

CAERPHILLY

TOWN

COUNCIL



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CAERFFILI

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TOWN CLERK:  
CLERC-Y-DREF:

**Phil Davy**

TOWN MAYOR:  
MEIR Y DREF:

**Councillor  
Mike Prew**

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE CAERPHILLY  
TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE TWYN COMMUNITY CENTRE  
ON MONDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2018**

**Present:**

Councillors P J Bevan, C Elsbury, S Kent, J Hibbert, J Grenfell, M Prew, H Jackson, S Morgan, J Fussell, J Pritchard, R Bidgood.

**Apologies:**

Cllr S Hodder

**In Attendance:**

N McLain, J Pursey, I Adams, B Ennis, Gwent Police  
P G Davy, Town Clerk

**66 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2018**

Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> October were received, confirmed, and signed.

**67 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**Minute 58.2 Closure of front desk Caerphilly Police Station**

Superintendent N McLain outlined the financial pressures facing Gwent Police and how resources were being redirected to front line policing which had included an additional 170 front line officers over the last 18 months taking the total establishment of the Gwent force to 1300. The nature of crimes and the focus of investigations had changed.

To ensure value for money and funding is prioritised there had been a review of front office counters across all police stations. The front offices cost £1.2m per annum the equivalent of employing 24 detectives. The footfall was particularly low at Caerphilly. Over the course of a week only 33 people had called at the front desk and of these only 3 were reporting incidents requiring police enquiries. There was

a similar pattern across other stations in Gwent. In order to make savings there would be a number of front office closures, including Caerphilly and other stations would have reduced hours. It was anticipated that the closures would take effect in early 2019. Confirmation received following the meeting that Caerphilly police station front desk will close 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2019. The Caerphilly police station will continue to be periodically staffed by the Neighbourhood Team and when officers are present the public can still call at the police station using an external phone to speak to officers present in the building. The Neighbourhood Team will continue to hold surgeries in different locations and it was requested these should be well publicised.

Members thanked Superintendent McLain for attending and explaining the reasons for the front office station closures.

## **68 COMMUNITY SAFETY MATTERS**

Members raised the following issues:

- Groups of people collecting around NatWest and Sports Direct with reports of drinking and drugs.
- Off road motorbikes on Caerphilly Mountain.
- Social media reports of dog thefts (police had no reported incidents).
- Traffic management issues at St Martins Road (speeding), obstructive parking Bedwas Road, and failure to observe the turning and one way restrictions at Dol y Felin Street.
- Problems from cold callers and scammers targeting vulnerable elderly people.
- Anti-social behaviour including late night activity in Morgan Jones park.

Following discussion it was agreed that the priority for the next six months would be to target the anti social behaviour in the town centre particularly around Sports Direct, NatWest and the Kings Arms.

## **69 TOWN MAYOR'S DIARY**

The Mayor had attended the following:

- Street pastors celebration.
- Caerphilly Art Society exhibition and presenting the winner's prize.
- Dance Unity presentation evening at Virginia Park Golf Club.
- Shining Stars fund raising event at Caerphilly Castle.
- Chaired the Caerphilly Twinning Association AGM.
- St Martins Church commemorative exhibition of WW1.
- Fireworks Display.
- Three Remembrance Day services.

The Mayor recorded his thanks to all colleagues on the Town Council who had helped to organise events and the support provided to the Mayor.

## **70 ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

- 1 There had been a successful litter pick and grubbing out exercise organised through the newly established Caerphilly in Bloom group. The Town Council wished to place on record thanks to the individuals and organisations who attended or supported this action.

- 2 Concerns were raised again about dog waste bins not being emptied and the need for additional bins. Despite making a number of requests and suggesting additional locations no information had been forthcoming from CCBC. In order that the matter can be pursued again Members were requested to provide the Town Clerk with the specific locations where problems were being experienced.
- 3 There is a proliferation of cigarette waste outside the betting shops, Kings Arms, and Clive Street where better facilities are required for the disposal of butts.

## **71 TOWN CLERK'S REPORTS**

### 1 Standing Orders – Duration of Council Meetings

Arising from a number of recent lengthy meetings of the Town Council there had been a request to consider the introduction of a time limit.

It was resolved to amend Standing Orders to include the following which will take effect from the next Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council in January 2019:

- “Town Council meetings will not continue after 9.00pm and any business not dealt with shall stand adjourned to the next Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council”

In the interests of transparency, a further amendment was proposed to Standing Orders to record in the minutes if a Member arrives late or leaves early so it is clear which Members were present when decisions / votes are taken on agenda items.

- “The minutes of Town Council meetings will record in chronological order the time if a Member arrives late or leaves before the end of the meeting, so it is clear which Members are present when decisions/votes are made on agenda items.”

A further proposal was made that the start time of Council meetings should be brought forward to 6.00pm with meetings not continuing past 8.00pm. Any change to the start time for meetings and/or day when meetings are held should be referred to the AGM in May 2019 when the calendar of meetings is agreed for the ensuing Mayoral year.

### 2 Complaints/Representations

The advice of the Town Clerk was noted in respect of complaints, representations, and comments emanating from outside the Town Council area.

It was agreed that the Town Clerk should prepare a Complaints Policy/Procedure for consideration at a future meeting of the Town Council.

### 3 Budget Estimates 2019/20

The budget report was deferred to the January meeting of the Town Council as Members felt there was now additional expenditure to be incorporated that would require an increase in the precept.

#### 4 Fireworks Display 2018

The report confirmed the amount of money raised by the street collection for the Mayor's charities and additional sponsorship money that had been received. It was noted that an Events Working Group will be convened early in 2019 to debrief on the 2018 events and plan ahead for events in 2019.

It was agreed:

- 1 To round up the street collection to £3500 with £1750 being presented to each of the Town Mayor's charities, Noah's Ark and The Autism Directory.
- 2 To make a donation of £500 to Caerffili Lions in recognition of the assistance provided with the street collection.
- 3 To agree the date of Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November for the Fireworks Display in 2019.
- 4 To confirm the reappointment of Pendragon Fireworks and Pyrotechnics to undertake the Fireworks Display in 2019.

#### **72 PLANNING MATTERS**

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

18/0762/NCC – concerns were raised that the variation of the condition was to allow larger vehicles to use the site which will increase the nuisance to adjoining residents.

18/0853/FULL – the design should be in keeping with the character of the area.

18/0873/NOTD – no objections.

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

18/0874/NOTD – no objections

18/0894/FULL – no objections

18/0907/FULL – the site is considered unsuitable for a dwelling and is subject to flooding.

18/0858/FULL – the external alterations should reflect the character of the area.

Cllr J Fussell declared an interest and took no part in the discussion or decision making on any of the applications.

#### **73 PAYMENTS AND FINANCIAL MATTERS**

1 List of payments were noted and approved

2 Bank account balances were noted

3 Applications for Financial Assistance

**1 The Old Library Community Coffee Shop**

The application was deferred to seek clarification on the status of the organisation.

**2 Home Start Caerphilly Borough**

A grant of £150 was approved. Expenditure authorised under Local Government Act 1972, section 137.

**3 St Cenydd Community School**

A grant of £500 was approved. Expenditure is authorised under Local Government Act 1972, section 137.

**4 Caerphilly Art Society**

A grant of £250 was approved. Expenditure is authorised under Local Government Act 1972, section 145. The Mayor declared an interest and took no part in the discussion or decision making on this application.

**5 St Martin's Ward OAP**

A grant of £250 was approved. Expenditure is authorised under Local Government Act 1972, section 137.

**6 Talking Books Wales/Llyfrau Llafar Cymru**

No grant awarded as there are no beneficiaries within the Town Council area. The organisation be advised that if circumstances change a new application can be made in the future.

4 Concessionary Hire of Caerphilly Castle

**1 Caerphilly Fire Station**

Concession granted, and the Town Council will meet the cost of the concessionary hire fee.

Cllr C Elsbury declared an interest and took no part in the discussion or decision making on this request.

**2 Maggie's Cancer Centre**

Concession granted, and the Town Council will meet the cost of the concessionary hire fee.

**74 CORRESPONDENCE**

A letter and report had been received from the Head of Regeneration and Planning on the CCBC Events Review 2018. Due to budget pressures a number of events organised by CCBC are at risk of being discontinued. CCBC was consulting Community and Town Councils on whether further financial support would be forthcoming. Within Caerphilly it was proposed to cease funding the Caerphilly Lantern Parade. Members were sympathetic to the idea of funding this event which in 2017 had cost £5789. This would have to be considered as part of the budget for 2019/20 which had been deferred to the January meeting of the Town Council (minute 71.3). A holding reply would be sent to CCBC.

**75 MEMBERS REQUESTS FOR FUTURE REPORTS**

There were no requests.

The meeting closed at 8.52pm