



## MINUTES OF BRIDGEND TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2019 at 7pm at Carnegie House Council Chamber

<b>Present:</b>	Cllr S Baldwin Cllr Freya Bletsoe Cllr Steven Bletsoe Cllr K Boucher Cllr Nicole Burnett Cllr C Evans Cllr Roger Marsh Cllr Angela Morelli	Cllr Rebecca Porter Cllr Robbie Thomas Cllr David Unwin Cllr M Voisey Cllr L Walters Cllr Alan Wathan Cllr C Webster Cllr Tim Wood
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**In Attendance:** Mrs L Edwards (Town Clerk), Mrs D Jones (Deputy Town Clerk/RFO) and Miss J Brown (Democratic Services Officer).

- Town Clerk read a statement regarding the filming or recording at Council Meetings.
- Members of the public indicated their intention to photograph and film the meeting.
- Town Clerk advised that this request would be considered by Council at the start of the meeting.

### 1. To receive apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from: Cllr Paul Warren (Outgoing Mayor).

Absent: Cllr S Charles and Cllr G Sassoon-Hales.

### 2. To receive Members' Declarations of Interest in respect of the business to be transacted:

Declarations of Interest were declared by the following Members and recorded in the register:

- Cllr S Bletsoe – Prejudicial interest Item 7.
- Cllr F Bletsoe – Prejudicial interest Item 7.

### Legal Advice

- Outgoing Deputy Mayor, Cllr A Morelli, allowed the Town Clerk to provide legal advice to Members in respect of the business to be transacted.
- Town Clerk referred to the Public statement and the reason for calling the meeting. She explained that she had sought clarification from specialist solicitors and drew attention to a letter received from the National Association of Local Councils (NALC)
- Town Clerk referred to the resignation of Cllr P Warren and advised that she had received conflicting legal advice from NALC and the BCBC Electoral Office.
- Town Clerk reported that One Voice Wales advised that there is no law in relation to this and that it is a matter of procedure and good governance.

- Town Clerk referred to a letter from One Voice Wales stating that it therefore a decision for Council on how to proceed.

#### **Filming or Recording of the Meeting**

- Outgoing Deputy Mayor, Cllr A Morelli, asked Members if they wished to permit the filming or recording of the meeting.
- Cllr M Voisey proposed that in light of there being no policy on this matter, Members debate this request.
- Town Clerk read the Bridgend Town Council Standing Order relating to the filming or recording of meetings.
- Member proposed that in the absence of a policy, filming or recording is not permitted. This was seconded.
- Outgoing Deputy Mayor asked Members if the taking of still photos should be permitted.
- Members discussed this matter and agreed to allow the taking of still photos.

### **3. Election of Mayor of Bridgend Town for 2019/2020**

- Deputy Mayor called for nominations for Mayor for 2019/20.
  - Cllr A Wathan was nominated for the post; this was seconded.
  - Cllr A Morelli was nominated for the post; this was seconded.
  - There were no other nominations.
- The Outgoing Deputy Mayor called for a vote to be taken to elect a Mayor for 2019/20 by 'Show of Hands'.
- Cllr S Baldwin requested that the vote be recorded; this was seconded.

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Vote in favour of</b>
Cllr S Baldwin	Cllr A Morelli
Cllr Freya Bletsoe	Cllr A Wathan
Cllr Steven Bletsoe	Cllr A Wathan
Cllr K Boucher	Cllr A Morelli
Cllr Nicole Burnett	Cllr A Morelli
Cllr C Evans	Cllr A Wathan
Cllr Roger Marsh	Cllr A Wathan
Cllr Angela Morelli	Cllr A Morelli
Cllr Rebecca Porter	Cllr A Wathan
Cllr Robbie Thomas	Cllr A Morelli
Cllr David Unwin	Cllr A Wathan
Cllr M Voisey	Cllr A Morelli
Cllr L Walters	Cllr A Morelli
Cllr Alan Wathan	Cllr A Wathan
Cllr C Webster	Abstained
Cllr Tim Wood	Cllr A Wathan

- 8 Voted in favour of Cllr A Wathan.
- 7 Voted in favour of Cllr A Morelli.
- There was one abstention.

- Outgoing Mayor, Cllr A Morelli announced that by a vote of the Council, Cllr A Wathan had been elected to the office of Town Mayor for the year 2019/20.
- Cllr A Wathan read and signed the declaration of acceptance of office and the Outgoing Deputy Mayor presented the incoming Mayor with the Chain of Office.
- The Mayor appointed Mrs Marlene Wathan as his Consort for the year.
- The Mayor said “I would like to thank Bridgend Town Council for their trust and I will carry out my duties with impartiality, integrity and honesty”.

#### **4. Election of Deputy Mayor of Bridgend Town for 2019/2020**

- The Mayor called for nominations for Deputy Mayor for 2019/20.
  - Cllr S Bletsoe was nominated for the post; this was seconded.
  - Cllr M Voisey was nominated for the post; this was seconded.
  - There were no other nominations.

The Mayor called for a vote to be taken to elect a Deputy Mayor for 2019/20 by ‘Show of Hands’.

- 8 Voted in favour of Cllr S Bletsoe.
- 8 Voted in favour of Cllr M Voisey.
- The Mayor gave a casting vote in favour of Cllr S Bletsoe.
- The Mayor announced that by a vote of the Council, Cllr S Bletsoe had been elected to the office of Deputy Mayor for the year 2019/20.
- Cllr S Bletsoe read and signed the declaration of acceptance of office and the Mayor presented the incoming Deputy Mayor with the Chain of Office.
- The Deputy Mayor appointed Cllr F Bletsoe as his Consort for the year.

#### **5. To ratify the business (excepting the Election of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor & Members to Committees) held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

- It was moved to accept and ratify the business held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019; this was seconded.
- As Cllr A Wathan was re-elected as Mayor and therefore ex-officio on Town Council committees there were no challenges to the Members appointed to Committees.

#### **6. To ratify the business of the monthly Town Council Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

- Cllr D Unwin highlighted a spelling mistake on page 6 of the minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019.
- Cllr L Walters provided clarification of a minute on Page 7 of the minutes of the Annual Council meeting. She referred to her statement regarding the short term investment of BTC funds.
- It was moved to ratify the business of the monthly Town Council meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019; this was seconded.

#### **7. To ratify the business of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

- Town Clerk gave Members legal advice in respect of the attendance of Cllr A Wathan at the Finance Committee meeting as an ex-officio Member in light of the issue of the election of Mayor.

- Town Clerk explained that One Voice Wales have been informed and have advised that it is up to Council to decide how to proceed.
- Cllr M Voisey asked if the Finance Committee meeting was quorate. Town Clerk advised that the meeting was quorate not counting Cllr A Wathan with the exception of agenda item 5 where a Cllr S Bletsoe left the meeting due to a potential conflict of interest.
- Town Clerk advised that Cllr A Wathan attended the meeting in good faith as the meeting was held before the outcome of the query regarding the election of Mayor was established.
- Town Clerk reiterated that there is no legal guidance on this procedural matter and it is therefore up to Council to decide how to move forward.
- Cllr M Voisey moved that the business of the Finance Committee meeting is not accepted and Members discussed this at length.
- Chair of Finance noted that the invitation to attend the Town Twinning 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event was received in February 2019. He highlighted the urgency for a decision on this matter due to both Villenave d’Ornon and the Town Twinning Association awaiting a decision from the Council in order to progress plans for the visit.
- Cllr L Walters questioned whether the business should be discussed or ratified in the presence of two Cllrs involved in the business of agenda item 5.
- Cllr F Bletsoe and Cllr S Bletsoe declared a prejudicial interest and left the meeting.
- The Mayor called for a vote to be taken to ratify the business of the Finance Committee meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2019 by ‘Show of Hands’.
  - Those in favour of ratifying the minutes in their entirety 5
  - Those not in favour of ratifying the minutes in their entirety 9
- Cllr L Walters proposed that the business of the Finance Committee meeting is ratified excluding decisions made for agenda item 5.
- The Mayor called for a vote to be taken to ratify the business of the Finance Committee meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2019 excluding decisions made for agenda item 5. A vote was held ‘by Show of Hands’.
  - 14 Members voted in favour of ratifying the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting excluding decisions made for agenda item 5 (Unanimous).
- Cllr F Bletsoe and Cllr S Bletsoe returned to the meeting and the Mayor advised them of the outcome of the decision.
- Town Clerk reported that a further Extra-Ordinary Finance Committee meeting will be called as soon as possible to discuss and make a decision in relation to item 5.

**Meeting closed 7.30pm.**

Signed .....  
Mayor

Date .....