



**MINUTES OF BRIDGEND TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2019 at 7.00pm at Carnegie House Council Chamber**

<b>Present:</b>	Cllr. A Wathan (Mayor) Cllr. Stuart Baldwin Cllr. Freya Bletsoe Cllr. Steven Bletsoe Cllr. Nicole Burnett Cllr. Stuart Charles	Cllr S Easterbrook Cllr. David Unwin Cllr M Voisey Cllr. Lyn Walters Cllr. Carolyn Webster 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).

**Pre Meeting Business:** 6:30pm - Presentation of a Gideon Bible to The Mayor by The Gideon's Association.

**1. To receive apologies for absence:**

Cllr. K Boucher, Cllr C Evans, Cllr A Morelli, Cllr R Porter, Cllr R Marsh, Cllr G Sassoon-Hales & Cllr R Thomas.

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

- Cllr N Burnett – Prejudicial interest in Item 9, BCBC Planning Matters
- Cllr M Voisey – Prejudicial interest in Item 9, BCBC Planning Matters
- Cllr C Webster - Prejudicial interest in Item 9, BCBC Planning Matters and Item 17 as Board Member of a potential competitor/interested party.
- Cllr D Unwin – Personal Interest in Planning Item 9 as a Governor of Brynteg School

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

- There were no questions from members of the public.

**4. To confirm and Sign Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019.**

**RESOLVED:** The Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019 were confirmed as a true record and were duly signed.

**5. To Consider Matters Arising from the Town Council Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019.**

Page 42: Cllr S Baldwin queried the wording of the minutes. Town Clerk confirmed that her hand written record of the discussion specifies that Cllr Baldwin did make the suggestion detailed in the minutes.

**6. To note for information Mayoral Announcements and Engagements:**

The Mayor thanked all who attended in his Civic Service on Saturday 29th September. The collection raised £250 for the Mayor's Charity, The Friends of Heronsbridge School.

Members were informed that a 'Witches and Wizards' event will take place on Thursday 31st October at Carnegie House from 10am – 12 midday to raise funds for the Mayors Charity.

Mayor's Engagements:

- Sunday 29th September – Mayors Civic Service at Hope Church
- Monday 7th October – Plaque presentation to BTC by The Civic Trust for the refurbishment of Carnegie House
- Friday 11th October – Bridgend Male Choir 59th Annual Concert

Deputy Mayor's Engagements:

- The Mayors Civic Service on 29th September
- Saturday 5th October – The Deputy Mayor officially represented the Mayor at the Barn Dance fundraising event at Heronsbridge School

## **7. Town Clerk's Report**

Town Clerk provided a verbal update on work and matters for Bridgend Town Council between September – October (for information only).

- Town Clerk explained that the role of Facilities Officer had now been filled and that the new officer is settling well into the team.
- Members were advised that two members of staff are still on long term sick leave.
- Town Clerk advised that it had been a busy month preparing for the Mayors Civic Service, co-ordinating BTC Committee meetings to discuss budgetary requirements for the precept setting in November and planning the Remembrance events.
- Members were advised that the Town Clerk had prepared a project plan for Remembrance weekend events and that she was working with the BTC Military Advisor and BTC staff to ensure the events are well planned and executed. It was reported that there had been an issue with obtaining a road closure for the Sunday Remembrance Parade and that the Parade Marshal had still to be confirmed.
- Cllr S Bletsoe reported that the Hot Rod event has been cancelled due to an issue with a road closure. Members discussed this matter.

## **8. To fill vacancies on the Council Committees listed below:**

### **Planning Committee (1)**

- There were no nominations for this vacancy.

## **9. Planning:**

### **1. To consider draft minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

- It was reported that the meeting was not quorate and could not go ahead.
- It was confirmed that the Planning Committee meeting is rescheduled on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2019.
- Permission was granted for Cllr Unwin to attend the Development control meeting reference Brynteg School on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October.

## **10. Finance:**

### **1. To receive a balance of accounts as at 16<sup>th</sup> September 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 note the conclusion of Audit and to approve and accept the Annual return for 2018/19.**

- The Chairman of Finance noted the exemplary result of the annual return and audit and congratulated the Deputy Town Clerk/RFO for her hard work.
- Town Clerk highlighted that this is the first audit that has not had a matters arising report. This was acknowledged and congratulated by Members.
- Deputy Town Clerk/RFO reported that the audit notice had been publically displayed.

**3. To consider draft minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> October 2019.**

**RESOLVED:** To receive and note the minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2019.

**11. Regeneration Committee:**

**1. To consider draft minutes of the Regeneration Committee Meeting of the 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

- Chair of Regeneration Committee reported that the committee had been mindful of staff taking on new projects and assured Council that every action point had created work for Councillors not staff.
- Cllr Baldwin sought clarification on Councillors taking forward actions instead of BTC Officers. The Town Clerk advised Members that most new actions require research and evidence and that it was proper that Councillors could undertake their own research and report back to a committee or Council.
- Cllr Baldwin enquired why it had been proposed to include another category in the Business Awards Scheme for a Community Award for a resident. He highlighted that the Business Awards are not intended for individual residents and there are separate awards schemes in the area for this.
- Members discussed a suggestion to hang art installations on catenary wiring to create vibrant displays and brighten the main streets of the town. It was confirmed that the installations would be very light weight to avoid any health and safety concerns.
- Cllr Baldwin enquired why the possibility of re-naming the railway bridge had been raised again at the committee meeting when full Council had already agreed that this project should not be pursued. Chair of Regeneration Committee noted that it is something that the Regeneration Committee may want to explore again in the future.

**RESOLVED:** To receive and note the minutes of the Regeneration Committee Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019.

**12. Community Engagement and Well-being Committee:**

**1. To consider draft minutes of the Community Engagement & Well-being Committee of 9<sup>th</sup> October 2019.**

- Chair of Community Engagement & Well-being Committee provided an overview of the matters discussed and highlighted the decisions made at the meeting.
- It was reported that Members had discussed concerns regarding lone working, the success and learnings from previous events to inform future event programmes and the possibility of a project to refurbish the war memorial in readiness for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the war memorial in 2021.
- Cllr Webster enquired whether staff that work at Carnegie House during the evening have personal alarms that could be used when leaving the building alone late at night. It was confirmed that staff do not have personal alarms however this should be investigated.

- Cllr Webster noted that the meeting had closed at 10.15pm. Members discussed the length of the meeting and the volume of work that needed to be discussed.
- Mayor suggested that due to the remit of the committee more frequent meetings may be required. He also suggested that the meetings should start at the earlier time of 6pm.

**RESOLVED:** That Community Engagement & Well-being Committee meetings are convened at the earlier time of 6pm and that they are held more frequently in future.

**RESOLVED:** To receive and note the minutes of the Community Engagement & Well-being Committee held on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2019

### **13. Personnel Committee**

**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**

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

**14. To consider a letter from the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales regarding the review of electoral arrangements for the County Borough of Bridgend and the Commission's Final Recommendations Report. The report can be viewed on the Commission's website at [www.ldbc.gov.wales](http://www.ldbc.gov.wales)**

- Cllr Unwin provided an overview of the report and provided extractions of relevant sections for Members perusal. He also reminded Members of previously agreed views of the Council on these matters.
- A lengthy discussion took place regarding the proposals included within the document; Members highlighted differences with the ratio of Cllrs to residents within each ward and spoke of the difference between the numbers of registered voters in comparison to the number of residents within wards. It was noted that residents not registered to vote can have more complex needs and require a range of support from their Councillors.
- Cllr Unwin proposed that he put together a report to reflect member's views.

**RESOLVED:** that Cllr Unwin liaises with the Town Clerk and Cllr Baldwin to formulate a reply.

**15. To consider a Civic invitation for the Mayor of Bridgend Town Council to visit twinned town, Langenau in Germany from 18<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2020**

- After discussion Members agreed that the invitation should be accepted and supported.
- It was highlighted that the invitation is for five nights and Cllr Walters expressed concern that staff should not be pressured to attend. Members discussed whether or not it would be necessary for a member of staff to attend.
- Mayor explained that in his experience the Town Clerk was a great help – not only to himself but to all the parties involved.

**RESOLVED:** That the invitation be accepted and that the Mayor, Mayors Consort attend and that one member of staff is invited to attend on behalf of the Town Council and other Councillors are invited to attend at their own cost.

- Town Clerk was requested to enquire if the group would stay in a hotel or be hosted by a local family.

**16. To consider and discuss the renewal of a lease for Craig Y Parcau Woodland, Newbridge Fields, Bridgend for a period of 25 years.**

- Cllr Unwin explained the past history of the lease and explained that £120,000 had been spent keeping the woodland in good order.
- Cllr Unwin spoke of Bridgend Town Council's ability to seek grant funding for work to the woodland but suggested that no further work would be required in the short term.
- Cllr Unwin supported Bridgend Town Council pursuing the continuation of a lease for Craig Y Parcau Woodland and highlighted that it would be a low cost to the Council.
- Members expressed concern that Craig Y Parcau is situated outside the Bridgend Town Council wards and is within the boundary of Laleston Community Council.
- After discussion members agreed to approach Laleston Community Council regarding the lease for Craig Y Parcau Woodland.

**RESOLVED:** Town Clerk to write to Laleston Community Council to ascertain their views on Craig Y Parcau Woodland.

**17. To receive and discuss a proposal from BCBC regarding the lease of Evergreen Hall or a suitable alternative venue**

**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**

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

## 18: Consultations

### 1. **Bridgend Replacement Local Development Plan Preferred Strategy:**

Pre Deposit Proposals Statutory Public Consultation (30<sup>th</sup> September – 8<sup>th</sup> November 2019). The Pre-Deposit documents are available to view on the Council's website:

<https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/residents/planning-and-building-control/development-planning/replacement-bridgend-local-development-plan-2018-to-2033/replacement-local-development-plan-current-consultations/replacement-local-development-plan-strategy-consultation/>

- Cllr Unwin circulated 23 pages of the report highlighting possible developments. He explained that there will be a public exhibition regarding the strategy to be held at the Civic Offices from 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> November 2019. He highlighted that Members could make individual comments until 8<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

## 19: Correspondence:

1. Email from CF31 Bridgend BID re: Ballot Result
  - Members agreed that the Council should be made aware of the financial outcome of the BID and agreed to await further details.
2. Email from Newbridge Fields and Woodland Regeneration group

**RESOLVED:** That Cllr Webster write to Laleston Community Council about this matter.

3. Email from One Voice Wales re: Invitation from Welsh Government to participate in a survey for Community Asset Transfer Research - **NOTED**
4. Email from Mulligan Community Hub re: Meeting request

**RESOLVED:** That the Council decline the meeting request but that the Town Clerk send a grant application form to the Mulligan Community Hub.

5. Email from Fields in Trust Cymru re: Protecting Community Spaces - **NOTED**
6. Email from One Voice Wales re: September 2019 News Bulletin - **NOTED**
7. Email from BCBC re: Polling districts, places and station review 2019 for Bridgend CBC area - **NOTED**
8. Email from BCBC re: Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 Section 14 (A48 Waterton Roundabout to Ewenny River Bridge) Order 2019- **NOTED**
9. Email from Age Cymru re: 'Supporting Older Veterans in Wales Conference 2019', Thursday 24 October 2019, 09:00 – 15:30, Cardiff City Stadium - **NOTED**
10. Email from Older People's Commissioner for Wales re: State of the Nation report -**NOTED**
11. Email from BCBC re: Temporary Road Closure (Merthyr Mawr Road, Bridgend) Order 2019 - **NOTED**
12. Email from Circular Economy Wales C.I.C.re: Beyond Zero Waste – Building the Truly Circular – Economy- **NOTED**
13. Email from Power for People re: Council motion request re national community energy campaign - **NOTED**
14. Email from One Voice Wales re: VE DAY 75
  - **It was noted that Bridgend Town Council would mark VE Day as part of the Wartime Bridgend event on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2019.**

## 20: Town and Community Forum.

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

**RESOLVED:** Town Clerk was asked to request a schedule of dates for this meeting.

- b) To consider feedback from meetings of the Town and Community Council Forum

- This item was not discussed by Members.
- c) To identify proposals for inclusion on the TCC Charter Action Plan which would aid the development of the Charter
- This item was not discussed by Members.

Meeting closed 9:20pm.

Signed .....  
Mayor

Date .....