

# PORTHCAWL TOWN COUNCIL



## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD (ELECTRONICALLY) ON THURSDAY 10<sup>th</sup> June 2021

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### PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS:

T Hill

M Chegwen  
M Clarke  
N Clarke  
L Desmond-Williams  
M Emmet-Lewis  
A Harris  
B Jones

B Lewis  
S Maitland Thomas  
J Manley  
J Pratt  
R Smith  
L Tallon-Morris

ASSISTANT TOWN CLERK: S Watkins

The Assistant Town Clerk informed Members that Sergeant Allen was unable to attend the Full Council meeting due to experiencing connection issues.

### 32. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies received from:- Cllr R Lee

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

Cllr N Clarke	Items 10 & 11	Member of BCBC, Personal
Cllr B Jones	Items 10 & 11	Member of BCBC, Personal
Cllr M Clarke	Items 10 & 11	Member of BCBC, Personal

### 34. To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Council held on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Cllr S Maitland Thomas advised that he was in attendance at the Full Council meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> May.

**Resolved: To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2021 as a true and accurate record with the above amendment.**

**35. To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

Cllr S Maitland Thomas advised that he was in attendance at the Full Council meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> May.

Page 7 - To insert 'Professional' so that it reads 'For the Clerk to seek a professional and independent opinion'.

**Resolved: To confirm and sign the minutes of the Meeting of Council held 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021 as a true and accurate record with the above amendments.**

**36. To adjourn, if necessary, to take Public Question Time**

There were four members of the public present at the meeting, however, no questions were raised.

**37. To confirm and sign the Minutes of Operations Committee held (electronically) on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

Cllr Brian Jones read through the recommendations from the minutes of the Operations Committee meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> May.

Discussions took place over the procedure of confirming the minutes of committees. Members of the Operations committee agreed with the minutes of the meeting.

Cllr N Clarke asked to be noted that she did not vote on this item.

**Resolved: To approve the Minutes of Operations Committee held (electronically) on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021 as presented.**

**38. To confirm and sign the Minutes of Staffing Committee held (electronically) on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

Cllr M Chegwen read through the recommendations from the minutes of the Staffing committee meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> May.

**Resolved: To approve the Minutes of Staffing Committee held (electronically) on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2021 as presented.**

**39. To confirm and sign the Minutes of Finance & Governance Committee held (electronically) on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

Cllr N Clarke read through the recommendations from the minutes of the Finance & Governance committee meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> May.

**Resolved: To approve the Minutes of Finance & Governance Committee held (electronically) on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2021 as presented.**

**40. To consider item – Griffin Park Public Conveniences:-**  
➤ **Security**

- **Cash Collections**
- **Opening and closing times**
- **Radar Key**

### **Security**

Discussions took place regarding the placing of a CCTV Camera in the vicinity of the Griffin Park public conveniences. Members felt that there was a reasonable enough cause to put CCTV in this area, however, not all Councillors were in agreement.

**Resolved: To monitor the situation but take no action at this stage.**

### **Cash Collections**

A Member advised that by staff collecting the money from the Griffin Park public conveniences that they are being put at risk and that Council should be mindful of this. It was advised that Councillors have also assisted staff with the collections.

It was agreed that the Town Clerk contacts other Town and Community Councils who undertake similar cash collections to establish how they operate this facility in their area as a matter of urgency.

**Resolved: That office staff continue with the temporary arrangement of collecting money from the Griffin Park public conveniences on a Councillor rota basis to support the members of staff while a solution is being found.**

### **Opening and closing times**

Members discussed about reviewing the open/closing times later until 9-10 during the summer months, of which can be changed electronically.

Following discussion:-

**Resolved: To extend the opening/closing times from 8am to 10pm during the summer months for Griffin Park public conveniences and to monitor the times going forward for the winter. To place a notice detailing the summer opening hours on the doors at Griffin Park public conveniences and to also place this information on the Town Council website.**

### **Radar Key**

Members were informed that a radar key system could be put in place at Griffin Park public conveniences if required by Council.

It was suggested for Council to liaise with the public initially and ask for their views on the installation of a radar key facility at Griffin Park toilets, however, concerns were raised that this could cause a delay with the installation of the radar key facility.

The Equalities Act 2010 section 20 subsection 1 & 3 was mentioned in that failure for Council to comply with this act would be a discrimination to disabled people.

Discussion took place surrounding the emergency cord in the toilets as to the length of the cord and also where the signal is sent for any assistance required. A Member advised that there was a fitting outside the toilet block that lights up should the cord be pulled in an emergency situation. It was agreed that this is something that Council need to look into and fully consider.

**Resolved:** Look into having a radar key fitted at Griffin Park public conveniences as a matter of urgency. Cllr J Manley to liaise with the Clerk regarding the pull cord facility to ensure that it complies with the required standards.

**41. For information – E-mail correspondence received from Phillip Angell, Traffic Management and Parking team leader, BCBC – Porthcawl Car Parking Charges**

Members raised concerns that charges are still payable on a Sunday for a seaside town resort.

Cllr B Jones voted against this item.

**Resolved:** To note for information.

**42. To consider item – Bridgend County Borough Council (Prohibition and restriction of waiting and loading and parking places) (Civil enforcement) Order 2013 (Amendment No. 14A) Experimental Order 2021**

**Resolved:** To note the information.

**43. To consider item – Working Party Update (Cllr Tallon-Morris)**

Cllr Tallon-Morris advised Members that it had been previously agreed by Council to support the e-mail correspondence received in relation to the recognition and commemoration of all those who had worked through the pandemic. Members were informed that a mail shot had been placed on social media and that details had been also been placed on our website to inform members of the public of the Town Council's proposed involvement in marking a special day for the community. Cllr Tallon-Morris advised that the Town Clerk had spoken with various organisations in the town and that they were happy to be involved. Members were informed that the Working Party had also agreed for the local schools to be contacted asking children to design a unique flag for Council to place at Griffin Park with a £20 prize being offered to the pupil of the winning poster.

It was advised that the Town Clerk had spoken with BCBC in relation to the placement of the Lockdown Art Project and that a suitable place had been found at Griffin Park. The Clerk had also liaised with a local company with regards to the installation of the art work.

**Resolved:** To note for information.

#### **44. To consider item – BCBC Update (Cllr B Jones)**

The Mayor advised that Cllr M Clarke would now be speaking on this agenda item.

Porthcawl Borough Members recently took part in a BCBC led briefing session to update us on matters relating to Porthcawl.

Items for information:

- 1) Sandy Bay development
- 2) Car parking strategy
- 3) Replacement LDP (Local Development Plan)

##### **1. Sandy Bay Development**

The proposed development strategy for Sandy Bay which includes the Fairground, Monster Park and all land eastwards to Rhych Avenue, by BCBC, is governed by an agreement between BCBC and the principal landowner. Members expressed deep concern that since that agreement and development strategy 13 years have passed by and that Porthcawl and indeed the wider world is in a very different place. Bridgend County Borough Council has recently made a commitment to making real progress in terms of climate change and has actually made a full council declaration of a Climate Emergency. Subsequent Welsh Government policies has addressed Wellbeing of Future Generations, habitat protection, development of open space etc etc.

We have been told that at present there are no formulated plans for ourselves or residents to view or have any input on. We did learn however that a new Welsh Medium Primary School is proposed and will be located just behind Newton Primary School. It was confirmed that the Sandy Bay will not have any provision for touring caravans or camper vans.

BCBC is committed to building a substantial number of new dwellings on Sandy Bay in line with the 'Owners Agreement' which inevitably has a focus on profit as it is a commercially driven development. The converse is true on Salt Lake where there is no such commercial agreement and whilst plans are not available there is a BCBC intention that now that the land is owned by BCBC that whilst the majority of land will be used for a food store and housing the focus will be more on development of a good scheme and not maximised housing for profit.

A significant frustration for us as members and the Town Council is that we, along with Porthcawl residents at large are being excluded from having any meaningful input into the strategic side of Porthcawl Regeneration. It must be a partnership when we are talking about the largest development BCBC has or will ever undertake and vital to Porthcawl future as a tourist seaside town.

BCBC did say that thought was being given to the new build housing not needing to provide off road car parking. This would be a negative and add to Porthcawl's current car parking problems.

## **2. Car Parking Strategy**

Surprisingly we were informed that in fact a Porthcawl strategy for vehicle movement, resident parking and visitor parking has not been carried out. We emphasised that we felt that a formal strategy needs to be produced as a pre-requisite to producing housing and other plans. To build hundreds of new houses, establish a new school whereby a substantial number of pupils will be outside school transport and close Salt Lake Car Park is almost a perfect storm. BCBC has now committed to commission a car parking and vehicle movement strategy.

There was a discussion about some potential for Park and Ride based at Stormy Down close to Cenin Renewables Ltd offering the potential for electric busses at some time in the future. The idea of a Park and Ride solution utilising renewable energy is very attractive however those with experience highlighted the challenge for parents with young families having to use a bus given the amount of 'kit' involved in a family visit to the beach. Other sites may be available which could still utilise renewable energy

## **3. Replacement Local Development Plan (LDP)**

The Local Development Plan will apply regional policies at the local level and inform the general public, statutory authorities, developers and other interested bodies of the policy framework and land use proposals that will guide development decisions within Bridgend County Borough over the coming years.

The replacement LDP is now open for consultation and residents can access the plan on-line through the BCBC website and searching for 'consultations' from there picking out Replacement Local Development Plan.

Whilst the report runs to some 5000 pages there is around 30 pages that refer to Porthcawl specifically. The LDP provides information to builders and landowners showing which land BCBC planners would consider proposals for business or housing development. The proposed sites approved by BCBC are Salt Lake and Sandy Bay however there are other site that have come forward so it is important to view the LDP.

Although details not firmed up it is understood that Planning Aid Wales will assist with a briefing for Porthcawl Town Council which may be able to be viewed only by public.

The LDP is a really important document. It is the point at which residents are provided with information and invited to comment. The land at Salt Lake and Sandy Bay is included.

The five local Borough members have had a formal briefing session with BCBC Officers so if any resident requires further information after viewing the LDP report then they should contact the Councillor for their ward.

Bridge gaps between Borough and PTC. Any resident needing information regarding development plans can contact Borough Members.

Members gave thanks to Cllr Clarke for the informative update.

*Meeting concluded at 8.55pm*