

PORTHCAWL TOWN COUNCIL



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD (ELECTRONICALLY) ON THURSDAY, 11th February 2021

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS:	B Jones (Mayor)	
	M Chegwen	B Lewis
	M Clarke	S Maitland-Thomas
	N Clarke	J Pratt
	L Desmond-Williams	R Smith
	M Emmet-Lewis	L Tallon-Morris
	A Harris	C Wesgate
	T Hill	C Wintle
	R Lee	

TOWN CLERK: Kerry-Leigh Grabham
ASSISTANT TOWN CLERK: Sarah Watkins

204. To receive apologies for absence

None received.

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

Cllr J Pratt	Agenda Item 10	Personal, resident in Birch Walk
Cllr B Jones	Agenda Item 10 & 13	Personal Interest, BCBC Member
Cllr N Clarke	Agenda Item 10 & 13	Personal Interest, BCBC Member
Cllr M Clarke	Agenda Item 10 & 13	Personal Interest, BCBC Member

206. To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 14th January 2020

Page 2 Minute 189 - it was advised that minute 189 is incorrect, and that it should read as follows Cllr B Lewis – Member of Porthcawl Rotary Club, Cllr M Emmet-Lewis – Member of the Inner Wheel.

Resolved: To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 14th January 2020 (with the above amendment) as a true and accurate record.

207. To consider any matters arising from the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 14th January 2020 (for information purposes only).

Page 3, Minute 194 Cllr M Clarke wished to remind all Councillors of the Finance training that can be provided by One Voice Wales.

Page 3 Minute 194 It was discussed that in light of the various allegations circulating on social media and in the press regarding the financial probity of Porthcawl Town Council that the Mayor and Town Clerk be requested to take whatever steps are required to engage the services of an independent auditor, to carry out an in depth audit of the financial and operational activities of Porthcawl Town Council for the years 2019/2020 and 2020/2021'. All members were in agreement.

Page 4, Minute 197 Member requested that when Finance & Governance consider the requirements for DBS checks that they keep in mind that there is only one year left on this Council, and it may be prudent to leave to the start of the next term of the new Council.

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

There were thirteen members of the public present, there were 3 questions submitted prior to the meeting, however only one member of the public spoke during public question time.

1. Following on from Mr Strong's presentation to Council on the 14th January 2021. Mr Strong is keen to keep discussions going. Has forwarded further information – Town Clerk confirmed that she will forward this information to all Members. The Mayor confirmed that he would open discussions with members of BCBC to ascertain possible locations for the All Wheel Park Facility.

209. To determine item – Confirmation of Mayor Elect 2021-2022

Cllr T Hill current Deputy Mayor was proposed and seconded as the Mayor Elect 2021-2022.

Resolved: Cllr T Hill be confirmed as Mayor Elect 2021-2022.

210. To determine chosen candidate either A, B,C or D by vote for the Co-option vacancy of Council – Newton Ward (four applications sent to Councillors via e-mail, with all identifying information removed).

Cllr B Lewis would like it noted that he feels it is 'totally ridiculous' voting in this manner. Cllr B Jones confirmed that the correct process had been followed.

Resolved: To appoint 'Applicant A', Joanne Manley, for the Co-Option Vacancy for the Newton Ward.

211. To consider item – Minutes of the Operations Committee Meeting held (electronically) on Thursday 21st January 2021

Cllr T Hill took over chairing the meeting. Item John Street Public Conveniences. Members discussed the current CAT process and associated costs.

Members requested for the report received from RSC Architect to be circulated to all Members not on the Operations Committee for information.

Resolved:- To accept the minutes of the Operations Committee Meeting held (electronically) on 21st January 2021 as a true and accurate record.

212. To consider item – Minutes of the Finance & Governance Meeting held (electronically) on Thursday 28th January 2021

Cllr R Smith took over as Chair of the meeting.

Item Enhanced Councillor DBS checks. Members were reminded of the previous discussion at the start of the meeting that when the Finance & Governance committee consider the requirements for DBS checks that they keep in mind that there is only one year left on this Council, and it may be prudent to leave to the start of the next term of the new Council. Member advised that costs of DBS Checks are approximately £40.00 per person and the cost would be the responsibility of the Council. Members were reminded that Cllr C Westgate was also voted on to the Taskforce at the previous Finance & Governance meeting.

Discussions took place with regards to the recommendation that the Town Clerk contacts a supplier with regards to a query concerning the work for which the Council has been invoiced for and not carried out.

Members advised that a careful and cautious approach be taken due to the attention that the Council has received in relation to its financial conduct. The Town Clerk should analyse the invoices of work. Members were informed that the payment being discussed does not relate to Credu Charity, and that the correct process for payment of the invoices was duly followed.

Following discussion:-

It was agreed to amend the resolution on agenda item 4 of the Finance & Governance minutes so that it reads: - That the Town Clerk contacts the appropriate supplier on the invoice discussed and report back to the Finance & Governance Committee and Full Council in the main bodies of the agendas.

Resolved: To accept the minutes of the Finance & Governance committee meeting held (electronically) on 28th January 2021 (with the above amendment) as a true and accurate record.

213. To consider email correspondence received from Sara Watkins, Street Naming & Numbering, BCBC – Development at former St John’s School, Newton

Cllr M Clarke advised that he felt it was right to leave the members of the Newton ward to agree on street names.

Cllr Tallon-Morris advised that he had conducted research in to the history of the site and all streets in Danygraig are named after trees. It was also advised that there were three Lords of Manors previously for Porthcawl and suggested that one of their names be chosen as the street name.

Cllr Desmond-Williams suggested that School Street should perhaps be considered to honour the history of the St John’s School previously located on the housing site.

A few street names were suggested by Members. Following discussion:-

Resolved: - That ‘Pembroke Court’ be chosen as the preferred street name for the Development at the former St John’s School, Newton and the Town Clerk to advise BCBC accordingly.

214. To consider email correspondence received from Cllr J Pratt – S106 funding from St John’s Development

Cllr J Pratt informed Council that he has been made aware of £74,000.00 S.106 monies from the St John’s Development. Cllr Pratt wished to explore the option on a gate for Newton Green opposite the Jolly Sailor Public House. It was noted that the previous request for a gate was turned down by the Conservation Officer at BCBC.

Resolved: - That the Town Clerk contacts Gareth Denning at BCBC with regards to obtaining the criteria for accessing S106 monies and report back to Operations Committee.

215. To consider email correspondence received from Cllr S Maitland Thomas – Mooring Stone Sign

Cllr S Maitland Thomas informed Council that a brief survey had been conducted of the Mooring Stone at the Wilderness. It has been suggested that avenues be looked into for the removal of the metal sign off the Mooring Stone.

It was also noted that the Bridge at the Wilderness Lake is in need of repair, and Members were reminded that the bridge falls under the remit of Porthcawl Town Council.

Resolved:- Cllr Maitland Thomas & Cllr Tallon-Morris to further inspect the Bridge and assess for the required repairs to be carried out. The required repairs will then be put out to Tender.

216. To consider email correspondence received from Emily, Traffic & Transport Dept. BCBC – Proposed Traffic Order – Porthcawl Area: Parking Restrictions

Members were supplied with consultation letters and drawing numbers with regards to the parking restrictions in a number of locations in Porthcawl. It was noted that some of the locations proposed by the Council are missing from the plans and this should

be explored further for an explanation. All members agreed that the proposed traffic order has been ongoing for a number of years now and the restrictions were originally proposed by members of the public.

Resolved:- Agreed for the Town Clerk to inform BCBC that the Town Council are happy to proceed with consultation and to seek clarification on the proposed area's that have not been included in the consultation.

217. To consider item – Adoption of (Draft) Habitual or Vexatious Complaints Policy received from One Voice Wales

Cllr B Jones introduced the policy and provided back ground for members on why the policy is needed. Cllr Jones queried with the Town Clerk how many Freedom of Information requests have been received over the last two weeks. The Town Clerk confirmed that there had currently been Four. Cllr Jones explained that the policy is not to prevent such requests from members of the public, but to protect Council staff from receiving vexatious or habitual requests for the same information.

The Town Clerk then explained that members of the public would still be able to request information under this policy. The Freedom of Information Act is a complex act and care and judgement need to be exercised when responding to such requests.

Members queried the six month ban which a member of the public could receive and Cllr R Smith reminded members that the six month ban has been covered in section 2 – section 5 of the policy.

Resolved: - That Council adopts the Habitual or Vexatious Complaints Policy as presented.

218. Clerk's Report

The Town Clerk thanked members for welcoming her in to post.

The Town Clerk informed members that due to the six month disqualification of Cllr A Thomas, that there is now a new co-option vacancy for Newton Ward and informed members that the co-option vacancy for West Central will also be re-advertised.

A discussion took place regarding the six month ruling. It was agreed that the Town Clerk would obtain some legal advice and report back to Full Council.

Meeting closed 9.00pm