

PORTHCAWL TOWN COUNCIL



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY, 10th OCTOBER 2019
6.45pm at the Stage Door, Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl**

PRESENT

COUNCILLORS: G Walter (Mayor)

M Chegwen	R Lee
M Clarke	B Lewis
N Clarke	S Maitland-Thomas
M Emmet-Lewis	R Smith
A Harris	P Winstanley
T Hill	C Wintle
B Jones	

CLERK: Mrs S Watkins

In Attendance: P Bowen (DSO)

99. To receive apologies for absence.

Cllr R Leonard-Davies	(Personal).
Cllr A Thomas	(Personal).
Cllr L Desmond-Williams	(Personal).
Cllr S Aspey	(Personal).

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

Cllr N Clarke	Agenda Items 3, 11, 12 and 13 – Personal, BCBC Member
Cllr M Clarke	Agenda Items 3, 11, 12 and 13 – Personal, BCBC Member
Cllr B Jones	Agenda Items 3, 11, 12 and 13 – Personal, BCBC Member

101. To consider item presentation, N Bunston, Bridgend CBC – Budget Consultation 2019.

The Mayor welcomed N Bunston and her team to the meeting.

N Bunston provided an overview of previous budgets stating BCBC had made savings of more than £27million over the last four years.

In 2019/20 costs will be almost £270.8 million to provide a full range of public services for 142,000 residents. BCBC's budget is made up of government funding, council tax and business rates. The final settlement from Welsh Government did not reduce the

council's funding as much as had been anticipated but it still leaves a shortfall of £7.6m. To address this shortfall the council will be balancing the budget during 20/21 by making internal efficiencies such as further reductions in staff numbers and renegotiating contracts where possible.

Despite the changes BCBC will have to make a further £35million saving by 2023 which is currently 12.9% of BCBC's net budget.

BCBC are determined to provide high-quality essential services and ensure to continue to look after the most vulnerable among us. To achieve this as effectively as possible and ensure that BCBC can reflect the views of local people as far as BCBC are able to, BCBC need as many residents as possible to support the consultation. Town and Community Councils in Wales have been contacted to engage with residents and seek their views on the consultation. Last year only 2588 surveys were completed (142,000 residents). Increased participation is expected this year with ongoing public events, use of social media, liaising with Citizens Panel and providing posters, cards and other material.

N Bunston stated there are no easy decisions as the budget is not there. BCBC have sold buildings, undergone significant restructuring and changes to the Senior Management Team.

Potential council tax increase 13.6%.

The Mayor asked Members if they had any questions or queries for the team.

Members stated they are getting less but paying more. Members agreed that savings could be made by not refurbishing Waterton Yard and for BCBC to stop paying maintenance costs on car parks they were not charging for.

The Mayor thanked the team for attending the meeting.

102. To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 12th September 2019.

Resolved: To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 12th September 2019 as a true and accurate record.

103. To consider any matters arising from the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 12th September 2019 (for information purposes only).

Agenda Item – 79

Cllr T Hill provided an update on the recommendations of the Revive & Thrive Report:

Cllr Hill informed Members that BCBC are arranging their own stakeholders meeting, Porthcawl Town Council are not invited. Cllr Hill is discussing this item with the Town Clerk.

Agenda Item - 88

To amend the paragraph so that it reads:

Members were reminded of the dangers of the town beach: tidal effects, rip tide etc. Members agreed that the current signage is too small with visitors often rushing to the beach without noticing current signage. *Cllr Desmond-Williams advised that she had raised this item at the recent Coastal Partnership meeting and had been met with the response that the Coastal Partnership believe that the current signage is adequate and do not think there needs to be improved signage.*

Members were informed that the town beach contractor had not yet finished agreed works. Members acknowledged that current signage is not the finished product. Contact will be made with the Highways Department for an update.

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

No questions received.

105. To note for information Mayoral Announcements and Engagements:

Resolved: To note for information only.

106. To note for information Minutes of the Promoting Porthcawl meeting held on 26th September 2019.

Cllr T Hill went through the minutes and recommendations of the meeting.

Cllr Hill stated the quote (£3500.00) for an artificial tree at Trinity Church was incorrect. The cost is £2380 for a real tree.

Cllr Hill explained that the Promoting Porthcawl members agreed to invite David Newton-Williams, Ex-Mayor of Porthcawl to pick a Christmas tree this year for Griffin Park. For Christmas 2020 invite a local resident to pick a Christmas tree with the help of Cllr N Clarke.

107. To consider item Minutes of the Operations Committee Meeting held on 26th September 2019.

Cllr R Lee went through the minutes and recommendations of the meeting.

Item 4 (3a) – Porthcawl Public Toilets

Members agreed a complaints list should be available with an accurate record of complaints/issues so lessons can be learnt and improvements/changes can be made in the future to improve the provision of public toilets at Porthcawl. The PO to compile this record and present to Council.

Resolved: To arrange a Special Meeting of the Operations Committee on 24th October 2019 at 7.15pm.

Resolved: To agree the opening hours as indicated: Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day (10am – 2pm). Porthcawl Town

Council to release statement with toilet opening hours.

Resolved:

The PO to obtain quotes for the continued opening and maintenance of the toilets. The Clerk to acquire new 12 month licence from BCBC. The PO to provide a progress report at next Full Council meeting to include CAT transfer update.

Agenda Item – 4 (3d)

Members were unsure which toilets were reported on, therefore requested to defer this item and recommendation until next Full Council meeting.

The recommendation to defer to next Council meeting:

The Operations Committee to agree a strategy for negotiating financial contribution along with the long term responsibility for the building. The Town Council to proceed to negotiate a licence for another twelve months.

Resolved:

The Operations Committee recommend to Full Council that £42,000.00 is allocated in the 2020/2021 financial year budget and BCBC Highways are informed that the Town Council will pay £80,000.00 this financial year then make a further payment of £42,000.00 early in the 2020/21 financial year on completion of the works.

Agenda Item – 4 (6.0)

Members were provided with an update on public seating and a meeting that took place with BCBC Officers and Guide Dog Cymru. The PO to continue to monitor the installation of remaining benches.

Agenda Item – 5

Members were provided with an update: the tree is owned by Highways.

The PO has carried out an inspection, part of the tree is damaged. It was noted the area is in a conservation area and is the responsibility of BCBC.

108. To approve item amendments to Allotment Tenancy Contract and Guidelines.

Members pointed out that the agreement had 24 Victoria Avenue, Porthcawl as the town council address. This needs to be updated with the new address before issuing to allotment holders.

Resolved:

Approve Allotment Tenancy Contract (£15.00 for half plot - £30.00 for full plot) and Guidelines with the amendment of the new town council office address.

109. To consider item email correspondence R Matthews, Development Planning Manager – Bridgend Replacement Local Development Plan Preferred Strategy.

Some Members have attended consultation events at Jennings Building. Members agreed the events concentrated on the strategic plan rather than individual sites. Members noted that 8333 houses need to be built in Bridgend County Borough and suitable sites are required for such development. Further consultation events are planned.

Members agreed Porthcawl is a popular tourist town, however concerns were raised as tourism was not mentioned in the LDP. Members agreed that Porthcawl Councillors should have been consulted on the LDP as the theme seems to be urbanisation not regeneration.

Members agreed that two Borough Members should sit on the Regeneration Committee at BCBC to represent Porthcawl residents and to be involved in important future decisions concerning Porthcawl.

Resolved: **To note the LDP Preferred Strategy.
Put forward 2 Borough Members on the
Regeneration Committee at BCBC.**

110. To consider item email correspondence – K. Watson, Head of Legal & Regulatory Services, Bridgend CBC – Upgrading of Public footpath to a Public Bridleway and the addition of public bridle way from Newton Church to Candleston Castle and addition of a byway open to all traffic and upgrading of a public footpath to restricted byway between Candleston Castle and Tythegston County Road.

Cllr K Watts provided an update on this item. At a recent PACT meeting, 18 members of the public attended voicing their concerns on the wording 'open to all traffic'. Residents were concerned that the bridleway would be shared with children, dogs, horses and cars which would be dangerous.

Cllr Watts confirmed 'all traffic' is old terminology, old expression of laws at that time. BCBC Legal Department have confirmed that no vehicles will be allowed on this bridleway. Members should be aware the section 'all traffic' relates to section 'H to I' only – which is a short stretch. Members were encouraged to study the plans for clarification.

Resolved: **Porthcawl Town Council to object with
the same objection from last year on the
section 'H to I'.**

111. To consider item email correspondence – Update Review of County Electoral Arrangements for Bridgend – Final Recommendations.

Members acknowledged the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales had completed the final stage of their review of the electoral arrangements for the County Borough of Bridgend and agreed that everything said last year had been included in the final recommendations.

Resolved:

To note for information.

112. To approve item Christmas Office Opening Hours 2019.

Resolved:

To approve Christmas Office Opening Hours 2019.

113. Clerk's Report.

The Assistant Town Clerk informed Members that the Town Clerk should be back at work Monday.

The meeting concluded at 8.20pm