

# PORTHCAWL TOWN COUNCIL



## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY, 9<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2020 6.45pm at Griffin Park Health & Wellbeing Centre, Porthcawl

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### PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS: G Walter (Mayor)

S Aspey	B Jones
M Clarke	B Lewis
N Clarke	R Smith
L Desmond-Williams	L Tallon-Morris
M Emmet-Lewis	P Winstanley
A Harris	C Wintle
T Hill	

CLERK: Mrs S Watkins

In Attendance: P Bowen (DSO)

### 150. Presentation – John Rees, Operations Officer, Street Scene Section, BCBC – ‘Plastic for Businesses’.

The Mayor welcomed Mr John Rees, Operations Officer, Street Scene Section at BCBC to the meeting.

Mr Rees provided Members with an update on Porthcawl Love It, Don't Trash It scheme: 40% reduction in litter complaints at BCBC, the scheme is being presented to all schools in the borough, Cardiff University, Sea Quest and the International Baccalaureate to develop a package for schools in Greece, professional signage now in place also people's opinions have changed.

Plastic Free Porthcawl will now be known as Porthcawl Reducing its Plastic.

Gum Drop Bins will be installed at various locations in Porthcawl to reduce the amount of chewing gum waste. The chewing gum waste can be recycled into certain products; wellington boots, frisbees etc.

Traders have been contacted by Porthcawl Chamber of Trade and a workshop will go ahead sometime in January 2020. Porthcawl Chamber of Trade are working with retailers to promote usable bags with the logo of the retailer and Porthcawl Reducing its Plastic logo.

Finnegans Fish & Chip Shops are changing some of the plastic they use to bio-degradable products which is a fantastic first step.

Mr Rees concluded that Porthcawl is leading the way with Porthcawl - Love It, Don't Trash It.

The Mayor acknowledged that a 40% reduction in complaints received at BCBC is not only environmentally positive but saving money.

The Mayor and Members thanked Mr Rees for his presentation and update.

**151. To receive apologies for absence.**

Cllr A Thomas (Personal).  
Cllr R Lee (Personal).  
Cllr S Maitland-Thomas (Personal).

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

Cllr M Emment-Lewis Agenda Item 11 – Personal, Member of Porthcawl Chamber of Trade.  
Cllr L Tallon-Morris Agenda Item 11 – Personal, Member of Porthcawl Chamber of Trade.

**153. To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2019.**

**Resolved: To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2019.**

**154. To consider any matters arising from the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2019 (for information purposes only).**

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Members queried the rise of £2.52 per week for a 'D' band property. The resolution should read:

**Resolved: The proposal as an amendment became the substantive motion that the Porthcawl Town Council precept would be set as £441,000, a rise of 4.8% producing a new rate of £54.80 for a 'D' band property, increase of £2.52 per year.**

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(Cllr S Aspey arrived).

Members requested that ESAC should be shown in full also to add to the sentence.

Original sentence:

Members were informed that Porthcawl Chamber of Trade have complained to ESAC.

Should read:

Members were informed that Porthcawl Chamber of Trade have complained to ESAG (Event Safety Advisory Group) regarding another event on the same weekend.

Members requested to change the following sentence:

Original sentence:

Members were informed that pubs do well on carnival day not the shops.

Members requested that it should be:

Comments were made that pubs do well on carnival day not the shops.

Members requested that the following sentence be changed:

Original sentence:

Cllr L Desmond-Williams and Cllr T Hill to offer PTC feedback and ideas to the Chamber of Trade and report back to next Full Council meeting.

Should read:

Cllr L Desmond-Williams and Cllr T Hill to offer PTC feedback and ideas to the Porthcawl Carnival Committee and report back to next appropriate Full Council meeting.

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

No questions received.

**156. To note for information Mayoral Announcements and Engagements:**

**Resolved: To note for information only.**

**157. To consider item – Community Project Officer Report, Porthcawl Public Toilets Cleaning Contract Extension.**

Members were asked to agree that the existing contract with Danfo (UK) Limited is extended by six weeks. Members agreed to extend the contract with Danfo (UK) Limited by six weeks.

Members agreed that the toilets were not always clean but acknowledged that running a cleaning contract from a distance is difficult. The Operations Committee members agreed to bring forward the Operations Committee meeting to Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> January 2020 to address these issues.

**Resolved: To extend the existing contract with Danfo (UK) Limited by six weeks.  
To bring forward Operations Committee Meeting to Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> January 2020.**

**158. To consider item – Minutes of the Blue Plaque Scheme for Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2019.**

Members queried the locations of initial candidate sites and were informed that no decision had been made.

Members noted the Eligibility Criteria (Draft 2):

(b) Without exception, proposals for such commemoration will be not be considered until the subject has been *dead* for twenty years. This is to help ensure that the decision about whether or not erect a Plaque is made with a sufficient degree of hindsight.

Members would prefer if the paragraph (b) read;

(b) Without exception, proposals for such commemoration will be not be considered until the subject has been *deceased* for twenty years. This is to help

ensure that the decision about whether or not erect a Plaque is made with a sufficient degree of hindsight.

**Resolved:** **To note for information only – Minutes of the Blue Plaque Scheme Meeting held on December 19<sup>th</sup> 2019.**

**To change one word of the Eligibility Criteria (Draft 2) to:**

Without exception, proposals for such commemoration will be not be considered until the subject has been *deceased* for twenty years. This is to help ensure that the decision about whether or not erect a Plaque is made with a sufficient degree of hindsight.

**159. To consider item – Report from Porthcawl Shout Forum for Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2019.**

The Mayor advised Members that a more recent Shout Forum had been held – Minutes of that meeting would be available at next Full Council meeting.

**Resolved:** **To note for information only.**

**160. To consider item – Update regarding the Chamber of Trade spend for the Porthcawl Christmas Event (Interim Town Clerk).**

The Interim Town Clerk advised Members that The Chamber of Trade have advised that they are unable to provide the account information for their Christmas Event at the moment as they are still waiting for some invoices to come in. However, once the Chamber has received and checked all the invoices they will advise Porthcawl Town Council of the costings for the Christmas Event 2019.

**161. For information – Update of the three changes made to the Financial Regulations (Interim Town Clerk).**

The Interim Town Clerk advised Members of the three changes made to the Model Financial Regulations 2019:

The three changes on the Model Financial Regulations 2019 for Wales relate to contract regulations and budgeting for legal expenses, and there were no material changes that really affect Porthcawl Town Council as they were relating to contract amounts in excess of one million.

However, the three changes are:

1. Restriction added to the contract regulation which clarifies disapplication of contract regulations to legal professionals limited to those acting in disputes only - not general legal work.
2. An update to limits under the Public Contract Regulations.
3. Minor change was made to Regulation 12 heading which now reads 'Payments under contracts for building or other construction works' and previously was 'Payments under contracts for building or other construction works (public works contracts).

**162. To consider item – Encroachment of land owned by Porthcawl Town Council by residential property located at Ger y Llyn, Porthcawl and maintenance of bridge and public footpath located at the Wilderness (Cllr B Jones) (images attached).**

Cllr B Jones provided Members with five photographs:

Photo 1 – photo of trees cut down at rear of the residential property.

Photo 2 – overgrown area at rear of the residential property.

Photo 3 – public footpath (public right of way) at rear of the residential property with household items (bin, wheelbarrow, plastic container and other items).

Photo 4 – public footpath at rear of the property (by wilderness) – overgrown and branches hanging down.

Photo 5 – bridge at rear of the property – debris on bridge.

Members were concerned that two mature cherry trees have been cut down, an encroachment of land has occurred, health & safety issue at rear of the property with household items left out, overgrown areas and poor state of bridge.

Members were advised a Solicitors letter was sent to the resident in 2014 informing the resident to reinstate the land back to the boundary line (four metres) as the land is owned by Porthcawl Town Council.

Members acknowledged that clarification of current occupant needs to be established before any correspondence is sent.

Members agreed that swift action should be taken.

**Resolved:**

**Establish current occupier of property.**

**Interim Town Clerk to contact Solicitor.**

**Send current occupier of property previous**

**Solicitors letter (2014) with up-to-date Land Registry diagram/map showing boundary line (in red) and boundary encroached with Photos 1 – 5.**

**Reiterate original request to reinstate the land back to boundary line.**

**163. To consider item – Transfer of ownership of BCBC Town Benches to Porthcawl Town Council (Cllr B Jones).**

Members were informed that BCBC are not maintaining benches in Porthcawl.

Members queried the number of benches in Porthcawl. Members were informed there are currently approximately 70 benches, possibly more, in Porthcawl.

Members agreed that some of the benches are in a poor state of repair – not maintained over the last 20 years.

Members were asked to consider transfer of ownership of the benches from BCBC to Porthcawl Town Council.

Members agreed that caution is needed before any decision is made due to costs involved and possible health & safety issues.

**Resolved:**

**Agree in principal to take over a specific number of benches on Porthcawl Seafront. Clarify the actual number of benches with BCBC.**

**164. Clerk's Report.**

- Councillor Resignation – Mr Richard Leonard-Davies.  
The Interim Town Clerk read Mr Leonard-Davies' resignation email which was received on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2019.  
Members acknowledged the hard work of Mr Leonard-Davies and wanted to thank him in the form of a letter.  
Members were informed that an election will be held on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020 for the vacancy in the office of Councillor for the Porthcawl Town Council – Newton Ward.
- Update on Sale of Council Van.  
The Interim Town Clerk advised Members that the cheque for the settlement figure for the council van had been posted. The next step to progress with the sale of the van which will commence as soon as payment confirmation has been received from the finance company.

*The meeting concluded at 7.45pm*