

PORTHCAWL TOWN COUNCIL



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD (ELECTRONICALLY) ON THURSDAY, 9th JULY 2020

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS: B Jones (Mayor)

S Aspey	S Maitland-Thomas
M Chegwen	J Pratt
M Clarke	R Smith
N Clarke	L Tallon-Morris
M Emmment-Lewis	G Walter
A Harris	P Winstanley
T Hill	C Wintle
B Lewis	

CLERK: Mr S Elder

DEPUTY CLERK: Mrs S Watkins

The Mayor read out a protocol regarding asking the Mayor a question under item 5. It was advised that it is not an opportunity for any speeches to be made under this item and it is only to hear the view of the Council as a whole entity.

32. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies received from Cllr L Desmond-Williams, A Thomas and R Lee

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

Cllr N Clarke	Item 11	Personal Interest
Cllr M Emmment-Lewis	Item 12	Personal Interest
Cllr B Lewis	Item 12	Personal Interest
Cllr S Maitland-Thomas	Item 22	Association with Credu Charity Ltd

34. To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 11th June 2020

Page 2 - Minute Number 25 (2nd bullet point of Ratification Points)

To delete 'additional' and insert 'Notification of fees so that Councillors are informed' so that it reads 'Notification of fees so that Councillors are informed of £700.00 per month (for up to 4 months) for the appointed Architect to cover ongoing support for the Griffin Park Toilets Project.

Page 2 - Minute Number 25 (3rd bullet point of Ratification Points)

To delete 'Director' and insert 'Consultant' so that it reads 'Additional fees of up to £1,000 for the appointed Consultant to cover ongoing support for the Newton Nottage Road Project'.

Page 3 - Minute Number 26

To amend the resolution so that it reads 'Cllr L Tallon-Morris to investigate CCTV and Cllr N Clarke to investigate signage and to update Members at a future Full Council meeting'.

Page 4 – Minute Number 28

To amend the resolution so that it reads 'To agree/put in place timescales for a financial support programme with PML.

Cllr S Maitland-Thomas joined the meeting at 7.07pm.

Resolved: **To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 11th June 2020 (with the above amendments) as a true and accurate record.**

35. To consider any matters arising from the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 11th June 2020 (for information purposes only)

A member requested that the Declarations of Interest forms be sent to each Councillor. The Clerk advised that this would be actioned.

Members were informed that a Sensory Awareness update would be provided at the next Full Council meeting for Members.

A member enquired as to whether some accounting systems have been sought to date. The Clerk advised that due to the vast amount of work currently being undertaken by Staff for the Internal Auditor this has not been progressed as yet, however, it will be actioned as soon as practicable.

36. To adjourn if necessary to take Public Question Time

There were 10 Members of the Public present at the meeting and the following questions were raised:-

- Tara Evans – asked Mayor on view of conflict of interest of Councillors who run Social Media Groups can the Councillors be held responsible for deleting some posts?

The Mayor advised that he would respond to Ms Evans within ten working days.

- Frances Davies – Congratulated Cllr B Jones on becoming Mayor. Advised that racist Twitter comments from a Councillor have been made on Social Media. *The Mayor advised that he is unable to provide an answer to the question currently due to an investigation in progress.*
- *The Mayor read out the following correspondence received from Donna Cundle: Porthcawl Town Council have always endeavoured to be a progressive council. I speak from experience when 20 years ago I was actively encouraged to engage with the Town Council as an employee and Youth Leader for a successful young person's engagement programme. It saddens me today, that with the rise of social media it seems as though our young people are being dissuaded from engaging in social politics and community enrichment by some members of the community on local pages. I think it would be prudent if more councillors, as they're present on such pages, publicly condemned the patronising, belittling and downright offensive comments often made and stood alongside our well informed young people. These young voices deserve to be heard, their views, concerns and comments are as valid as any and they will shape the future of our community. I'd like to ask whether anyone is willing to acknowledge that the young people who organised the recent BLM peaceful protest did so with respect and dignity in spite of a dedicated campaign by some to undermine the objective. We have a wonderful contingent of socially engaged young people willing to listen to all sides of an argument, perhaps it's about time they were not only heard but respected. Thank you.*
The Mayor advised that he would respond to Ms Cundle within ten working days.
- Dan Shearer – Made aware family living in Catholic Church on New Road for the past year asked if the Town Council could offer them any support?
The Mayor advised that the family has been in touch already with him and that he has advised them that housing falls under the remit of BCBC, Valleys to Coast and Social Common Housing Register.
- Carys Evans – Concerns that she is blocked from Facebook groups run by Town Councillors.
The Mayor advised that Council do have a Social media policy in place and that he would respond to Ms Evans within ten working days.
- Dan Tayler – Rumours circulating that Griffin Park toilets are to be demolished and John Street toilets to be demolished.
The Mayor advised that Griffin Park Toilets are being demolished and John Street Toilets are to be refurbished.

37. To consider item Minutes of the Finance and Governance Committee Meeting held on 22nd June 2020

Cllr R Smith read through the minutes and advised of the amendment to the Terms of Reference for the Finance and Governance Committee.

Resolved: To accept the Minutes of the Finance and Governance Committee Meeting held on 22nd June 2020 as presented.

38. To consider item Minutes of the Promoting Porthcawl Committee Meeting held on 23rd June 2020

Cllr Hill read through the minutes.

Resolved: To accept the Minutes of the Promoting Porthcawl Committee Meeting held on 23rd June 2020 as presented.

39. To consider item Minutes of the Operations Committee Meeting held on 25th June 2020

Cllr B Jones read through the minutes.

It was advised that John Street Toilets require some refurbishment, a further deep clean, the placement of hand sanitisers and the installation of signage prior to the toilets being opened at the earliest opportunity.

It was advised that whilst the Griffin Park Toilets are being demolished due to not being fit for purpose the Community Centre Toilets will be made available. Costs were provided by a Member for the daily operation (7 days) of the Community Centre Toilet facilities whilst the John Street/Griffin Park Toilets remain closed.

The Mayor advised that the quotes for the temporary toilets in John Street would be discussed under the confidential section.

Resolved: To accept the Minutes of the Operations Committee Meeting held on 25th June 2020 as presented.

40. To consider item Minutes of the Special Finance and Governance meeting held on 30th June 2020

Cllr R Smith read through the minutes. It was advised that the purpose of the special meeting was to consider a progress report in relation to the Town Council accounts.

Members were informed that the Internal Auditor due to personal circumstances had withdrawn from undertaking the Internal Audit for Porthcawl Town Council for the 2019/20 accounts.

It was discussed that some recompense should be sought from PML Accountants for the works that have not been undertaken as part of the agreed contract.

It was agreed that an additional resolution be placed on the minutes under item 3, and that the resolution should read the following 'Cllr R Smith to draft a letter for PML Accountants on behalf of the Finance & Governance Committee and for Members to have sight of the letter prior to the Clerk forwarding to PML.

Resolved: To accept the Minutes of the Special Finance and Governance meeting held on 30th June 2020 (with the above amendment) as presented.

41. To ratify item Appointment of new Internal Auditor (Mr Lyn Llewellyn) at a cost of £800 due to resignation of current Auditor as agreed by Finance and Governance Commiittee

Resolved: To appoint Mt Lyn Llewellyn as the Internal Auditor for the 19/20 financial year at the agreed cost of £800.00.

42. **To consider Motion: " Porthcawl Town Council to adopt a policy of requiring any organisation who are involved in delivering services to the Council to have an employment policy that ensure that all employees engaged on work directly for Porthcawl Town Council are: paid at or above the Government living wage per hour in force at that time and have access to the government promoted pension scheme. It to be made explicit in all contracts that under no circumstances must council contracted work be carried out by employees on zero hours contracts" (Cllr Mike Clarke)**

It was advised that in view of the size of the agenda for this meeting that this item be withdrawn and presented again at a future meeting of Council for consideration.

43. **To consider item Request to place Black Lives Matter Posters-Banners around the Town and how Porthcawl Town Council can support BLM**

Members were informed that the placing of posters in the town is not in the powers of Porthcawl Town Council and that this falls under the remit of Bridgend County Borough Council. It was also noted that some graffiti had been sighted around the town.

A Member advised that the Town Council has an Equalities Policy and Social Media policy, which have been drawn from One Voice Wales guidance, and both are available to members of the public should they wish to view them. It was agreed that all individuals should be treated fairly and the town should support our young people.

Members were advised that the Elvis Festival had been cancelled at the Grand Pavilion, however, other events associated with the Festival are still continuing to go ahead in the town. Consideration was also given to the confederate flag that usually is flown during the Elvis Festival by the organisers.

It was advised that there is only a Commemorative Bust in Porthcawl which is of Paul Robeson and is positioned in the Grand Pavilion. A Member read through the history of Mr Robeson and advised that historically he had an important link with Porthcawl.

Resolved: That the Equalities Policy be placed on the next Finance & Governance committee meeting for consideration.

Resolved: The Town Council to approach BCBC in relation to discussing the contribution of Paul Robeson to Porthcawl.

Resolved: Councillors to establish a list of where the BLM Group would like to place banners/posters in Porthcawl and Councillors to provide the appropriate guidance to the BLM group.

44. **To consider item Foreign Nationals Residents assistance in Porthcawl (Cllr Norah Clarke)**

It was advised that Foreign Nationals residing in Porthcawl need to prove their residency to get their pension, and since the office closure some forms have been signed by an individual Councillor.

Following discussion:-

Resolved: That the Town Clerk to sign the Foreign Nationals forms at the Town Council during office hours or Town Councillors/Borough Members to sign the forms with no charge being made for the signing of the form. To update the Town Council website accordingly.

45. To consider item CCTV operation Cemetery (Cllr Tallon-Morris)

A Member advised that permissions had been granted for the CCTV to be installed. The CCTV works through WIFI and stored in a cloud, and that Police would have a link to the CCTV footage. A request was made for a budget of up to £1000 to proceed to buy the appropriate CCTV system.

A Member advised that the legalities for the CCTV had been looked into and that the Town Council had met the criteria required.

Members were reminded that a sign could only be placed on the pillars outside of the cemetery gates and in the cemetery noticeboard (when the notice board is operational). The costs of the signage was provided by a Member at £80 + VAT.

Resolved: To agree a budget of up to £1,000 to progress the CCTV camera/signs for Porthcawl Cemetery.

46. To consider item Equality and Diversity Training Package £400 (Cllr Graham Walter)

Following discussion:-

Resolved: For Councillors to attend the Equality and Diversity Training on a voluntary basis with HR or an alternative training supplier at a cost of £400.00 and to advise the Town Clerk accordingly if training attended.

47. To consider item Wilderness signage (Cllr Brian Jones)

Members were informed that some signage for the Wilderness which refers to keeping dogs on leads and feeding the wildlife had been purchased some time ago by the Town Council and are currently being stored.

It was discussed that these signs should now be installed at the Wilderness, however it needs to be ensured that these signs are fully up to date.

It was advised that permissions may have been previously granted by BCBC to install them, however, due to the time lapse agreed that further permissions should be sought initially.

Resolved: The Clerk to contact BCBC to obtain necessary permissions to install signs at the Wilderness.

48. To consider item x4 Picnic Benches at the Jolly Sailor Pub to Aid Social Distancing (Cllr Graham Walter)

It was advised that a request for permission to place 4 x picnic benches on Newton Green had been received from the Jolly Sailor in order for them to adhere to social distancing guidelines. It was advised that the Jolly Sailor is currently closed and this request was for when the Jolly Sailor is opened.

Resolved: To support and permit the Jolly Sailor Public House to place 4 x picnic benches on Newton Green for a temporary basis until the end of October 2020. The Clerk to forward the required Indemnity Form to the Jolly Sailor for completion.

49. To consider item "Porthcawl Town Council is asked to approve resident request to plant and maintain a cherry tree at the junction with Crossfield Avenue to enhance its appearance. Appropriate application and correspondence to BCBC would be required"

Members were informed that BCBC have no objection to the resident request to plant/maintain a cherry tree but can only give a licence to the Town Council. The resident has been advised that the Town Council could submit an application to BCBC on their behalf, however, they would have the ultimate responsibility of planting/looking after the tree following obtaining the necessary permissions.

50. To consider item Referral process to be used by and recorded by the Clerk (Cllr Graham Walter/Clerk)

The Clerk advised that in order to manage the workload of the office it was suggested putting in place a Members referral process form.

Resolved: The Town Clerk to introduce the Members referral process for the Town Council Office.

The meeting concluded at 9.15pm