be held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021 at 6.30 pm.

Meeting closed: 8.17pm

Signed .....  
Chair of Regeneration Committee

Date .....