

# PORTHCAWL TOWN COUNCIL



## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD (ELECTRONICALLY) ON THURSDAY, 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021

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### 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	

INTERIM CLERK: S Watkins

### **186. Presentation – Mr J Strong – All Wheel Park facility – Pump Track for Porthcawl**

Mr Strong began his presentation by advising that he was keen to get Members' support in relation to the placement of an All Wheel Park facility - pump track at a suitable location in Porthcawl. It was suggested that the pump track could perhaps be integrated with a children's park for families and for the town to utilise. Various sizes of pump tracks ranging from small to large sizes and costs ranging from £40,000-£100,000 were mentioned and Members were informed that examples/sizes of pump tracks can be readily viewed on his personal social media page. Mr Strong advised that he had already liaised with the Parks Department at BCBC in relation to possible sites to place the pump track and some Members gave possible areas that could also be considered. Mr Strong advised that funding would need to be sought initially and that the local quarries could potentially provide the stone for the pump track. Mr Strong asked for Members' support for this project in terms of their knowledge and experience of the area. Cllr M Clarke suggested that he could meet Mr Strong to visit the Rest Bay area and that local Councillors could also look at potential locations in their own wards. Members were in full support of this project and gave thanks to Mr Strong for the presentation.

**187. To receive apologies for absence**

None received.

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

Cllr B Jones	Agenda item 7	Personal Interest, BCBC Member
Cllr N Clarke	Agenda item 7	Personal Interest, BCBC Member
Cllr M Clarke	Agenda item 7	Personal Interest, BCBC Member
Cllr S Maitland-Thomas	Agenda item 15	Personal Interest, Member of Wilderness Committee

**189. To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

Page 2, item 167 - Cllr M Emmet-Lewis advised that the declarations for herself and Cllr B Lewis should read 'Members of the Inner Wheel' and not 'Members of Porthcawl Rotary Club'.

**Resolved: To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020 (with the above amendment) as a true and accurate record.**

**190. To consider any matters arising from the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020 (for information purposes only).**

Page 2, item 168 – An Operations Committee item update for the proposal for gate at the Coastwatch Tower – it was advised that this project is a non-urgent matter which can be progressed by the new Town Clerk and that funding for this project is to be taken from the next financial year.

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

There were six members of the public present, no questions were raised.

**192. To consider correspondence received from Gill Lewis, Interim Chief Officer, BCBC – Precept Request for 2021/22 – Porthcawl Town Council (attached)**

**Resolved: To note correspondence received from Gill Lewis, Interim Head of Finance, BCBC.**

**193. To approve item – Precept for Porthcawl Town Council for 2021/2022 at £436,000 (attached)**

Some Members advised that they had only received a copy of the Precept on the agenda and not had sight of this document previously. It was advised that the leader of the larger groups had been consulted in relation to the draft precept by the Chair of the Finance & Governance committee as required in the Town Council's precept policy. Members were reminded that all Councillors had the opportunity to seek

answers and information prior to this item being discussed at the Full Council meeting.

Following discussion, Members agreed that there was a clear differentiation between the Precept Process Policy and the Finance & Governance Terms of Reference policies which have both been previously approved by Council.

Members were reminded that Council have not had an RFO in place for just over 12 months.

Cllr J Pratt asked to be noted that he abstained from voting on this item as he felt that that the correct consulting procedures had not been followed and not because he does not approve the actual precept amount.

**Resolved: To approve the Precept for Porthcawl Town Council for 2021/2022 at £435,600.**

**194. To approve Annual Accounts for Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 and Analysis of Reserves held at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 (both documents held under separate cover)**

A request was made by a Member to go through the annual accounts line by line. Members were reminded that they have insufficient time to go through accounts in this manner due to the time limit set for meetings. Members were again reminded that they have the opportunity to raise any queries prior to the meetings taking place.

Cllr R Smith provided answers to some queries raised regarding the accounts.

A recorded vote was requested for this agenda item:

**For:** Cllr's T Hill, L Desmond-Williams, B Jones, A Harris, C Wintle, C Wesgate, N Clarke, M Clarke, R Smith, S Maitland-Thomas, M Chegwen

**Against:** Cllr's M Emmet-Lewis, B Lewis

**Abstentions:** Cllr's L Tallon-Morris, J Pratt, R Lee

**Resolved: To approve the Annual Accounts for Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 and Analysis of Reserves held at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020.**

**Resolved: To place a copy of the Annual Accounts for Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 on the next Finance & Governance Committee agenda for Members information.**

**195. To adopt the Porthcawl Town Council 2019-2020 Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (attached)**

Members were informed that the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is a requirement of Town Councils to adopt.

**Resolved:- To adopt the Porthcawl Town Council 2019-2020 Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.**

**196. To consider item – Tourist Information Kiosk, Porthcawl Seafront (Cllr M Clarke)**

**Resolved:- To place the Tourist Information Kiosk, Porthcawl Seafront on a future Promoting Porthcawl Committee to determine how Porthcawl Town Council can support tourism in the town.**

**197. To consider item – Requirement for Councillors to obtain enhanced DBS (Cllr M Clarke)**

Members were reminded that it was agreed at the last meeting of Council to explore the idea of a Youth Council and the enhanced DBS checks was purely a suggestion for Members to consider.

It was advised that DBS checks are private and confidential and that any details would not be shared, it was suggested for our contracted HR to perhaps take this forward. Some Members raised concerns regarding such information being stored in the Council office. A few Councillors advised that they already have a DBS in place.

**Resolved:- To place on a Finance & Governance agenda for further consideration.**

**198. To consider item – Statutory Duties and Responsibilities of Porthcawl Town Council (attached) (Cllr R Smith)**

Members were reminded that the new Town Clerk would be commencing with Porthcawl Town Council imminently and that it was considered prudent to set aside a delegated budget to support the new Town Clerk in relation to being able to seek legal advice if required.

In the last paragraph of the document it was agreed to insert 'or if' so that it reads 'That the Town Clerk/RFO has a delegated budget of £5k to purchase professional advice to support her in her role when 'or if' needed.

It was further agreed that Council should also be informed of any professional advice that is obtained by the Town Clerk/RFO.

**Resolved:** To agree the Statutory Duties and Responsibilities of Porthcawl Town Council as presented.

**199. To note – Porthcawl Town Council AGM 2020 (attached)**

**Resolved:** To note for information.

**200. To consider e-mail correspondence received from Cllr L Tallon-Morris- Council representatives on outside committees (attached)**

This agenda item was not discussed. Cllr L Tallon-Morris advised that following consideration he requests to remove this item from the agenda.

**201. To consider e-mail correspondence received from Cllr L Tallon-Morris –  
Recording of Full Council meetings (attached)**

It was advised by a Member that they felt that on occasions some Council minutes have been incorrect hence the reason for the recording of meetings request on the agenda. Members were reminded that prior to the minutes being placed on the Full Council agenda they are proof read and amended if necessary by the Mayor or the Chairperson of a Committee. Members were again reminded that every Member has an opportunity to flag up any inaccuracies prior to them being approved at the Full Council meeting.

It was advised that should Members agree to the recording of the meetings the Council Standing Orders would need to be amended accordingly.

Some Members raised concerns that it could perhaps be time consuming for the Town Clerk listening and subsequently typing of minutes following each meeting of Council.

Following discussion Members agreed in principle to support the recording of meetings, however, permission would need to be sought from each Member initially.

**Resolved: To agree in principle to the recording of meetings, however, the Finance & Governance committee to explore further. Cllr L Tallon-Morris to be notified of when this item is being discussed.**

**202. Clerk's Report**

Nothing to report.

*Meeting closed 8.52pm*