

CAERPHILLY

TOWN

COUNCIL



CYNGOR

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TOWN CLERK:
CLERC-Y-DREF:
Phil Davy

TOWN MAYOR:
MEIR Y DREF:
Councillor
Mike Prew

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CAERPHILLY
TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE TWYN COMMUNITY CENTRE
ON MONDAY 21ST OCTOBER 2019**

Present:

Councillors C Elsbury, S Kent, J Hibbert, J Grenfell, M Prew, H Jackson, S Morgan

Apologies:

Councillors P J Bevan, S Hodder, J Fussell, J Pritchard, R Bidgood

In Attendance:

C Eyles Gwent Police

P G Davy Town Clerk

Urgent Item

The Mayor agreed to include an additional item on the agenda at 10.5 Concessionary Hire of Caerphilly Castle to enable the applicant to confirm arrangements with Cadw.

57 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 16TH SEPTEMBER 2019

Minutes of the Ordinary Town Council Meeting held on 16th September 2019 were received, confirmed, and signed.

58 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

59 COMMUNITY SAFETY MATTERS

Claire Eyles introduced herself as the new officer for the Morgan Jones Ward. She reported on the following:

- There had been further lead thefts from premises in Cardiff Road. CCTV had not been able to identify the culprits.
- There was ongoing liaison concerning homeless people living rough in the town centre.
- There had been a number of incidents of a group of youngsters causing problems at Castle Court, Asda, Gallagher Retail Park. A group had been stopped by the police and their names and addresses had been taken and would be followed up with visits.
- There was a proposal for a “Crackers and Crime” event linking residents from OAP complexes with local secondary schools.
- An inter-generational club was being pursued based at Plas y Felin School.

Members raised the following concerns:

- Spate of broken windows in the town centre.
- Off road bikes racing through the town centre which had become a regular occurrence at weekends.
- Members were receiving numerous complaints about street lights been turned off at night and wondered if there was any evidence of an increase in crime.
- Ongoing issues of speeding on Van Road, St Martins Road, and Llon y Llyn. Members were advised that the speed camera is to be deployed on Pontygwindy Road.
- Person injured by an air rifle discharged at Porset Park.
- Anti-social behaviour at a property in Bron Rhiw Avenue.
- Failure to observe traffic restrictions at junction of Dol y felin and Pontygwindy Road.

60 TOWN MAYOR’S DIARY

The Mayor had attended a Harvest Festival at the Church View OAP complex. This was a well attended community event.

He attended the Mid Glamorgan Area Scout Council AGM held at the Masonic Hall. He commented on the excellent range of activities and personal development opportunities that the scouts offered to young people.

He attended a charity event in memory of Rhian Cotterill.

The Hope Charity had been at the Harvest Festival. The organisation has fitted out a double decker bus as a temporary overnight shelter for homeless. The charity was looking for an opportunity to visit Caerphilly town centre once a week but needed to identify a suitable location to park the bus. The charity will be invited to attend the next Town Council to outline their activities.

61 ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

There had been some incidents of flooding that CCBC were investigating.

There was ongoing correspondence with CCBC concerning the overgrown hedge at Prince’s Avenue.

62 TOWN CLERK'S REPORTS

1 Budget Strategy and Draft Estimates 2020/21

The report outlined budget variances for the current financial year and set out a budget strategy for 2020/21. The assumptions underlying the draft estimates for 2020/21 were explained. It was noted there would be a budget saving of £2970 as there would be no concessionary hires due to refurbishment at the Great Hall, Caerphilly Castle. Members debated the sponsored events that had been listed in the report.

It was resolved:

- 1 To endorse the budget strategy and the underlying assumptions.
- 2 To continue with sponsorship of the events at the same level as the current financial year but subject to recognition of the support provided by the Town Council.
- 3 To confirm there should be no new areas of expenditure.
- 4 A budget report will be presented to the November Town Council when the precept will be agreed for 2020/21.

2 Q2 Budget Monitoring (2019/20 Financial Year)

The Q2 budget monitoring report was noted.

3 Environment (Wales) Act 2016

Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 imposes a new duty that requires public authorities to maintain and enhance biodiversity. The Town Council is required to comply with the duty but as no land or buildings are owned the Council will be limited in the actions it can take. The duty requires the Town Council to publish a plan of the actions it proposes to take and to submit a report to Welsh Government by the end of 2019.

It was resolved:

- 1 To approve the Biodiversity Statement and publish this on the Town Council's website.
- 2 To submit the Biodiversity Statement and covering report to Welsh Government to comply with the new duty.

4 Summer Sports Scheme 2020

The Town Council has sponsored free places over a number of years on the Summer Sports Scheme. Due to limited take up in previous years free places have been offered on the basis of two weeks out of the 6 weeks school holidays for each child. During 2019 58 children were able to access free places for two weeks. Sport Caerphilly has suggested that more children would be able to take up the free places if only a week free placement is offered.

It was resolved:

- 1 To change the arrangements for 2020 on the basis that 20 free places per week for 6 weeks will be available enabling 120 children to access the scheme.
- 2 To increase the capped sponsorship to £5000 in 2020.
- 3 To maintain the current administrative arrangements with the booking process being handled by Caerphilly Leisure Centre.

63 PLANNING MATTERS

The following planning applications were considered and comments made as follows:

19/0751/CLEU – no objections
19/0776/FULL – no objections
19/0782/FULL – no objections
19/0791/FULL – no objections
19/0816/ADV – no objections
19/0838/FULL – no objections

Councillor J Grenfell declared an interest in application 19/0782/FULL and took no part in the discussion or decision making on the application.

64 PAYMENTS AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

- 1 List of payments were noted and approved.
- 2 Bank account balances were noted.
- 3 Applications for financial assistance

Eisteddfod Y Cymoedd / Valleys Eisteddfod

A grant of £400 was approved. Expenditure authorised under the Local Government Act 1972, section 145.

Councillor J Grenfell declared an interest and took no part in the discussion or decision making on this application.

- 4 External Audit Report 2018/19

Annual Return:

Following the satisfactory outcome of the external audit it was resolved to approve and accept the Annual Return.

Issues Arising Report:

The minute reference and date for the approval of the accounting statements and annual governance statement has not been entered onto the form and therefore the annual return has not been fully completed in accordance with requirements. This was an administrative oversight and no further action is required as the information is unlikely to be missed at the next external audit.

5 Concessionary Hire of Caerphilly Castle

The concessionary hire of Caerphilly Castle for the Gateway Church was approved and the Town Council will meet the cost of the hire fee. Note the hirer will be responsible for paying the hire fee direct to Cadw and the fee will be reimbursed by way of retrospective grant after the event.

65 **CORRESPONDENCE**

The letter from the Managing Director Stagecoach in South Wales in respect of Route 25 changes was noted.

66 **MEMBER REQUEST FOR FUTURE REPORTS**

There were no requests.

67 **CONFIDENTIAL ITEM**

It was resolved:

Under the terms of Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 that because publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of this item.

Community Service Award 2019

The nominations that had been received for the Community Service Award were considered and it was agreed that an individual award and a group award would be made for 2019.

Councillors H Jackson and C Elsbury would make the necessary arrangements in consultation with the Mayor.

Cllr M Prew declared an interest and took no part in the in the discussion or decision making on this matter.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm