C A E R P H I L L Y T O W N C O U N C I L

 **C Y N G O R T R E F C A E R F F I L I**

**TOWN CLERK: TOWN MAYOR: CLERC Y DREF: MAIR Y DREF:**

**P. G. Davy Cllr Mike Prew**

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE CAERPHILLY TOWN COUNCIL**

**HELD BY REMOTE ACCESS ON MONDAY 19TH APRIL 2021**

**Present:**

Councillors P J Bevan, R Bidgood, C Elsbury, J Fussell, J Grenfell, J Hibbert, S Hodder,

H Jackson, S Kent, S Morgan, J Pritchard

**Apologies:**

Councillor M Prew

**In Attendance:**

J McDonnell, Gwent Police

P G Davy, Town Clerk

In the absence of the Town Mayor the meeting was chaired by the Deputy Town Mayor,

Councillor H Jackson.

84 **MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 15TH MARCH**

**2021**

Minutes of the Ordinary Town Council Meeting held on 15th March 2021 were received

and confirmed. Minutes to be signed by the Town Mayor when practical. Correction to

Lon y Llyn noted.

85 **MATTERS ARISING**

Minute 79.3 the electrical safety inspection has been completed of the floodlights at St

Martins Church and a report will be presented at the May meeting of the Town Council.

Minute 79.4 the Town Council has taken up membership of the Caerphilly Tourism

Association.

86 **COMMUNITY SAFETY MATTERS**

The police were undertaking routine patrols in Morgan Jones and Dafydd Williams parks

Address: The "Twyn Community Centre The Twyn Caerphilly CF83 IJL

Telephone: Caerphilly 02920 888777

 E-mail: caerphillytowncouncil@outlook.com

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

where groups of youths were regularly gathering. Town Safe patrols will be reinstated

when the pubs reopen on 26th April for outdoor use. However most pubs within the town area have limited or no outdoor space.

Members raised the following:

* Catnic junction with Pontygwindy Road
* Vandalism to memorial tree in Morgan Jones park and ASB around new swings
* Recommencement of street pastors
* Social media coverage of ASB
* Twyn School traffic enforcement
* Traffic congestion due to drop off and pick up at St Martins School
* Bus / taxi layby on Castle Street being used for other parking

Police requested that residents be advised to report incidents via 101/999 due to demand led nature of prioritising resources.

Recent Your Voice survey had identified Winston Osborne House as a priority concern for residents due to its nature as halfway house for ex-offenders and homeless. Discussion ongoing to minimise impact on nearby residents.

87 **TOWN MAYOR’S DIARY**

In the absence of the Town Mayor there was no report.

88 **ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

Concern raised at the extent of fly tipping and cost of clearance. Two specific areas referred to were Ruperra and turning circle on Watford Road.

Obstruction caused by recycling bins left on pavement at Nantgarw Road.

89 **TOWN CLERK’S REPORTS**

1 Q4 Budget Monitoring

The expenditure at the end of March 2021 was £72,249 against the original estimate of £110,407 (65 %). This significant underspend was due to the impact of the pandemic on the normal business of the Town Council.

Members noted the report.

2 Budget Outturn 2020/21

The report outlined variances against income and expenditure and the net impact on the balances at 31st March 2021. The total balances held in the current account, operational reserves and restricted reserves at year end is £94,397. The budget for 2021/22 approved by the Town Council in November 2020 requires a contribution from balances of £7572 to achieve a balanced budget as expenditure is projected to be in excess of income.

Members noted the financial outturn position for 2020/21 and agreed to set aside a sum of £12000 from the balances to cover the election costs for the Town Council in 2022.

3 Coronavirus Update

Coronavirus infection levels in Wales have fallen to a low level and restrictions have started to be lifted. Welsh Government guidance on working from home where this is possible remains in place. The Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Meetings) (Wales) Regulations 2020 that were introduced to enable meetings of local authorities to be by remote attendance lapse at the end of April 2021. With effect from May 2021 the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 makes permanent the facility for remote access meetings. All adults are expected to have been offered a vaccine by end of July.

It was agreed:

1 Staff continue to work from home and Town Council meetings continue to be held by remote access, including the AGM, until the August recess.

2 On the assumption that normality may largely have returned by September 2021 a review is undertaken of the longer term arrangements for staff homeworking, office hours, and remote (hybrid) access to Town Council meetings and Working Groups recognising that there may be ongoing requirements for mask wearing, social distancing and Covid secure risk assessments.

3 A decision is made at the July Town Council meeting whether to proceed with the planning for the Fireworks Display and Christmas events for 2021 having regard to the Welsh Government guidance at that time.

4 A provisional booking is made with Cadw for the Fireworks Display at Caerphilly Castle on 6th November 2021.

4 National Eisteddfod Plaque

The plaque adjacent to the gates constructed to commemorate the holding of the National Eisteddfod at Crescent Road in 1950 is in poor condition. To refurbish the existing lectern and provide a replacement sign will cost £255.50 +vat. It has been agreed to share the cost 50:50 with CCBC. CCBC will arrange the work and invoice the Town Council.

It was agreed to meet the 50% contribution of £127.75 +vat for the refurbishment of the plaque and the cost recorded as miscellaneous expenditure.

5 Open Art Competition

A request has been received for sponsorship of the prizes for the Open Art Competition in 2021/22. This is an event that the Town Council has sponsored for a number of years. The Town Council has approved a budget for 2021/22 which includes an estimate of £16000 for the sponsorship of various events organised by third parties.

It was agreed to provide sponsorship of £1050 in 2021/22 to cover the prizes for the Open Art Competition.

It was noted that CCBC had advised that the Caerphilly Food Festival and the Big Cheese will not be taking place in 2021.

90 **PLANNING MATTERS**

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

21/0178/RET – no objections

21/0127/FULL – no objections

21/0227/FULL – no objections

21/0249/COU – objections raised due to lack of parking and highway safety concerns impacting on nearby school.

21/0283/NCC – no objections, but concern about junction onto Pontygwindy Road due to increased traffic generation that will result from the development

21/0259/FULL – no objections

21/0301/FULL – no objections

21/0238/FULL – no objections

21/0324/FULL – no objections

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

91 **PAYMENTS AND FINANCIAL MATTERS**

1 List of payments were noted and approved.

2 Bank account balances were noted.

92 **CORRESPONDENCE**

1 The complaint concerning the Christmas selection packs was noted. The Town Clerk had replied to the complainant providing the relevant council minute which includes the cost.

2 The complaint concerning the lack of daffodils was noted. The Town Clerk had acknowledged receipt of the email and had advised the complainant the Town Council was not the landowner of the areas specified.

93 **MEMBER REQUESTS FOR FUTURE REPORTS**

There were no requests.

The meeting closed at 7.50pm