

CAERPHILLY

TOWN

COUNCIL



CYNGOR

TREF

CAERFFILI

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 21ST JANUARY 2019**

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:

Councillors J Pritchard, S Hodder

In Attendance:

M. Kerswell CPO, Gwent Police
P G Davy, Town Clerk

**76 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 19TH
NOVEMBER 2018**

Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Monday 19th November 2018 were received, confirmed, and signed.

77 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

78 COMMUNITY SAFETY MATTERS

The Police are carrying out stop searches of the individuals congregating adjacent to the Natwest and dispersing the groups. Although a fight had occurred at The Cwtch the Christmas and New Year Period had been relatively quiet with few arrests. There are ongoing anti social behaviour problems at the allotments and Morgan Jones Park. A number of youths have been caught. Additional security measures are being investigated although this is unlikely to include CCTV.

Address: The Twyn Community Centre The Twyn Caerphilly CF83 1JL

Telephone and Fax: Caerphilly 02920 888777

E-mail: towncouncil@tiscali.co.uk

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings 9.30a.m. to 12.30p.m

Members raised the following issues:

- Traffic speeding on St Martins Road and Watford Road.
- Drug dealing at the railway station between 8.00am and 9.30am.
- Cannabis use amongst the groups opposite Sports Direct.
- Activities at Bron Rhiw Avenue.

It was noted that the Police are holding surgeries at the Caerphilly police station on Mondays between 2-4pm and Thursday 6-8pm. They are currently planned to run to June although this may change if there is limited attendance. Members agreed to promote via social media.

79 TOWN MAYOR'S DIARY

The Mayor had attended the following:

- Visits to aged persons complexes with Caerffili Lions.
- Christmas Lights switch on.
- Caerphilly Castle Christmas ice rink.
- Christmas Market.
- Christmas Lantern Parade.

The surplus selection boxes had been donated to Caerphilly Women's Services.

80 ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

- 1 Blocked drains and overflowing dog bins should be reported directly to CCBC for action.
- 2 There had been a successful litter pick on Caerphilly Mountain on 15th January in conjunction with Keep Wales Tidy when 33 bags of litter had been collected. A further litter pick will take place on 6th April.
- 3 The CCBC Town Centre Manager was pursuing additional facilities for the disposal of cigarette butts with the owners of various premises.

81 TOWN CLERK'S REPORTS

1 Complaints Policy and Procedure

The policy applies to complaints about administration, action or lack of action, or about the standard of service. Complaints against Town Councillors are covered by the Code of Conduct. Staff complaints are dealt with through disciplinary and grievance procedures. It was agreed to amend the procedure such that complaints would be acknowledged within 5 working days and a response provided within 28 days. This is to recognise that the office is only staffed on a part time basis.

It was resolved to approve the Complaints Policy and Procedure and place this on the Town Council website, subject to the procedure amendments.

2 Section 137 Expenditure Limit for 2019-20

It was noted that the maximum expenditure that can be incurred under section 137(1) and (3) for the financial year 2019-20 will be £8-12 per elector.

3 Q3 Budget Monitoring (2018-19 Financial Year)

The Q3 expenditure against annual estimate was noted.

4 Budget Estimates 2019-20

A report was presented to the October 2018 meeting of the Town Council on the budget strategy and draft estimates for 2019-20. Due to changing circumstances the budget assumptions have been revised as follows:

- Expenditure will be managed against the projected income and as far as practical not to call on reserves to balance revenue expenditure.
- Events / activities supported will be the same as in 2018-19 but with the addition of funding for the Caerphilly Lantern Parade
- Provision will be made for mandatory Members allowances and processing costs (excluding any carers costs)
- Separate budget line for concessionary hires of Caerphilly Castle
- Sponsorship for Fireworks Display assumed at £3250
- Pay increase already approved
- Increase in Christmas Lights budget for replacement of failed units
- An increase in the precept to fund increased expenditure.

It was resolved:

- 1 To approve the budget estimates for 2019-20 as set out in the report
- 2 The Council Tax for Band D properties is set at £15.50 for 2019-20
- 3 The budget is updated following completion of the year end accounts in April 2019

5 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

The CIL Working Group met on 23rd July 2018 and agreed a list of potential projects. These were reported to the Town Council on 17th September 2018 when the projects were approved for further investigation, with the exception of “Christmas Lights” which has been ruled ineligible for CIL funding. The Working Group met again on 7th January 2019 to review the projects and arising from the recommendations from the Working Group the Town Council resolved:

- 1 To approve the “Brief to Artists” for the Welsh National Anthem Memorial subject to the following amendments:
 - No remuneration to be made for the initial design and tender submission
 - The project budget will be set at £16000, leaving a contingency of £1222 from the combined Town Council and CCBC funds
 - The completion date will be 31st March 2020
 - Five artists will be approached to confirm their interest in tendering for the commission
- 2 A sum of £5000 is earmarked from the CIL to contribute to the match funding contribution for a grant application for electric vehicle charge points subject to the town centre car parks being identified as a priority location.

- 3 The proposal for station concourse signage and a comprehensive scheme of QR codes is referred to the Town Centre Management Group.
- 4 Free wifi in the town centre is not pursued at this time due to the capital set up costs exceeding the available CIL funding and no immediately identified sources of grant funding.
- 5 Play equipment at Churchill Park is not pursued any further as this is not supported by CCBC.
- 6 The Living Christmas Tree is not pursued at either the Twyn or any other location.

82 PLANNING MATTERS

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

18/1040//RET – no objections

18/1050/ADV – no objections

18/1077/FULL – concerns raised at the lack of parking given the number of residential units

18/1053/NCC – removal of condition not justified as condition and protection of trees is important requirement.

18/1067/FULL – concerns over impact on amenity and traffic of 24 hour use.

18/1068/ADV – concerns over visual impact of signage.

18/1022/RET – no objections

19/0001/FULL – no objections

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

83 PAYMENTS AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

1 List of payments were noted and approved

2 Bank account balances were noted The Town Council was informed that the Business Bond had matured generating £450 in interest. The capital and interest had been repaid into the Community Direct Plus Account. A sum of £10,000 had been transferred from the Community Direct Plus Account to the 14 Day Business Select Account to restore the operational reserve as previously agreed reducing the unrestricted reserves to circa £20000. The position on the reserves will be reviewed as part of the year end accounts in April 2019.

3 Applications for Financial Assistance

1 The Old Library Community Coffee Shop

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

2 Caerphilly Boxing Club

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

3 Mount Carmel Baptist Church

A grant of £400 was approved. Expenditure authorised under Local Government Act 1972, section 133

4 Concessionary Hire of Caerphilly Castle

The request from Menter Caerffili was granted and the Town Council will meet the cost of the concessionary hire fee.

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

Councillor P J Bevan declared an interest and took no part in the discussion or decision making on this request.

84 CORRESPONDENCE

1 South Wales Classic Motor Cycle Club

Correspondence about the proposed event on 16th June 2019 noted. Mayor to attend.

2 Caerphilly Castle Improvement Programme Workshop

An invitation to attend the workshop had been received from Welsh Government. It was agreed that Councillors J Fussell, P J Bevan and S Kent would attend on behalf of the Town Council.

85 MEMBERS REQUESTS FOR FUTURE REPORTS

There were no requests.

The meeting closed at 7.35 pm