



## MINUTES OF THE BRIDGEND TOWN COUNCIL REGENERATION COMMITTEE MEETING

### Meeting Details:

Date: Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Time: 6.30pm

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

Chairperson: Cllr F Bletsoe

Staff: L Edwards (Town Clerk), 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 - PRESENT

Cllr Tim Wood – PRESENT

*The Town Clerk confirmed that all Members of the committee were present in The Chamber.*

### 1. To receive apologies for absence:

- Cllr C Evans

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

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

### 3. To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Regeneration Committee Meeting 4<sup>th</sup> October 2021

**RESOLVED:** The minutes of the Regeneration Committee meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> October 2021 were received and confirmed as a true record and duly signed.

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

- Cllr T Wood requested that the minutes be amended to qty 1 Cherry Tree for St Marys School.
- Cllr S Easterbrook asked the Town Clerk for clarification on the difference between a declaration of prejudicial or personal interest. The Town Clerk explained that a prejudicial interest is used to describe a particular type of conflict of interest involving councillors, while

a personal interest is a matter that affects the well-being or financial position of you, your relatives or your friends .

- Cllr S Easterbrook requested that the minutes be amended to declare a personal interest only. Cllr T Woold also requested that the minutes be amended to declare a personal interest only.
- Cllr D Unwin enquired if there had been any press promotion for the Tudor Plaque Unveiling. The Democratic Services Officer clarified that the event plan had reflected that there was no prepublicity, however a press release was issued to all Council Social media channels by the Community Engagement Team on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February, and that she had circulated a press release to the Glamorgan gazette, Wales online and The Star, (formerly The Gem).
- The Mayor offered his congratulations to staff and the Democratic Services Officer for a great event.
- Cllr D Unwin queried if the installation of the market toilets (in which The Council was a major stakeholder), had been beneficial and if they were now self-supporting or required further support. Cllr T Wood reported that usage had gone up and that no one had mentioned additional support. Cllr T Wood further advised that there were no problems with the locks etc. and that although he had set up a meeting with the company (Genesis), who maintained the digital screens no one had turned up. Cllr D Unwin advised that he send a freedom of information request to ask why BCBC were not dealing with the signage. Cllr A Wathan advised Members that he considered that the installation of the toilets had been a great success and proposed that a press release be issued (social media and print) for the 12-month anniversary of the toilets, crediting the market traders, BCBC, Council and the Community.

**RESOLVED:** That a press release be issued (social media and print) for the 12-month anniversary of the toilets, crediting the market traders, BCBC, Council and the Community.

- Cllr D Unwin queried if any progress had been made on the poor condition (cracked Perspex) of the heritage trail signs. The Town Clerk advised that no progress had been made and that she would liaise with the Facilities Manager now that she had returned from extended leave.

#### **5. To discuss dates for Blue Plaque Unveilings 2022.**

- The Mayor sought permission from The Chair to discuss if the blue plaque trail planned by the Regeneration Committee was in conflict with the presentation given by Arcadis Consulting at the Town Council Meeting of the 28<sup>th</sup> of February 2022 about a proposed BCBC Heritage Trail in Bridgend Town Centre.
- Cllr D Unwin reported that anything discussed with Arcadis Consulting was in partnership with this Town Council in line with full consultation and a clear understanding of agreement with the long-standing plan to instigate a blue plaque trail.
- The Chair advised that Council had a strong interest in the background history of the trail, with planned projects as well as conservation issues and suggested that that Council take the lead on the project rather than BCBC. The Chair further advised that liaison with Arcadis would be beneficial in the development of the heritage centre, and that there was no need to replicate public money.
- Cllr T Wood proposed that a BCBC Officer attend the next Regeneration Committee Meeting.
- Cllr A Wathan advised that Arcadis Consulting was very clear and would be consulting with all Town Councils.
- The Chair advised that she would write a report to Arcadis Consulting and include the following points:
  - a) That Cllr D Unwin has already researched 18 trail locations with background history.
  - b) That nothing links the 4 Towns within the Borough historically.
  - c) That Council would be delighted with any grant aid that could be provided.

- The Chair asked the Democratic Services Officer to provide an update on the status of the Blue Plaque Unveilings for 2022.
- The Democratic Services Officer advised that all 3 plaques were currently in production and informed Members of the current status of each plaque regarding planning permission, research etc. as follows:
  1. That the plaque to honour Monsignor Dilwyn John Lewis (1924 – 2000) Designer – Priest – Benefactor was to be sited on St Mary’s RC Church pending approval by The Conservation Planning Officer. Father McGrath and his team had been extremely helpful and would recommend a suitable guest list. The Democratic Services Officer recommended that this plaque would likely be the first to be unveiled.
  2. That research to site the plaque to honour Caroline Elizabeth Williams (1823 – 1908) Pioneer of higher education for women in Wales, at 12 Newcastle Hill was ongoing with the Electoral Officer at BCBC. The Democratic Services Officer reported that she had also carried out research to trace any relatives or interested parties through the late sister of Caroline Williams. Letters of enquiry had also been forwarded to Cardiff University, The Thoresbury Society of Leeds and the University of South Wales research group.
  3. That further research had been carried out to ensure the accurate depiction of the harp in gold to honour John Thomas, (1826 – 1913), Pencerdd Gwalia, Harpist to Queen Victoria. The Democratic Services Officer circulated photographs of the potential site on Elder Street and asked if members would like her to proceed with a planning application. Councillors were happy to proceed with a planning application. The Democratic Services Officer advised Councillors that this plaque would attract the highest profile in terms of event planning for the unveiling, and had sought the advice of Sioned Williams, Former Principal Harpist, BBC Symphony Orchestra, Honorary Research Fellow RAM and President and Honorary Member, United Kingdom Harp Association. Ms Williams had also volunteered to play at the presentation. The Democratic Services Officer sought permission to advise HM Lord Lieutenant of this plaque and await his instruction reference the unveiling date and Guest list.
- Councillors agreed that Plaques would now be unveiled after May 2022 and asked if The Democratic Services Officer would prepare a report for the next meeting. The Democratic Services Officer thanked Ms Louvain Rees and The Mayor for their assistance.
- 6. To discuss the possible relocation of 2 Red Telephone Boxes**
  - The Democratic Services Officer presented a report on the possible relocation of the 2 red telephone boxes. The Democratic Services Officer circulated photographs of red telephone boxes which had been repurposed and filled with flowers which would make good use of current resources and also provide an uplifting sight when exiting the railway station.
  - The Mayor enquired if there was a budget. Cllr D Unwin advised that the budget could be made available from the floral decoration budget. The Town Clerk advised the committee that no budget had been carried over but there was a floral display budget that could be accessed.
  - Members discussed a planting scheme. Cllr D Unwin proposed that the work should be carried out by a company with horticultural knowledge. Councilors and The Town Clerk recommended that the following persons/companies be contacted:
    - 1) Ewenny Garden Centre
    - 2) B-Leaf - is a work based initiative for adults with disabilities based within Bryngarw Country Park. It operates as nursery and garden centre and provides an extensive training programme in horticulture and grounds maintenance

- 3) Lisa Lewis (Badgers Brook Allotments)
- 4) Bridgend Town Council Allotment Representatives
- 5) Pyle garden Centre

**RESOLVED:** That The Chair would write a brief which would include photographs, as well as asking for advice on a set seasonal planting scheme. The Town Clerk would then obtain quotes.

- Cllr A Wathan suggested that Council move forward and extend the displays. The Mayor fully supported the idea.

**7. To receive an update from the Chair of Regeneration Committee regarding the Reverse Vending Machine Project**

- The Chair reported that she had spoken to the Rhiw Centre Manager, who had advised the process would be challenging, would take time and involve two partners.

**8. To receive an update on the Community Notice board project**

- The Democratic Officer presented the updated quote from Greenbarnes (previously circulated), to reflect that the notice boards be made of metal, double sided and painted dark green with the Town Crest and gold lettering. All notice boards would have posts. The Democratic Services Officer advised Members that she had received a response from the BCBC Highways and Maintenance Officer who had advised the following:

*The railings will be the school's responsibility and hence you will need to speak to education/Property/School about attaching anything to them.*

*The land at Angel Street is not highway, you will need to speak to Property (possibly Parks but it may have been transferred to HALO)*

*The land at south street is highway so permission from us would be required. (that will be subject to layout/stats/spacing etc) Minerva Street not us (see above)*

*C2 searches would have to be conducted by your contractor, but we would want to see them before they start, so the position/layout referred to above is correct*

*Planning would need to be consulted.*

*We do not typically allow signs advertising on the highway, so need to understand what you would mean by this. We would assume no advertising would be present for a notice board.*

*If all of the above is approved, a licence agreement would be required.*

- The Democratic Services Officer advised that she had spoken to the Facilities Manager regarding the employment of a contractor to install the noticeboards which would be via obtaining 3 quotes as set out in financial regulations. Cllr D Unwin advised that BCBC be approached to carry out the installation work.

**RESOLVED:** That The Facilities Manager write to BCBC to enquire whether they would consider, in principle, undertaking this work on behalf of Bridgend Town Council.

- Cllr D Unwin queried if there was a regime in place for populating the notice boards as they would need to be used properly on a regular basis. Cllr D Unwin also reported that two noticeboards were dedicated to Bridgend Town Council last July and that he had written to

BCBC to enquire if the boards could be donated. BCBC agreed in writing. The Chair respectfully asked Cllr D Unwin if he would copy her into the letter. Cllr D Unwin agreed. Cllr D Unwin suggested that a package be put together to regularly maintain the notice boards. The Mayor advised that he had concerns as this would be additional work. Cllr A Wathan agreed that this should be highlighted. Cllr A Wathan than also highlighted that the boards could be maintained by ward members as long as the content wasn't political. The Chair agreed.

- The Town Clerk advised Councillors that she did not have keys to the donated BCBC noticeboards and that the locks would need to be changed which needed a wider discussion. In addition, that material which would need to be produced for the population of the notice boards was not part of the work plans for the Community Events Manager and Facilities Manager at the moment.

**9. To receive an update on the Sakura Cherry Tree Project**

- The Chair advised that the last 3 trees had been planted by Councillors. Cllr T Wood advised that Keith Dunn, OBE, Honorary Consul for Japan in Wales had requested that he make a visit to the project to photograph the trees and present certificates. The Chair queried if the visit would take place before Purdah. Cllr T Wood advised Members that he had emailed the Community Events Manager.

**10. To consider the agreed budget for Regeneration projects for 2022-23 and next steps**

- The Town Clerk informed Councillors that this was a formality as the budget had already been approved at the December Town Council meeting of 2021 and that the minutes of that meeting referred.

**11. To consider item deferred from February Planning Committee meeting: *'Future Planning of Tourism Strategy (Cllr Unwin)'***

- Cllr D Unwin informed Members that Tourism was a matter of importance for promoting the whole area and that in his view Bridgend produced nothing, despite a 40% increase in tourism to the area. Cllr D Unwin further noted to Members that Bridgend should be promoted on a borough wide basis and that the Town Council had neither the funds nor the legality to do this. Cllr D Unwin reported that he had submitted a freedom of information request to BCBC to pursue the matter.
- The Mayor agreed that tourism is a major part of regeneration and as a Town Council proposed that as a committee write to BCBC Cabinet Member concerned and express our dissatisfaction and request a strategy.
- The Chair advised that she would include the points made in her report to Arcadis, and that she would also write to the Chief Executive of BCBC to express the concerns of the Regeneration Committee.

Meeting closed: 7.58 pm

Signed ..... Date.....

Chair of Regeneration Committee