



MINUTES OF BRIDGEND TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Monday 20th May 2019 at 7.40pm at Carnegie House Council Chamber

Present:	Cllr Freya Bletsoe Cllr. Steven Bletsoe Cllr. Nicole Burnett Cllr. Angela Morelli Cllr Rebecca Porter Cllr. Roger Marsh	Cllr. Robbie Thomas Cllr. David Unwin Cllr. L Walters Cllr. Alan Wathan Cllr. Tim Wood
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In Attendance: Mrs L Edwards (Town Clerk), Mrs D Jones (Deputy Town Clerk & RFO) & Miss J Brown (Democratic Services Officer).

1. To receive apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from: Cllr. S Baldwin, Cllr. K Boucher, Cllr. S Charles, Cllr. C Evans, Cllr. G Sassoon-Hales, Cllr M Voisey & Cllr C Webster.

Absent: Cllr. Paul Warren

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 N Burnett – Prejudicial interest in Item 7, BCBC Planning Matters.
- Cllr S Bletsoe – Personal interest Item 6 – Town Trader.
- Cllr T Wood - Personal interest Item 6 – Town Trader.
- Cllr A Morelli - Personal interest Item 6 – Member of Civic Trust.

3. To receive questions or comments from Members of the Public (Standing Order 3(e) refers)

Mayor commented that there were two members of the public present with an interest in agenda item 9. He therefore asked Members if item 9 on the agenda could be brought forward for consideration at this point. This was agreed by Members.

9. To consider a proposal from BCBC regarding the Evergreen Hall Lease

- Cllr D Unwin queried whether this item should be discussed in confidence.
- Cllr N Burnett suggested that the item is in the public interest and explained that she would like to read out a statement on behalf of the Evergreen Hall Management Board.
- It was agreed that the statement could be read out, the members of the public would be given an opportunity to speak and that the Council could then exclude the press and public to debate the specific details of the proposal.
- Cllr N Burnett read out a statement on behalf of the Evergreen Hall Management Board.
- A member of the public was invited to speak. She expressed that she felt the offer was 'Hobson's choice' and that Evergreen Hall members do not want to lose the hall. She acknowledged that

membership of the Evergreen Hall is in decline but explained that current members value the facility and would welcome any opportunity to keep it. She also asked how long BCBC would give the members until they close the hall.

- Cllr D Unwin spoke of the history of the original Evergreen Hall on the site of the current Civic Offices and suggested that if consideration must be given to relinquishing the lease it should be for something better from a financial point of view. He added that BTC had given the Evergreen Hall financial assistance for the current financial year therefore the security of the hall should be assured until March 2020.
- Mayor allowed a member of the public to read out a document about the history of the Evergreen Hall.

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.

CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

Cllr R Porter left the meeting

RESOLVED: The public and representatives of the press were permitted to re-join the meeting.

Cllr R Thomas left the meeting

4. To note for information Mayoral Announcements and Engagements:

Mayor's Engagements:

- Saturday 18th May 2019 – Launch of the BTC Heritage Walkway Project

Cllr L Walters highlighted the positive comments received by members of the public at the launch event.

Deputy Mayor's Engagements:

- None

5. Town Clerk's Report

Town Clerk provided a verbal report of the projects and services delivered by Bridgend Town Council from 16th March – 20th May 2019 (for information only).

Town Clerk highlighted that it had been a very busy month preparing reports for the annual audit and for the Annual Meeting of Council. She explained that during the month she had also been liaising with the landlord and solicitors for a new lease on a property in Wyndham Street and that further to additional renovations and the drafting of a new lease agreement, the lease would be ready to sign by the end of the month.

Town Clerk explained that the steel structures and information panels for the Heritage Walkway had been installed during the month. Cllr F Bletsoe noted that the walkway is bi-lingual.

Town Clerk explained that during the month the staff had also dealt with an issue at the Dunraven Allotment site. She explained that building work taking place at the Police Headquarters had resulted in the allotment site being covered with white dust and that an allotment tenant had raised a concern about asbestos. Members were reassured that the site had been closed to the public while asbestos testing had been carried out and that the tests had come back negative. The site was re-opened and a complaint has been logged with the developer.

Town Clerk informed Members about an incident that had occurred at the rear of Carnegie House and noted that the police had been notified and had visited the Council Offices to review CCTV footage.

Town Clerk highlighted that during the coming weeks all staff will be busy preparing for the annual Wartime Bridgend event in June and will be taking forward Council projects such as the Blue Plaque Scheme.

It was also noted that the summer floral displays were being delivered throughout the night of 20th May and thanks was extended to Cllr D Unwin and the BTC Facilities Manager who would be meeting the contractor in the early hours of the morning to oversee the installation.

6. To consider draft minutes of the Regeneration Advisory Committee Meeting of 13th May 2019

- Town Clerk explained that further to the meeting she had received a telephone call from a representative of the St John's House Trust and requested that she provide Members with an update. This was agreed by Members.
- Town Clerk explained that St John's House Trust are not in favour of including the word 'hospice' on the blue plaque. They have advised that they have been in contact with the owners of the building who have given permission to position the plaque on the building however it was noted that the installation of the plaque could be in jeopardy if the wording is not agreed with the St John's House Trust.
- Cllr N Burnett highlighted that many people in Bridgend know the building as the hospice.

- Mayor acknowledged that there are two views regarding the plaque but noted that an agreement must be reached in order for the plaque to go ahead.
- Cllr S Bletsoe suggested that the wording of the plaque is amended to 'St John's' and asked if this suggestion could be put forward to St John's House Trust for their opinion.

RESOLVED: To agree the revised wording for the Blue Plaque scheme but to respond to St John's House Trust with the proposed amended wording for the plaque of 'St John's' and if this is not agreed then to move forward with the wording 'St John's House/Hospice'.

RESOLVED: To agree to delegate authority to the Town Clerk to select a supplier for the provision of blue plaques with a preference for a metal plaque rather than a plaque made from polyurethane.

RESOLVED: To agree that the Town Clerk make enquires to find out if BTC is eligible to apply to the Urban Centre Property Enhancement Fund for a project in Carnegie House.

- Page 3 item 6b – Cllr D Unwin referred to the 'Welcome to Bridgend' signs and explained that they were erected 7 years ago at a cost of £16,000. He added that they do not need to be replaced or any further signs added, but what is there just needs to be cleaned and kept in good order.
- Cllr L Walters referred to the action to include an agenda item for the next Regeneration Committee meeting to discuss the possibility of re-naming a railway bridge and questioned why the Council should consider doing this.
- Members discussed the background to this idea, whether or not it is something the Council should do and the remit of the Regeneration Committee to undertake projects.
- It was agreed that projects undertaken by the Regeneration Committee must be agreed by full Council.

RESOLVED: To agree that the Town Clerk obtain costs for replacement crests for 'Welcome to Bridgend' signs and arrange for the signs to be cleaned and kept in good order.

RESOLVED: That the Council should not undertake a project to rename the railway bridge and that an agenda item should not be included for the next Regeneration Committee meeting.

- Page 4 item 6c – Cllr S Bletsoe highlighted that when BTC take on a lease for another property in Wyndham Street it will be paying the BID levy twice. He advised that the information regarding the re-ballot is likely to be released when the Council is on summer recess and suggested that the Council need to use the invitation to the BID Manager to attend the June meeting wisely.
- Cllr D Unwin spoke about the CF31 Gift Card Scheme and highlighted that further clarification is needed about what would happen to the funds in the scheme if the BID is not successful at the re-ballot.

RESOLVED: Members agreed for the Town Clerk to enquire if a detailed written plan for the future of the BID will be available prior to the July meeting of full Council.

- Page 4 item 7 – Cllr S Bletsoe asked the Town Clerk to provide an overview of the situation.
- Town Clerk explained that BTC had previously agreed to contribute £10,000 for the provision of new toilet facilities in the Indoor Market and that she had been liaising with BCBC to arrange for the money to be transferred to the Market Traders fund held by BCBC and for the funds to be ring fenced specially for this project.
- Town Clerk explained that an email had subsequently been received from BCBC Head of Operations – Community Services, stating that the BID company directors are very interested in taking the lead on delivery of the new toilet facilities and that this email had been passed to the Regeneration Advisory Committee for consideration.

- Cllr S Bletsoe noted that BCBC had held discussions with the BID directors before informing Bridgend Town Council and felt that this had shown a lack of respect for BTC.
- Cllr L Walter highlighted that BTC does not want to own or run toilet facilities in the town and are instead providing a financial contribution. She explained that she does not mind who delivers the project as long as the toilets are installed and suggested that collaboration is needed in order to deliver this project.
- It was noted that the independent trader that had originally proposed the new toilet facility is still keen to progress with the project himself and has progressed with plans for the new facility.
- It was proposed that although the original motion was to give financial assistance to the Market Traders Association via BCBC this could be amended to provide the funds directly to the independent trader with a contract to clawback funds if there are any issues with the project going forward.
- Cllr L Walters enquired whether the Market Traders Association was a constituted body. It was noted that it is not, but if it can become a constituted body, it could take on the delivery of this project.
- It was noted that the Council would still require involvement from BCBC as they hold the lease for the Indoor Market.
- Cllr S Bletsoe explained that the BCBC Senior Commercial Portfolio Surveyor, had sent an email offering Unit 8 within the Indoor Market, rent free for 5 years.
- Members discussed the recommendation from the Regeneration Advisory Committee to reject the proposal from the BCBC Officer to allow CF31 BID to lead on the delivery of the new toilet facility in the Indoor Market and to agree that BTC take ownership of the project and work directly with market traders and the BCBC Senior Portfolio Surveyor to deliver the new toilet facilities.
- Cllr S Bletsoe proposed an amendment to the recommendation for the Regeneration Committee to meet with the market trader, the BCBC Senior Commercial Portfolio Surveyor and any other relevant parties to discuss how to move this project forward. This was agreed by Members.

RESOLVED: That arrangements are made for the Regeneration Committee to meet with the market trader, the BCBC Senior Commercial Portfolio Surveyor and any other relevant parties to discuss how to move the toilet project forward.

Cllr A Morelli left the meeting

7. To consider draft minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting of 15th May 2019

Cllr N Burnett declared a prejudicial interest in Item 7, BCBC Planning Matters and left the Chamber for this item.

- Cllr D Unwin commented on the Heritage Walkway Project. He explained how the project had morphed over time and explained that he felt that the project is now 95% complete. He suggested that there could be some small improvements that could be considered in the future but asked that it be put on record that the project was well worth the effort in the end and congratulated those involved.
- Cllr D Unwin drew Members attention to Page 2 of the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting and spoke about the need for a bye-law for the periphery of the Town Centre Bus Station and associated issues in this area.
- Cllr R Marsh spoke about a recent incident at the Bus Station involving up to 30 youth's fighting in the area and explained that it was intimidating for members of the public.

Cllr N Burnett returned to the Council Chamber and re-joined the meeting.

- Members discussed the issue of homelessness in the area and what can be done to help people and improve the situation.
- Cllr N Burnett advised that there are huge gaps in service provision and that a review is currently underway.
- It was noted that homelessness is a very complex issue and that a multiagency response is needed.
- Cllr S Bletsoe referred to page 4 of the minutes and acknowledged that it was the second time there had been an issue with the War Memorial at these events.

RESOLVED: To receive and note the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 15th May 2019.

8. Finance:

1. To receive a balance of accounts as at 20th May 2019 and payments since last meeting

- Members reviewed the balance of accounts and payments since last meeting.

RESOLVED: Accounts paid, read and approved by Members.

2. To consider draft minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting of 7th May 2019

- Cllr D Unwin highlighted that a significant amount of work had been carried out in relation to the new Town Council lease on a property in Wyndham Street and added that the lease would be ready to sign at the beginning of June and would include a 6 month rent free period.
- Cllr D Unwin highlighted the discussions held regarding financial investments and noted that these are now included in the Investment Strategy.

RESOLVED: To receive and note the minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 7th May 2019

3. To consider draft minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting of 17th May 2019

- Cllr D Unwin provided an overview of the discussions regarding the purchase of a new Town Council van, a motorised trolley for the watering of the summer floral displays and the requirement for additional front of house staff for Carnegie House Arts Centre events.

RESOLVED: To receive and note the minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 17th May 2019.

10. To discuss the opportunity for Bridgend Town Council to write to Bridgend Rugby Chairman, Mr D King, to thank him for his years of unpaid service to the rugby club in our town (Cllr S Bletsoe)

- Cllr S Bletsoe provided an overview of his proposal.
- It was noted that Mr D King has given a great service to the sport of rugby and to the local community.

RESOLVED: To present a Bridgend Town Council plaque to Mr D King in recognition of his service to Bridgend Rugby Club and the local community.

RESOLVED: To overrule Standing Order 3(w) to continue the meeting past 9.30pm

11. To consider a response to an invitation from Villenave d'Ornon for BTC representatives to attend the Town Twinning 25th Anniversary celebrations in France on 5th – 8th September 2019 so that notifications can be sent and travel arrangements can be made.

- Town Clerk explained that the 25th Anniversary is a significant occasion and that it is a Civic Invitation not an informal visit. She highlighted that BTC had previously agreed to accept the invitation in principle, however Villenave d'Ornon have asked for confirmation of who will be attending from Bridgend Town Council. She also advised that travel arrangements need to be made as soon as possible.
- It was noted that all Town Councillor's would be welcome to attend but those other than the official delegation would need to cover their own costs.
- The Mayor agreed that he would speak to his consort and inform the Clerk if he could accept the invitation as soon as possible.

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk is given authority to obtain costs and make the necessary travel arrangements for the Town Twinning 25th Anniversary visit.

12. Reports

Report from the BCBC Town Centre Members meeting - Thursday 16/05/19 (Cllr S Bletsoe)

- Cllr S Bletsoe presented his report to Council. He spoke highly of the new BCBC Town Centre Manager and referred to discussions regarding Bridgend College, Bridgend Railway Station and an update on CF31 BID. He concluded that it had been a productive meeting.

13. Consultations:

- BCBC Consultation re: Play area and grass cutting review and potential increased charges for the use of sports fields and sports. Closing date for responses: 10th July 2019. **NOTED**
Members were encouraged to submit individual responses.

14. Correspondence:

1) Letter from Mr H Lewis re: Older Peoples' needs in Welsh Towns and Cities

- Cllr D Unwin commented that he didn't disagree with the letter and noted that there are certain aspects that BTC are trying to pursue. He suggested that the Town Clerk acknowledge the letter and advise that BTC have taken on board the comments and will pursue any avenues that it can. This was agreed by Members.

2) To consider One Voice Wales Re: Motions for 2019 Annual General Meeting. NOTED

3) Email from One Voice Wales Re: Guidance on Payments to Members of Community and Town Councils

- Town Clerk advised that the document clarifies that payments must be taxed at source and explained that the Council will need to outsource the processing of these payments.
- She also highlighted that Council need to agree how many senior roles it will remunerate.
- It was agreed that this should be included as an agenda item for the next Finance Committee meeting.

4) Email from BCBC re: Sports Wales & Co-op Foundation Funding. NOTED

15. Town and Community Forum.

- Town Clerk advised Members that BCBC had cancelled the last meeting due to lack of agenda items.

a) To consider items for inclusion on the Town and Community Council Forum agenda.

- It was noted that agenda items had been submitted previously and there were no additional items proposed for inclusion on the Town and Community Council Forum agenda.

- b) To consider feedback from meetings of the Town and Community Council Forum.**
 - There was no feedback to report.

- c) To identify proposals for inclusion on the TCC Charter Action Plan which would aid the development of the Charter.**
 - Members did not discuss this item.

Meeting closed 9:45pm.

Signed
Mayor

Date