



## **MINUTES OF BRIDGEND TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

Monday 24th May 2021 at 7.35pm conducted remotely via Microsoft Teams for Business under the Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Meetings) (Wales) Regulations 2020

**Councillors Present:** Cllr Steven Bletsoe (Mayor), Cllr A Wathan, Cllr T Wood, Cllr N Burnett, Cllr D Unwin, Cllr I Williams, Cllr F Bletsoe, Cllr C Evans, Cllr C Webster, Cllr S Charles, Cllr M Smidman

**Youth Representatives Present:** Dafydd Rees.

**In Attendance:** Mrs L Edwards (Town Clerk), Mrs D Jones (Deputy Town Clerk & RFO), Miss J Brown (Democratic Services Officer), Mrs R Stone (Facilities Officer), Mrs S Lewis (Community Engagement and Events Officer), Members of the Public.

### **Pre meeting business:**

- The Mayor informed those present that the meeting was a continuation of the Town Council meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021 to discuss items on the original agenda that had not been considered when the meeting closed.
- The Mayor wished Cllr Martin Smidman a warm welcome and thanked him for giving up his time.

### **1. To Receive Apologies for Absence**

- Cllr M Voisey, Cllr S Easterbrook, Cllr M Blundell- Humphreys, Cllr C Woodman, Cllr L Webster, Cllr R Thomas, Cllr A Morelli, Cllr S Baldwin, Youth Representative Megan Howley

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

- Cllr I Williams – Declaration of personal interest – Newbridge Fields

### **3. To receive an update on the Town Hall project regarding:**

#### **a. Status of the Town Hall refurbishment project and architect work**

- The Town Clerk reported that Stage 1 of the refurbishment project was complete, and that the Architect had supplied all necessary drawings in the appropriate technical formats.
- Town Clerk advised that stage 2 of the refurbishment is now progressing.
- Town Clerk referred to two grant funded projects for the community room flooring and new pedestrian access and advised that the flooring project would be directly affected by planned timescales for the wider refurbishment project.
- Members discussed the potential delay and it was agreed to convene a meeting of the working group with the Architect in attendance to consider the matter further.

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Clerk convene a meeting with the Town Hall Working Group and the Architect to consider the timescales of the refurbishment project and the impact on the project for new flooring in the community rooms.

**b. Update regarding request to undertake Pedestrian access project as a permitted development**

*Cllr C Webster declared an interest in this item*

- The Town Clerk advised Councillors that the Pedestrian access project would involve making a new entrance to The Town Hall at the southern end of the site. The new entrance would be approached from Sunnyside Road and that planning had been applied for via 'permitted development'.
- The Town Clerk confirmed that quotes were being sought for the new configuration of railings, gate and archway.

**4. To consider a Town Twinning matter deferred from the April meeting:**

That proposals for the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Town Twinning relationship with Langenau, established on 7th April 1971 be presented for discussion at the May meeting of Council.

- Members discussed proposals which included a wide selection of ideas. The RFO advised that the cost could be credited to the Civic Budget.
- That the proposal put forward by Cllr T Wood of a weather vane be progressed subject to costings provided by Cllr T Wood.

**RESOLVED:** That the proposal put forward by Youth Representative Dafydd Rees - 'To speak with the Head of Bridgend Music Service, Mr Simon Gray, in order to record a short traditional German track that could be sent via social media to celebrate Town Twinning 50th Anniversary' would be a most suitable gift and that Mr Rees would keep the Town Clerk informed on progress.

**5. To consider a motion from Cllr Ian Williams:**

*"To look at the possibility of replacing the badly neglected benches along the river bank in the Southern area Newbridge Fields. This would benefit many people who use Newbridge Fields who need to take a rest while taking exercise".*

- Cllr I Williams further outlined his motion, advising Members that he had been approached by residents who resided in the Southern half of Newbridge fields.
- After a full discussion Cllr I Williams withdrew his motion and Members accepted a proposal from Cllr D Unwin to arrange a site meeting in order to assess damage and prepare a report for Council.

**RESOLVED:** That a site meeting be arranged by Cllrs D Unwin and I Williams and a report prepared and forwarded to the Town Clerk.

**6. Consultations:**

- a. Ewenny Post Office, Ewenny Road CF31 3LE - For further information please visit our Consultation Hub via the link: <https://www.postofficeviews.co.uk/national-consultation-team/ewenny-road-cf31-3le-403198> Consultation closes on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2021
  - This item was noted.
- b. Ministerial Advisory Forum on Ageing (MAFA) - Welsh Government Race Equality Action Plan – consultation. Further information is available at: <https://gov.wales/race-equality-action-plan-anti-racist-wales> Consultation closes on 17 June 2021
  - This item was noted.

## 7. Correspondence:

- a. Webinar invitation - Healthy workplaces and civility in public life - NOTED
- b. BCBC Active Travel Safety Audit and Works Barrier Assessment Report - NOTED
- c. BAVO Funding Bulletin 10 May 2021 - NOTED
- d. Bridgend Athletic RFC Invitation to meet Town Council Youth Representatives
  - *Agreed that Youth Representatives meet with Bridgend Athletic RFC*
- e. One Voice Wales Training Sessions - NOTED
- f. Electoral Reform Newsletter April 2021 - NOTED
- g. Report from South Wales Police regarding password security - NOTED
- h. Email from BCBC re: UKG Community Renewal Fund. Further information is available at <https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/business/funding/uk-community-renewal-fund/> - NOTED
- i. Email from Ageing Well In Wales re: Get Help Stay Safe Leaflet - NOTED
- j. Audit Wales invitation to webinar: Our Town, Your Future – Town Centre Regeneration Event - NOTED
- k. Invitation to Improvement Cymru Webinar: Covid Recovery - enabling key community leadership and partnerships on 19 May 2021 - NOTED
- l. Temporary Traffic Order: Heronstone Lane – NOTED
- m. Email from BCBC regarding street markets in Bridgend
  - The Town clerk noted that the email was circulated prior to the ESAG meeting by Community Engagement and Events Manager to all Councillors asking for comments, Members responded positively to the proposals and there were no objections.
  - Councillors noted that markets had always been encouraged providing the quality was of a high standard and that there was no conflict with existing traders.
  - The Town Clerk read out the report compiled by the Community Engagement and Events Manager who had attended a proposed ESAG meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021. The following points were included:
    - That 9 pilot test events were happening in Wales,
    - The proposed footfall for the street market of 250 people were confirmed as not constituting an event and therefore not breaching current Covid Regs under (COVID Regs (No 5) PART 2 Restrictions on organising events.
    - The Town Centre Manager confirmed that there has been support for the market from traders within the town and the Shopping Centre Managers.
    - ESAG made a number of recommendations and observations for the application and concluded that there would be no objections in principle at this stage and that a full Event Management Plan and Risk Assessment would need to be submitted to ESAG for consideration.
  - Noted – that there was no objection from Members to any of the proposed recommendations and that grant funding should be applied for via the Finance Committee for consideration in the usual way.

*Youth Representative Dafydd Rees left the meeting*

## 8. Town and Community Forum

- a. **To consider items for inclusion on the Town and Community Council Forum agenda**
  - Noted – nothing to add
- b. **To consider feedback from meetings of the Town and Community Council Forum**
  - The Mayor and Cllr D Unwin updated Members verbally, stressing the importance of the Climate Emergency - 2030 Decarbonisation and the need for BTC to make a contribution.
  - Members discussed energy efficiency and reducing paper waste as well suggesting that this topic would fall under the remit of the Facilities Committee.
  - Cllr S Charles advised that he investigate the energy efficiency of both properties and liaise with the Facilities Management.

**c. To identify proposals for inclusion on the TCC Charter Action Plan which would aid the development of the Charter**

- Noted – nothing to add

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

**9. Personnel – IN CONFIDENCE**

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Meeting closed: 7.17pm

Signed .....

Date .....

Mayor