



MINUTES OF REGENERATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Held remotely via Skype for Business on Monday 1st March 2021 at 7pm

Present:	Cllr S Bletsoe (Mayor) Cllr F Bletsoe Cllr S Easterbrook Cllr c Evans	Cllr D Unwin Cllr A Wathan Cllr T Wood
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In attendance: Mrs L Edwards (Town Clerk), Ms J Brown (Democratic Officer)

The Mayor welcomed the committee to the meeting.

1. To receive apologies for absence:

- There were no apologies for absence

2. Declarations of Interest (if any) of Members

- There were no declarations of interest

3. To Elect Chair of Regeneration Committee for March – May 2021

- Cllr F Bletsoe was proposed and seconded as Chair of Regeneration Committee; there being no other nomination, Cllr F Bletsoe was unanimously elected as Chair of Regeneration Committee for February – May 2021.

4. To Elect Deputy Chair of Regeneration Committee for March – May 2021

- Cllr T Wood was proposed and seconded as Deputy Chair of Regeneration Committee; there being no other nomination, Cllr T Wood was unanimously elected as Deputy Chair of Regeneration Committee for February – May 2021.

5. To confirm and Sign Minutes of the Regeneration Meeting held on 9th November 2020

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Regeneration Committee meeting of 9th November 2020 were received and confirmed as a true record and duly signed.

6. To Consider Matters Arising from the Regeneration Meeting held on 1st March 2021

Item 4 – Blue Plaques

- Cllr D Unwin requested an update on the progress of the blue plaques.
- The Town Clerk advised Members that listed building consent had been received in writing for the St Johns Plaque and that as requested by the committee action had been taken to make arrangements for the installation of both the St Johns and the Tudor Market plaques.

- The Town Clerk informed Members that further action had been put on hold in line with the current government tier 4 restrictions and that this precluded the outdoor team from working closely together.
- The Town Clerk also drew Members attention to the outcome of a meeting held between herself, The Mayor and Deputy Mayor in January to discuss work priority and that installation of the blue plaques was not considered a priority at that time.

Item 4 – CF31 Ballot

- Cllr D Unwin advised Members that his research was continuing and that he would present a final report in approximately 4- 6 weeks' time.
- The Chair thanked Cllr D Unwin and Cllr S Easterbrook for their diligent work so far.

Item 14 - To consider a motion from Cllr T Wood regarding tree planting

- Cllr D Unwin advised Councillors that the initial outcome of the application to The Brilliant Basics Fund had been acknowledged in writing as a formal expression of interest.

Item 18 Business Awards Scheme

- It was noted that due to the Covid-19 Tier 4 restrictions it had not been possible to circulate a letter to businesses in lieu of the Business Awards 2020. Cllr D Unwin noted that he had enquired whether a copy of the BTC newsletter could be circulated to all businesses and queried if information about the business awards could be enclosed with the newsletter.

Item 19 - To receive an update on budgets and consider a Regeneration Committee budget request in preparation for the 2021/22 budget/precept meeting

- The Town Clerk informed the committee that an updated budget had been agreed at the December Town Council meeting. The new budget is £14,100 excluding tree planting budget.

7. To discuss Regeneration projects for 2021

a.) The Blue Plaque Scheme

- The Town Clerk advised Members that the committee had previously selected the following recipients:
 - Dilwyn Lewis – Oldcastle Ward
 - Caroline Elizabeth Williams – Newcastle Ward
 - John Thomas – Town Centre (Elder Street)
- Town Clerk advised that the wording for the plaques and locations needs discussion and decisions.
- The Mayor stated that he had underestimated the impact that the wording had on the families of those nominated. Cllr A Wathan agreed and advised that the wording should be considered carefully with the assistance of The Bridgend History Society.
- The Chair proposed that the wording be considered at the next meeting.
- After discussion Cllr D Unwin proposed that Natalie Murphy be contacted by The Town Clerk for her advice on wording and confirmation of correct details. The Town Clerk suggested that as a courtesy it would be appropriate to write to the Chair of The Bridgend History Society and Bridgend Civic Trust.
- The Chair proposed that local historian Louvain Rees also be contacted for her view and that replies would be appreciated by the 15th April.

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk contact The Chair of Bridgend History Society, Bridgend Civic Trust and Ms Louvain Rees in order to finalise correct wording for nominated plaques with replies to be collated by 15th April 2021.

- After discussion The Mayor proposed that the locations and placement of plaques should be discussed after the wording is confirmed.

b). Blue Plaque Trail

- Cllr D Unwin proposed that a Civic Trail be introduced to Bridgend, based on the successful trail at Monmouth which identifies 24 buildings of civic and historic interest in the town. He highlighted that a trail map and information is accessible online as well as in print.
- Cllr D Unwin advised Members that he had undertaken research with Ms Natalie Murphy from the Bridgend History Society and identified up to 70 potential sites of interest in Bridgend.
- Cllr D Unwin proposed that 8-10 sites are identified to start with and the rest added via a yearly rolling programme.
- Cllr D Unwin informed Members that he had researched up to 16 sites as a basis on which to work. These include:
 - The BTC Heritage Walkway
 - The bus station (the first bus station in Wales circa 1923)
 - The original open air market
 - The cattle market and town hall sites
 - Ancient inns
 - The site of the Old Police Station
 - The 1st Cottage Hospital
 - The original Fire Station (with its unique Edward VIII Plaque)
 - Hope Chapel (school workhouse)
 - Charlie Hills, Barber Shop (established in 1891)
 - Carnegie House
- Cllr D Unwin commented that the project is open to suggestions from Members and that he welcomed their comments.
- The Mayor advised the committee that he had been appointed a Governor of Penybont School and that they want to create a similar project.
- Members had no objection to engaging with Penybont School but were conscious that the project would need to make progress.
- The Town Clerk advised that when the Council Chamber is moved, the first floor of Carnegie House will be used as a flexible heritage space and suggested that an exhibition of the proposed locations with historical photographs may be appropriate. Cllr D Unwin thanked the Town Clerk for the suggestion.
- Cllr A Wathan advised caution. He noted that although time is a factor, there is still no road map out of the pandemic. He highlighted that staff have been given a priority to set up the new Town Hall.
- Cllr D Unwin agreed and proposed that the initial stage could be co-ordinated by the committee and then presented through The Town Clerk to Full Council.

RESOLVED: That The Mayor liaise with Penybont School and that The Chair would scan Cllr D Unwin's suggestions and circulate to Councillors for comment/further suggestions. The deadline for replies would be in one month – 1st April 2021.

- Cllr T Wood proposed an additional blue plaque be commissioned as a result of research recently uncovered by the Community Engagement and Events Officer. He explained that communication had been established with a member of the public in America whose Great Grandfather, Mr Michael Davies, wrote to Andrew Carnegie to secure the sum of £2030 to build Carnegie House. He also secured £300 from Lord Dunraven to pay the freehold for the land.
- The Chair agreed that the information met with the criteria and that the suggestion be added to the proposed Blue Plaque List for 2021.

RESOLVED: That a Blue Plaque dedicated to Mr Michael Davies be added to the list for consideration in 2022.

C.) Business Awards

- The Mayor proposed that the awards were delayed until 2022.

d.) Red Telephone Boxes

- The Mayor noted that the budget for this project had been agreed.
- It was noted that previous discussions last year had included approaching the BTC Artist in Residence regarding this project however the contract for the BTC Artist in Residence had now expired and no funding is available for a new contract.
- The Chair proposed that this item be deferred to the next meeting.

RESOLVED: That The Town Clerk place Red Telephone Boxes on the Agenda for the next meeting.

e.) Finger Post Signs

- Cllr D Unwin advised the Committee that once the decision was made regarding the official entrance way in to The Town Hall then that would determine how many signs would be needed.

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk place Finger Post Signs on the Agenda for the next meeting.

f.) Community Notice Boards

- The Town Clerk advised Members that £1,200 had been allocated for all three signs and asked Members to consider the size, style and locations for these noticeboards. The Town Clerk further advised Members that some locations may require planning permission.
- Cllr D Unwin highlight that BTC already have use of a noticeboard in the Cefn Glas area.
- Cllr D Unwin suggested that the notice board near the Cefn Glas shops could be replicated in size and style. The Chair confirmed that she would have a look at this noticeboard and asked Councillors for location suggestions.
- The Mayor suggested one notice board per ward. Cllr D Unwin advised that there were currently four noticeboards in Morfa ward, although they were not well maintained.
- The Town Clerk advised Members that she did not hold keys to the noticeboards in Morfa or Cefn Glas. Cllr D Unwin advised that he was in possession of the keys to the Cefn Glas noticeboard and agreed he would hand them over to the Town Clerk.
- The Mayor volunteered to locate the keys to the Morfa ward noticeboards and arrange for them to be handed to the Town Clerk.
- After discussion Members provisionally agreed the following locations:
 - Oldcastle Ward – near the former Capelli salon, Nolton Street
 - Newcastle Ward – close to the entrance of the Bowls Hall, Angel Street
 - Morfa Ward – near Pen y Bont School, Minerva Street
- Cllr A Wathan highlighted that an additional noticeboard would be required at the Town Hall.

g.) Reverse Vending Machines

- The Chair reported that she had had a positive response to the placement of machines on Valleys 2 Coast sites and queried if money could be taken from other budgets to facilitate more than one machine.
- The Town Clerk confirmed that it is possible to vire funds from other budgets at Council's discretion.
- Cllr T Wood advised that he would investigate The Rhiw as a possible location.

h.) Tree and wildflower planting Working Group

- Cllr D Unwin advised that the initial meeting of the working group had been delayed because of Tier 4 restrictions. Cllr D Unwin proposed that in order to make progress, a list should be compiled of possible sites for autumn planting.
- The Chair volunteered herself along with Cllr T Wood and Cllr D Unwin.
- Cllr T Wood informed the committee of the Japanese Cherry Tree Project and that St Marys School would like to be involved.

8. To consider a motion from Cllr F Bletsoe:

To request that Bridgend Town Council consider undertaking Capital Asset Transfers for existing and/or decommissioned small play park areas from BCBC and consider a budget and schedule to replace equipment across the playgrounds to make them inclusive of disabled children residing in the area.

- The Chair outlined her motion as follows:
- That herself and Cllr I Williams had inspected the parks and found them to be in a shocking state of repair with no provision for disabled facilities.
- The Chair enquired if the Coity Higher Community Councillors present would advise on the best course of action to replicate the success of the new park facilities in Coity.
- Cllr A Wathan advised The Chair that each project had taken a great deal of time and had had the benefit of match funding from the BCBC Town and Community Council Fund as well as sponsorship funding. He added that the feedback from the public had been very positive and the parks were of great benefit to the community.
- Cllr C Evans agreed with Cllr A Wathan and also added that there had been a great deal of correspondence involved. Cllr A Wathan reiterated that funding was of major importance and each play area had cost £30,000.
- Cllr D Unwin noted that he did not recognise the concerns raised and suggested that the current 9 play parks were maintained and inspected fortnightly by BCBC.
- Cllr A Wathan advised that the Coity Community Council Deputy Clerk currently carries out visual inspections fortnightly and that an inspection is carried out annually by a certified company. He added that the Council member of staff had also complete specific training to undertake the inspections.
- The Chair commented that she was shocked that the parks were inspected fortnightly. Cllr T Wood added that the park at Jubilee Crescent was in a dangerous condition.
- Cllr D Unwin suggested that a meeting be held with the BCBC Officer responsible for the play parks on site as soon as possible.

RESOLVED: That The Chair, Cllr T Wood and Cllr D Unwin meet with the appropriate BCBC Officer to discuss the condition of play parks and that Cllr A Wathan is a reserve if one of the other Councillors is not available on the day.

- After a lengthy discussion, Cllr A Wathan proposed that a recommendation is put forward to submit an expression of interest in a Capital Asset Transfer for all nine play park sites for a rolling programme within the BTC area, subject to Full Council approval.

RESOLVED: To make a recommendation to Full Council that an expression of interest for a Capital Asset Transfer of all nine play parks within the Bridgend Town Council area is put forward to full Council for consideration.

9. Bench at Heol Loveluck

To consider a suggestion from Cllr F Bletsoe to relocate the bench at Heol Loveluck due to issues with anti-social behaviour.

- The Chair provided an overview of the situation regarding anti-social behaviour in this location and previous communications regarding this issue.

- Cllr D Unwin reported that the bench was placed at Heol Loveluck 6 years ago, however subsequent development of the area has meant that the bench is now directly in front of houses.
- After discussion Members agreed that moving the bench was the most practical and cost effective solution.
- It was agreed that the bench should be removed and taken to the Town Hall for storage until a suitable location could be found to relocate it.

RESOLVED: That The Town Clerk liaise with the Facilities Manage to arrange for the bench to be safely removed and the ground made good and that assistance is sought from BCBC if specialist equipment is required.

Meeting closed: 8.30 pm

Signed
Chair of Regeneration Committee

Date