**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 17th JANUARY 2022**

**Present:**

Councillors P J Bevan, C Elsbury, J Fussell, J Grenfell, H Jackson, S Kent, M Prew,

J Pritchard

**Apologies:**

Councillors, R Bidgood, J Hibbert, S Hodder, S Morgan

**In Attendance:**

P G Davy, Town Clerk

**75** **MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 15TH NOVEMBER**

**2021**

Minutes of the Ordinary Town Council Meeting held on 15th November 2021 were received and confirmed. Minutes to be signed by the Town Mayor when practical.

**76 MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising

**77 COMMUNITY SAFETY MATTERS**

Concerns were raised at the indiscriminate parking outside schools in particular St Martins, Twyn and YGG Castell. Physical measures were under consideration at YGG Castell.

**78 TOWN MAYOR’S DIARY**

The Mayor advised that scam emails sent out in his name continued to circulate.

He had attended the Twinning Association AGM and they were optimistic about recommencing exchange visits in 2022. In the run up to Christmas he had joined Caerffili Lions in their visits to local care homes although access had to be more limited than in previous years.

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

**Telephone: Caerphilly 07950 935822**

 **E-mail: caerphillytowncouncil@outlook.com**

**Office hours: By Appointment Monday to Friday**

He recorded his thanks to all Members involved with Christmas lights and the Christmas Tree decorations. He was also pleased to note that Y Galeri had reopened under new ownership.

**79 ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

Concerns were raised about the emptying of dog waste and litter bins throughout the town. There appeared to be no regular frequency possibly due to staff shortages. However CCBC will respond when overflowing bins are reported.

An overflowing sewer outside the Twyn Community Centre had been reported to Welsh Water.

**80 TOWN CLERK’S REPORTS**

1 Coronavirus (Covid 19) Update

From 26th December 2021 the Welsh Government introduced new measures to control the spread of the omicron variant. The measures are a revised version of alert level 2. Until these measures are lifted it was agreed:

1 Town Council meetings continue by remote access using Zoom. The introduction of hybrid meetings will be delayed until the alert level 2 restrictions are lifted.

2 Work from home arrangements are in place following the adoption of flexible working arrangements in June 2021 and will meet the requirements of “work from home where you can”.

3 Event planning to commence on the assumption that by the start of the new financial year there will be no impediment to the Town Council’s normal programme of events. (See minute 80.4).

It was noted that Welsh Government on 14 January 2022 had announced a phased return to alert level zero.

2 The Community Council Clerk Qualifications Regulations

The Eligible Community Councils (General Power of Competence) (Qualifications of Clerks) (Wales) Regulations 2021 come into force on 5 May 2022. The regulations are unchanged from the consultation draft reported to the Town council in July 2021. The clerk to the council must hold one or more of the specified qualifications as one of a number of pre conditions to be eligible to resolve “a general power of competence”.

Pursuing the general power is discretionary. The lack of the general power does not affect any of the activities currently undertaken by the Town Council. Reliance can continue to be placed on specific legal powers which already cover a wide range of discretionary activities. The general power under section 137 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 has been retained for those councils that do not pursue the general power.

Members noted the report and decided not to take any action in respect of the general power at this time.

3 Consultation on the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021: Community and Town Councils Statutory Guidance

The statutory guidance supports the provisions of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 (LGE 21). The guidance provides information to help town and community councils discharge their duties in relation to the following:

* Accessing meetings from multiple locations
* Providing opportunity for public participation at public council meetings
* Preparing and publishing an annual report
* Preparing and publishing a training plan to support training for councillors and

council staff

* Other provisions which impact on town and community councils

The Town Council had already addressed the technical requirements for multi location meetings.

The statutory guidance was expected to be published in final form in advance of the local government elections in May 2022.

Members noted the new duties imposed by the legislation and recognised there will be additional time commitments and costs that will affect both the Town Clerk and all town councillors.

4 Events Programme 2022

The coronavirus pandemic has resulted in the Town Council’s events programme being cancelled for 2020 and 2021. In addition all the events where the Town Council provides financial support have also been cancelled with the exception of the Caerphilly Arts Competition which did take place in 2021. The report assumed that the measures introduced to control the spread of the omicron variant will have a short duration and there will be a return to alert level 0 before the start of the new financial year enabling all events / activities to resume in 2022. It was noted that Welsh Government had announced plans on 14 January 2022 to move back to alert level zero on a phased basis.

It was resolved:

1 To confirm the events programme for 2022 and refer the detailed operational planning to the Events Working Group.

2 To endorse the budget allocations to the sponsored events as outlined in the report with the exception of the allocation to Cadw for the December ice rink as this was not expected to take place in 2022 due to works at Caerphilly Castle.

**81 PLANNING MATTERS**

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

21/1184/FULL – no objections

21/1216/LBC – no objections

21/1210/FULL - no objections

21/1221/ADV – no objections

21/1232/NMA – no objections

21/1228/LA – no objections

21/1214/RET – no objections

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

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

**82 PAYMENTS AND FINANCIAL MATTERS**

1 List of payments were noted and approved.

2 Bank account balances were noted.

**83 CORRESPONDENCE**

A Freedom of Information request had been received concerning the emissions from the fireworks display in 2019. The Town Council does not hold this information and a response to this effect has been issued. Information request was pursued outside the scope of the Freedom of Information Act.

**84 MEMBER REQUESTS FOR FUTURE REPORTS**

There were no requests for future reports.

The meeting closed at 7.40pm