

PORTHCAWL TOWN COUNCIL



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 14TH JUNE 2018

PRESENT

COUNCILLORS: N Clarke (Mayor)

M Chegwen	B Lewis	T Hill
M Clarke	S Maitland-Thomas	G Walter
L Desmond-Williams	C Smart	S Aspey
M Emmet-Lewis	L Tallon-Morris	R Leonard-Davies
A Harris	P Winstanley	
B Jones	A Thomas	

CLERK: Mrs A Thomas

33. To receive apologies for absence

No apologies were received.

34. To receive Members' Declarations of Interest in respect of the business to be transacted

Cllr B Jones	Item 4 and 5	Personal, BCBC Member
Cllr M Clarke	Item 12 and 17	Personal, Trustee Credu
Cllr N Clarke	Item 12 and 16	Personal, Trustee Credu

35. To adjourn, if necessary, to take Public Question Time

A number of questions were asked. They will be responded to within the required 10 working days in writing where appropriate.

36. To receive item presentation Cllr Charles Smith, Cabinet Member Regeneration and Mr A Parry-Jones, Regeneration Officer BCBC – Footfall in Porthcawl and Regeneration update

The Mayor welcomed Cllr Dr. Charles Smith and Mr Andrew Parry-Jones to the meeting. The Mayor informed members of the public that there would be a discussion on footfall first, as it was this item that prompted the invitation to

Cllr Smith and Mr Parry-Jones to attend the meeting. This would be followed by an update on regeneration in Porthcawl.

Mr Andrew Parry-Jones noted that there had previously been a number of years where footfall increased, however noted that the last two years the trend had changed and there had been a decline in the footfall. There appears to be no obvious reason for this change.

Members questioned whether any consideration had been given to providing some free car parking to encourage footfall in the town? Although this is not something that Bridgend CBC would rule out, members were informed that there was never previously free parking, and that there is a misconception that free parking would alleviate the decline in footfall in the town.

Cllr Smith referenced other areas in the Borough where free parking had been introduced and outlined the reasons for this introduction. He advised that there is a consultation on proposals to limit parking on the seafront.

Members were advised that the free parking at The Rhiw was largely supported by grant money. Further, Bridgend Improvement District largely subsidises free parking in Bridgend.

Members raised awareness that since the convenience store was built on New Road in Newton, footfall has declined in the town. This decline may be further exacerbated by the moving of the health centre to Newton Nottage Road.

Some Members expressed their concern over the maintenance of parking areas within the town. However, noted that tarmac was often used due to safety reasons.

Members recognised that there are a number of issues relating to footfall and it was suggested that a small group should be set up to address various things. Bridgend CBC representatives indicated that they would be amenable to such a group being set up.

Cllr Smith delivered some information on regeneration in Porthcawl. He advised that a legal complication that had previously hindered progress had now been removed. Bridgend CBC own 100% of Salt Lake Car Park.

Development of Salt Lake is going to be undertaken through a six point plan, subject to the agreed Supplementary Planning Guidance. There is a planned retail development on a smaller scale than previously set out, which will be situated at the top end of Salt Lake Car Park. The Portway roundabout will be retained as the route to the seafront. The current market for such developments is reasonably buoyant. Hillsboro Car Park will be retained, but will be improved.

Planned housing can't be built without coastal protection being improved. The Eastern Promenade will be upgraded as part of this plan.

There is an aspiration for a possible two hotels. Currently the only commercial market is for budget hotels. Bridgend CBC are currently working with Visit Wales, exploring the options for this item.

The Harlequin Building is currently being considered with a view to bringing it back into use and options are being considered how to take this forward.

The Leisure element of the regeneration strategy will be considered as a longer term focus. The current market for leisure development is weak, therefore this item will be better explored at a later stage.

In terms of timescales, it is hoped that work will commence on site at Salt Lake at the end of 2019, with work on the coastal defence being planned for 2020-2021.

With reference to Business Rates within the town, Bridgend representatives advised that this was a Welsh Government responsibility.

Work on the Rest Bay development would hopefully begin in the summer.

Both Cllr Smith and Mr Parry-Jones were thanked for attending.

(The meeting was briefly adjourned due to the disturbance within the room whilst the public left.)

37. To consider item Porthcawl Love It Don't Trash It Campaign – Mr J. Rees, Operations Officer, Bridgend CBC – Mr Rees to present Campaign

The Mayor thanked Mr Rees for attending the meeting. Mr Rees presented the Love It Don't Trash It Campaign to members. It outlined how Mr Rees wished to encourage an approach to a reduction in litter in Porthcawl, through an educational litter programme, and a wider community campaign.

Mr Rees went through what operations are currently carried out. He advised that he would be working with Keep Wales Tidy on the campaign.

It was noted that litter in Porthcawl is criticised a lot, however the success of beach clean up operations etc. were very rarely reported.

Members were asked to support the project and if possible, consider a contribution towards the budget. Members agreed that they were in support of the project, and that a copy of the budget and contribution from the Town Council would be considered on the next appropriate agenda.

38. To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 22nd May 2018

Members noted that apologies were also received from Cllr R Lee.

Resolved: To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 22nd May 2018 as a true and accurate record with above amendment

39. To consider any matters arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 22nd May 2018 (for information purposes only)

Page 3, Minute 22

Members were advised that Awen Cultural Trust had carried out the required fencing work.

Page 4, Minute 30

Members were advised that Porthcawl Rugby Club were planned to be invited to the Full Council meeting in July.

40. To note for information Mayoral Announcements and Engagements

The Mayor went through the Mayoral Engagements.

Members were advised that Mr Roger Hudd had been awarded a B.E.M. on the Queen's Birthday Honours for his services to charity and the arts. Members recognised Mr Hudd's contributions to Porthcawl and agreed that the Town Council should send him a congratulatory letter. Further, Mr John Berry had also been awarded a B.E.M for his services to young people in the UK and abroad. Members agreed that the Town Council should also send Mr Berry a congratulatory letter.

41. To approve item Analysis of Reserves held at 31st March 2018

Members noted that the reserves were discussed when the Precept was set 2018-2019.

Resolved: To approve the reserves as set out
Griffin Park Toilets £35,000
NNR Central Refuge £30,000
Relocation of Offices £16,000
CCTV (remaining) £15,000
Self-Insurance £10,000
Reserves £15,000
New Road (Speed Hump) £45,000

42. To approve item Annual Return for the Year End 31st March 2018

Members were presented with a copy of the Annual Return. It was agreed that the Council had not kept adequate internal controls and that an explanation would be sent to the External Auditor.

Resolved: To approve item Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2018

43. To consider item Community Projects Officer Report

Members were directed to the item concerning grass cutting and asked for the budget for this item to be delegated to the Clerk & RFO. This is for a sum of £15,000.

Resolved: To note the Report with thanks. To delegate the Grass Cutting Budget of £15,000 to the Town Clerk & RFO

44. To consider item Proposal for the Summer Festival Event 2018 prepared by Assistant Town Clerk & Events Officer

Some Members expressed their concern about the proposed outdoor cinema. Members did not see the purpose of this event and thought that the price was disproportionate to the benefit of the event. Further, that there would be little time to advertise the event.

Members were informed that both Barry and Penarth had arranged to have outdoors cinemas and had previously successfully organised such events.

Following discussion

Resolved: To support the outdoor cinema event in Porthcawl

Resolved: To accept the item Summer Event 2018 as outlined

45. To confirm item payable Chairs of Committees (in line with agreed Town Council Protocol)

Resolved: To agree the following committees with payable Chairs:
Planning
Operations
Staffing
Finance & Governance
Promoting Porthcawl

46. To consider item Civic Service/Tea budget – analysis of mandatory guest amount

(Cllr N Clarke and Cllr M Clarke left the room.)

The Clerk outlined that the budget originally set for the event would not cover the costs of the mandatory guest list. Unless altered, the Mayor would be expected to fund this out from her own personal funds, which was not the case in previous years in relation to the mandatory guest list.

Resolved: To increase the budget up to a maximum of £850 for the Civic Service/Tea 2018

(Cllr N Clarke and Cllr M Clarke returned to the room.)

47. To nominate member to sit on the Portway and Porthcawl Medical Centre Supporting Committee

Resolved: To nominate the Mayor, Cllr Norah Clarke to attend the first meeting of the Supporting Committee

48. Clerk's Report

Nothing to report.

Introduction of Standing Order No. 3(d)

In view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted it is advisable in the public interest that the public be temporarily excluded from the meeting.

The meeting concluded at 9.15pm.