**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 MULTI LOCATION ON MONDAY 21ST FEBRUARY 2022**

**Present:**

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

**Apologies:**

Councillor J Pritchard

**In Attendance:**

CSO Rhiannon Collins, Gwent Police

P G Davy, Town Clerk

**85 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 17TH JANUARY 2022**

Minutes of the Ordinary Town Council Meeting held on 17th January 2022 were received and confirmed. Minutes to be signed by the Town Mayor when practical.

**86 MATTERS ARISING**

Minute 80.4 Noted that the December ice rink at Caerphilly Castle will not be reintroduced in future years after the works are completed.

Minute 83 Request that information that had been received on the emissions from the fireworks display in 2019 is circulated to Members.

**87 COMMUNITY SAFETY MATTERS**

Police reported on activity across Morgan Jones and St Martins Wards

* Calls re ASB were at a low level but regular patrols included Morgan Jones Park, Crescent Road, Park Lane, and town centre public houses at weekends
* Incidents of ASB at Half Acre Court
* Increase in RTAs during bad weather and fallen trees
* Shoplifting at Morrisons

**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**

* Engagement events including community litter picks, events with schools, and drop ins for the LGBTQ+ community

Members raised the following:

* CCTV camera in Morgan Jones Park
* Enforcement of parking restrictions outside schools and pavement parking
* ASB at Pontypandy

Request made that engagement events organised by police are circulated to all Members.

**88 TOWN MAYOR’S DIARY**

There were no engagements to report.

**89 ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

Concern was raised about the cost of dealing with fly tipping which fell on council tax payers. CCBC was commended on swift action in dealing with emptying of dog wates bins following a request, and dealing with fallen trees where they caused highway obstructions.

**90 TOWN CLERK’S REPORTS**

1 Q3 Budget Monitoring 2021/22 Financial Year

Expenditure in the period 1st April 2021 to 31st December 2021 was £72,132 which represents 74% of the revised budget estimate approved in September 2021.

Members noted the report.

2 Risk Management

Members reviewed the Risk Assessment for 2022. Covid 19 was included as an operational risk in 2021. Appropriate precautions may be necessary for as long as there is a community transmission risk. It is anticipated that all restrictions may be lifted during 2022 and therefore Covid 19 has been downgraded to a low risk. The highest risks relate to cyber security and event management.

It was resolved to approve the risk assessment for 2022.

3 Events Working Group

Members noted the discussions that had taken place at the Events Working Group. Members were updated on meetings that had taken place with Cadw to agree alternative arrangements for the fireworks display in view of the extensive works taking place at Caerphilly Castle during 2022. The horn work and access from the Grove had been ruled out and an alternative area along the footpath below the curtain walls facing Cardiff Road had been suggested by Cadw. However in view of the scale of the event this was considered unsuitable. A further possibility was under consideration on the Crescent Road side of the castle.

Since the Working Group met CCBC has advised that it will not be pursuing an alternative event to the Big Cheese in 2022 and instead will be concentrating on the Caerphilly Food Festival which takes place in May. CCBC has requested the Town Council to transfer the £1750 of sponsorship agreed for the Big Cheese to the Food Festival to help cover increased costs for the event.

The practicality of merging the Lantern Parade with the Christmas Market was discussed.

Members agreed

1 That if it is not possible to hold the fireworks display at Caerphilly Castle an alternative site within the town should not be pursued. The Events Working Group to report back to the Town Council when investigation of possible launch sites had been completed.

2 To approve the transfer of £1750 from the Big Cheese to the Caerphilly Food Festival taking the total sponsorship for this event in 2022 to £2250 subject to CCBC giving recognition to the sponsorship in all publicity and providing details on how the funding contribution will be utilised.

3 CCBC is invited to attend a meeting of the Events Working Group to discuss the Lantern Parade / Christmas Market.

**91 PLANNING MATTERS**

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

21/1215/FULL – no objections

22/0024/FULL – no objections

22/0033/FULL – no objections

22/0038/FULL – no objections

22/0042/RET – no objections

21/1227/FULL – no objections

21/1235/FULL – no objections

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

Councillor P J Bevan declared an interest in application 21/1235/FULL and took no part in the discussion or decision making on this application.

**92 PAYMENTS AND FINANCIAL MATTERS**

1 List of Payments were noted and approved

2 Bank account balances were noted

3 Applications for Financial Assistance

C2Cycling, a group of amateur cyclists, had applied for sponsorship for a charity bike ride from Cardiff to Edinburgh to raise funds for Velindre Cancer Centre and Latch Children’s Cancer Charity. The application was outside the scope of the Town Council’s grant scheme and it was agreed that no financial support could be offered.

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

The Town Clerk drew attention to receipt of a number of round robin letters from various charities seeking donations. The Town Mayor identifies one or more charities each year and these are the ones which should receive financial support from the Town Council.

4 External Audit Report 2020-21 – Annual Return

The Auditor General for Wales has issued an unqualified audit opinion and has concluded:

“On the basis of my review, in my opinion no matters have come to my attention giving cause for concern that in any material respect, the information reported in this Annual Return:

* has not been prepared in accordance with proper practices
* that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met
* is not consistent with the Council’s governance arrangements, and
* that the Council does not have proper arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in its use of resources.”

No other matters were raised for the Council to consider.

**93 CORRESPONDENCE**

1 Letter from Virginia Park Community Group / Caerphilly Castle Ladies and Girls FC

The letter outlined the history and current position of the CC Ladies football club and described the proposal for a community asset transfer of the Virginia Park playing field as a permanent base. Members recognised the huge demand for playing pitches and securing a permanent pitch was seen as a higher priority than changing facilities. It was noted that the letter was addressed to the Assembly Member and the CCBC Cabinet Member and copied to the Town Council for information.

Councillor S Kent declared a non pecuniary interest and took part in the discussion.

2 Letter from Wayne David MP re Parliamentary Boundary Review – Caerphilly Constituency

The Parliamentary Boundary Commission has proposed that the current constituency of Caerphilly be split four ways. It is proposed that the southern part of the current Caerphilly constituency (Caerphilly town, Aber Valley, Llanbradach, Bedwas, Trethomas and Machen, Rudry, Waterloo, and Draethen) are joined to western Newport to form a new constituency known as Newport West and Caerphilly. Wayne David is seeking the support of the Town Council to oppose this proposal. He has advocated an alternative proposal which better reflects the geography and community links of a Caerphilly constituency and Newport West and Newbridge constituency. Members agreed to support the alternative proposal and agreed that a letter is sent to the Parliamentary Boundary Commission.

**94 MEMBER REQUESTS FOR FUTURE REPORTS**

There were no requests for future reports.

The meeting closed at 8.10 pm.