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**

9th June 2022

An **Ordinary Meeting** of the **Caerphilly Town Council** will be held on **Monday 20th June**

**2022** at **6.30 pm** by **Multi Location**

Any Member requiring further information on any item should contact me before the Meeting.

Phil Davy

Town Clerk

**A G E N D A**

1. To note Members’ attendance and to receive any apologies for absence.
2. Declarations of Interest in any item.
3. To receive and if thought fit to confirm the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting

held on Monday 16th May 2022. .

1. Matters arising from the Minutes if not covered by the Agenda.
2. **COMMUNITY SAFETY MATTERS**

1. **TOWN MAYOR’S DIARY**
2. **ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**
3. **TOWN CLERK’S REPORTS**

8.1 I.T. for Members.

8.2 Replacement Notice Board.

8.3 CIL Payments 2021/22.

**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**

9. **PLANNING MATTERS**

10. **PAYMENT AND FINANCIAL MATTERS**

10.1 List of Payments.

10.2 Bank Account Balances.

10.3 Applications for Financial Assistance

1. 2nd Caerphilly Brownies Girlguiding.

2. Aber Valley Wolves Rugby League Club.

3. Caerphilly Miners Centre for the Community.

4. Gwent Police, Fun Day Morgan Jones Park.

11. **CORRESPONDENCE**

11.1 Complaint received by email 30.5.22

12. **MEMBERS REQUESTS FOR FUTURE REPORTS**

This Meeting will be held in accordance with Section 47 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 by multi location.

Any member of the public or media wishing to attend this meeting by remote access should contact the Town Clerk at:

[caerphillytowncouncil@outlook.com](mailto:caerphillytowncouncil@outlook.com)

Anyone attending the meeting in person at The Twyn Community Centre will need to observe the Covid 19 precautions in force at the time.

All documentation about and relating to this and any other Town Council Meeting undertaken either by hybrid format or fully by remote access will be made available on the Town Council Website.

[www.caerphillytowncouncil.co.uk](http://www.caerphillytowncouncil.co.uk)

**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 16TH MAY 2022**

**Present:**

Councillors P J Bevan, M Downes, C Elsbury, J Fussell, J Grenfell, S Kent, C Lewis,

J Pettit, M Prew, P Reed, D Roberts

**Apologies:**

Councillor A Broughton Pettit

**In Attendance:**

I Adams, Gwent Police

P G Davy, Town Clerk

**14** **MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 25TH APRIL 2022**

Minutes of the Ordinary Town Council Meeting held on 25th April 2022 were received and confirmed, and signed by the Town Mayor.

**15**  **MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

**16**  **COMMUNITY SAFETY MATTERS**

Gwent Police provided an update on the stabbing incident in Castle Court shopping centre, and the vandalism damage at the Mill Road allotments.

Concerns were raised about the numbers of people congregating at St Martins Church lychgate at pub closing time.

**17**  **TOWN MAYOR’S DIARY**

The Mayor announced his two charities for the year would be Latch and Shining Stars.

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

**18 ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

There was a discussion about the pollution at the surface water balancing lake at Castle View. Natural Resources Wales, Welsh Water and Caerphilly County Borough Council had all been involved. Although the pollution had reduced there remained issues and the lake continued to be monitored.

**19 TOWN CLERK’S REPORTS**

1 Annual Return for the Year Ended 31st March 2022

The Town Clerk presented the Annual Return. The main variances between 2020-21 and 2021-22 were outlined. The outturn expenditure for 2021-22 was £86,281. Income was £103,691. This resulted in a surplus of income over expenditure which increased the balances carried forward to £111,808. Additional information has been requested by Audit Wales relating to cash and bank accounts, payment methods, and reporting of payments to the Town Council. No substantive issues were raised during the internal audit. The accounting statements had been certified by the Town Clerk in his capacity as Responsible Financial Officer (RFO).

It was resolved to approve the Annual Return, which includes the accounting statements, the annual governance statement, and the internal audit report. The Town Mayor signed the Annual Return on behalf of the Town Council.

The Annual Return and additional information requested will be submitted to Audit Wales for the external audit, and the notice of the exercise of electors’ rights posted on the website and noticeboard.

2 Insurance Renewal

The Town Council’s insurance is due for renewal on 1st June 2022. A premium quotation had been received from Gallagher Insurance brokers for a policy with Hiscox Insurance Company Limited for a total sum of £2125-59 which represented a 20% increase on the premium paid in the previous year. An alternative quotation had been received from Zurich Municipal in the sum of £1110-61 for 2022-23 based on a 3 year agreement.

It was resolved to accept the quotation from Zurich Municipal in the sum of £1110-61 for 2022-23. It was noted that this did not include cover for the fireworks display at Caerphilly Castle.

**20 PLANNING MATTERS**

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

22/0229/COU – no objections

22/0244/FULL – no objections

22/0354/NOTD – no objections

22/0357/COU – no objections

22/0372/FULL – no objections

22/0349/FULL – no objections

22/0360/FULL – no objections

22/0389/LBC – no objections

22/0410/ADV – no objections

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

**21 PAYMENTS AND FINANCIAL MATTERS**

1 List of Payments were noted and approved

2 Bank account balances were noted

3 Applications for Financial Assistance

Caerphilly and District Floral Society

A grant of £150 was approved. Expenditure authorised under Local Government

Act 1972 section 137.

Castle View Community Group

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

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

**22 CORRESPONDENCE**

There were no items of correspondence

**23 MEMBER REQUESTS FOR FUTURE REPORTS**

A report was requested on the provision of Town Council dedicated IT equipment for Members.

The meeting closed at 7.40pm

**Agenda Item 8.1**

**Report to Town Council 20th June 2022**

**IT for Members**

*Introduction*

The Town Council does not currently provide any IT equipment to Members. Most of the Town Council business is now done online. Working practices changed significantly during the pandemic with staff working from home and Town Council meetings held by remote access. Agendas for meetings are only circulated electronically. The changing working practices identified a number of problems with Members dependent on a variety of personal devices to connect to meetings. Those Members who are also councillors with CCBC are at a distinct advantage to other councillors as they are issued with council laptops / tablets and business email addresses. They are also able to obtain support from CCBC’s IT Services Department. Obviously CCBC is a much bigger organisation with significantly more resources than the Town Council. Notwithstanding the budget implications there are compelling reasons to ensure all Members have suitable IT equipment that is separate from personal devices ensuring a separation for business use. This is particularly important when data protection and Freedom of Information considerations are taken into account.

*IT Budget*

The Town Council budget estimate for IT / IT Support in the 2022/23 financial year is £250. CCBC charge the Town Council £500 per annum for the hosting of the website, and there is a separate charge of £500 per annum for the support of the two desk top pcs located in the office. The desktops are dependent on CCBC servers with security levels that limit internet access. There are also annual charges for the Microsoft office software and the subscription to Zoom and maintenance of the AV equipment. One of the two office laptops, approximately 7 years old, is in need of replacement. The multi function printer is owned by the Town Council but there is a quarterly print / copy charge. Currently there is a major problem with scanning any documents from the printer which requires a resolution which may have a cost implication. The problem stems from the security on the CCBC servers. The capital investment to provide dedicated equipment for all members could be of the order of £6000 to £8000 depending on equipment specification and software. Clearly this cannot be accommodated from the existing IT budget and an alternative funding mechanism would have to be found.

*Mandatory Allowances*

All Members are entitled to a mandatory payment of £150 as determined by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales. The sum is reviewed annually. This is seen as a contribution to costs and expenses. Independently Members may or may not choose to use this payment to improve their own IT equipment. There is also an individual choice whether to forego the payment which then results in a saving against the budget. It would be possible to use the annual payment to pay for a standardised approach to fund IT for Members over the five year period of the administration with the Town Council upfronting the purchase costs. The latter approach would be a benefit as the VAT can be reclaimed by the Town Council.

Windows 11

The Town Council’s office desktop PCs and the two laptops all operate with Windows 10. Microsoft has announced that support for Windows 10 will end in October 2025 and from that date there will no longer be any security updates. With cyber security being a high risk it will be necessary for the Town Council to migrate to Windows 11 prior to this date. Only one of the two staff laptops is capable of being updated. Any purchase of IT equipment for Members should be on the basis of Windows 11 being preloaded to avoid having to deal with this down the line. The migration to Windows 11 will bring with it a review of the continuation of the desktops, especially as the Town Council now has its own dedicated broadband to access the internet with faster speeds than can be offered by CCBC.

*Email Addresses*

Having regard to data protection and Freedom of information legislation it is not ideal for Members to be using private email addresses for Town Council business purposes. There are four Members of the Town Council who are also Members of Caerphilly CBC and they generally use their *caerphilly.gov.uk* email for the business of both councils. The IT Service of CCBC has previously been approached about the possibility of providing business addresses for all Town Council Members but this was rejected.

The alternative of having hosted email addresses based on *caerphillytowncouncil.org.uk* has also been explored. The annual cost was around £400 to £500 plus vat. This was rejected by the Town Council as it was easy for individuals to set up a free email account just to be used for the business of the Town Council. A number of Members did this using the following example format [*joebloggs.ctc50@outlook.com*](mailto:joebloggs.ctc50@outlook.com)

*Proposition for Consideration*

*Option 1 All Members*

Each Member to be provided with a HP Pavilion Laptop preloaded with Windows 11 at a cost of £407-50 ex vat and 5 year cost for Microsoft 365 at £218-20 ex vat.

£

Total Cost for 12 Members 7508-40

Cost met from annual mandatory payment over 4 years 7200-00

This would offer a standardised approach for all Members and independence from CCBC avoiding the need for Town Council business to be held on CCBC devices.

As this would be funded from the mandatory allowances once the purchase costs have been met the laptops would belong to individual Members and the annual subscription for Microsoft 365 would end at the end of this administration in 2027.

However some Members may feel this is an unnecessary duplication where CCBC has already provided IT equipment so option 2 only relates to the 8 Members who are not Members of CCBC.

Option 2 8 Members

Each Member to be provided with a HP Pavilion Laptop preloaded with Windows 11 at a cost of £407-50 ex vat and 5 year cost for Microsoft 365 at £218-20 ex vat.

Total cost for 8 Members 5005-60

Cost met from annual mandatory payment over 4 years 4800-00

Due to the nature of the mandatory allowance this is an unusual set of circumstances where the Town Council as corporate body cannot make a decision on the propositions outlined. Decisions have to be made individually and as such will not be recorded in the minutes and are:

* To forego the allowance and therefore continue with whatever IT equipment the individual has available, or
* To accept the allowance but to use as the individual sees fit, which may or may not relate to IT, or
* To support the proposition to use the allowance over the next 4 years to fund laptop and software for 5 years

Members views are invited on option 1 and option 2.

Recommendation

That Members set up a free email account for Town Council business and avoid using personal email accounts. For those who are Members of CCBC this is also an option rather than use their CCBC email account for the business of both CCBC and the Town Council.

Phil Davy

Town Clerk

**Agenda Item 8.2**

**Report to Town Council 20 June 2022**

**Replacement Notice Board**

The current wall mounted external notice board is in poor condition due to weather and general wear. A report was considered on replacement in July 2021 when it was agreed to pursue a post mounted freestanding notice board located in front of the Twyn Community Centre. A budget virement of £2000 was approved and this sum has been reserved in the balances. The area in front of the Community Centre is owned by Caerphilly County Borough Council and it has been necessary to obtain consent prior to placing any order. This has taken some time, but consent has now been granted subject to the following terms and conditions:

1 You will keep the notice board in a good state of repair and condition

2 Whilst work is being undertaken you shall erect at your own expense any

necessary temporary safety fencing or other barriers or equipment for the safety and protection of anyone using the adjoining land.

3 After completion of the works you shall remove any such temporary fences,

barriers, equipment etc and reinstate the area. It shall be left in no worse a condition

than that which existed prior to your use.

4 You will not do, or allow to be done, anything on the land that may be or become

a nuisance to the Council or the owners or occupiers of adjoining land or property.

5 You shall comply with the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and all other

legislation.

6 We cannot warrant that the land is free from private or public services or

easements etc. Therefore, you will indemnify us against all claims and determine

the location of any underground services that may be affected and, if any damage

is subsequently done to those services, reinstate them immediately.

7 You will indemnify Caerphilly County Borough Council against all losses and

claims for injury or damage to any person or property whatsoever which may arise

out of or in consequence of the exercise of these rights. Throughout the period of

this licence you will insure against any damage, loss or injury that may occur to

any property or to any person by or arising out of the execution of these rights.

This indemnity limit will not be less than £10m.

8 The Council reserves the right to terminate this licence at any time giving three

months’ notice. You will be required to remove the notice board at the end of your

tenancy, such costs will be covered by the Town Council.

In a covering note from CCBC it was stated that planning consent is required prior to erecting the notice board.

A local authority noticeboard would constitute an advertisement and be controlled by the consent regime laid down by the Town and Country (Control of Advertisements) Regulations 1992 (as amended) rather than planning

permission. Class 1A, Part1, Schedule 3 of the Regulations grants deemed

consent for local authorities’ functional advertisements. A notice board erected by the Town Council would be considered to fall within this provision. Deemed consent is subject to standard conditions which include obtaining the permission of the owner of the site.

There are a number of suppliers of parish / church noticeboards but not all provide an installation service. Given the lapse of time a new quotation will need to be sought and it is recommended that this is obtained from a company that offers supply and erect. This will avoid the need to obtain a separate quote from a local company for the installation.

As a budget has already been agreed for a replacement notice board it will only be necessary to report back to the Town Council if the price quoted for supply and erect exceeds the budget.

It is recommended that a quotation for a replacement freestanding notice board is invited from a company that offers supply and installation.

Phil Davy

Town Clerk

**Agenda Item 8.3**

**Report to Town Council 20th June 2022**

**Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Payment 2021/22**

CCBC has notified the Town Council that the CIL payment for 2021/22 will be £1,371-35 and will be paid on 30th June 2022. Including this payment the total CIL receipts since 2016 will be £37,192-45. CIL is levied on certain types of development. CCBC as the charging authority has made provision to pass 15% of CIL receipts, subject to a maximum amount equal to £100 per existing dwelling within the Town Council area. Under the CIL Regulations any levy not spent by the Town Council within 5 years of receipt must be repaid to the charging authority.

To date CIL funds have been spent on three projects:

* Welsh National Anthem Memorial
* EV charge points in Twyn car park
* Upgrade to floodlights at St Martins Church

CIL expenditure on the above three projects totals £19,120.

In addition, there are commitments as follows:

£

* Bus station public toilets (door entry controls) 7500
* 20mph signage Cwrt Rawlin Primary School 5000

The available uncommitted CIL is therefore £5,572.

A number of other project ideas were identified in March 2021 and the following are subject to further consideration.

1 Memorial / plaque to Llewellyn Bren, Lord of Senghenydd, who led a rebellion against the Normans in 1316.

2 Memorial / plaque to acknowledge the contribution of all key workers during the

coronavirus pandemic.

3 Seats to the north of Caerphilly Castle Moat.

4 Additional and / or higher capacity replacement general waste and dog waste bins.

5 Explanatory plaque incorporating braille on Welsh National Anthem Memorial at the

Twyn.

A meeting of the CIL Working Group will be convened immediately following the Events Working Group on 27th June 2022 to review potential projects and progress as appropriate.

The report is for information.

Phil Davy

Town Clerk

**Agenda Item 9**

**Report to Town Council 20th June 2022**

**Planning Matters**

The following planning applications have been received:

**22/0325/COU** M&C Garden Supplies, 25 Windsor Street, Caerphilly CF83 1FW

Change the use from A1 to A3

*Explanatory Note: The Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 (as amended) puts uses of land and buildings into various categories known as “Use Classes”. Some changes between classes are permitted but others require planning permission.*

*A1 Shops – cover a wide range of retail premises*

*A3 Food and Drink – premises which sell food and drink for consumption on and off the premises, which includes takeaways*

**22/0427/FULL** Travellers Rest Inn, Mountain Road, Thornhill, Caerphilly CF83 1LY

Conduct external and internal alterations

**22/0428/LBC** Travellers Rest Inn, Mountain Road, Thornhill, Caerphilly CF83 1LY

Conduct external and internal alterations

**22/0429/FULL** 44 Lewis Drive, Caerphilly CF83 3FT

Erect two storey front extension with internal alterations, convert garage with additional 2 no car parking spaces

**22/0436/FULL** 155 Nantgarw Road, Caerphilly CF83 1AN

Erect first floor rear extension on existing ground floor rear extension

**22/0390/FULL** Mayberry Pharmacy, 40 Cardiff Road, Caerphilly CF83 1JP

Install Medpoint prescription collection machine to the existing shop front window

**22/0391/ADV** Mayberry Pharmacy, 40 Cardiff Road, Caerphilly CF83 1JP

Install vinyl wrap to the front of the Medpoint machine along with Medpoint logo and operational instructions

**22/0432/FULL** Brynhyfryd, Crescent Road, Caerphilly CF83 1AB

Carry out internal alterations, replace conservatory roof and install rear garden air source heat pump

**Agenda Item 10.1**

**Report to Town Council 20th June 2022**

**List of Payments**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Cheque No** | **Payee** | **In Respect of** | **Amount £** |
| Internet | G James | Internet Audit | 200.00 |
| Internet | EE | Mobile Phone | 22.98 |
| 304144 | Van Rd, United  Reformed Church | Grant - Flower Festival | 400.00 |
| 304145 | Windsor Rd Presbyterian Church | Grant - Flower Festival | 400.00 |
| 304146 | Benefice of Eglwysilan & Caerphilly (St. Martin’s Church) | Grant - Flower Festival | 400.00 |
| 304147 | Wesley Methodist Church | Grant - Flower Festival | 400.00 |
| 304148 | St. Helen’s RC Church | Grant - Flower Festival | 400.00 |
| Internet | Bethel Congregational Church | Grant - Flower Festival | 400.00 |
| Internet | Mount Carmel Baptist Church | Grant - Flower Festival | 400.00 |
| 304149 | Benefice of Eglwysilan & Caerphilly (St. Catherine’s Church) | Grant - Flower Festival | 400.00 |
| 304150 | Connect Life Church | Grant - Flower Festival | 400.00 |
| 304151 | Glynderi Bonsai Club | Grant - Flower Festival | 400.00 |
| 304152 | Caerphilly & District Floral Society | Grant - Flower Festival | 400.00 |
| Direct Debit | Saga Global Services Ltd | Payroll Software | 8.40 |
| 304153 | Caerphilly Horticultural Society | Grant – Flower Festival | 400.00 |
| Internet | BT (Broadband) | Broadband Service | 24.91 |
| Internet | HMRC | Income Tax & NI | 577.31 |
| Internet | Admin Assistant | Salary May | 390.03 |
| Internet | Town Clerk | Salary May | 753.38 |
| Direct Debit | NEST | Pension May | 28.44 |
| Internet | Zurich Municipal | Insurance | 1110.61 |
| 304154 | Caerphilly & District Floral Society | Grant | 150.00 |
| 304155 | Castle View Community Group | Grant | 250.00 |
| 304156 | M Prew | Mayor’s Allowance 1 | 225.00 |
| Internet | Boverton Nurseries Ltd | Baskets & Planters | 6847.80 |

It is recommended that Members note and approve the payments

**Agenda Item 10.2**

**Report to Town Council 20th June 2022**

**Bank Account Balances**

Bank Account Balances at 1st June 2022

£

Community Direct Plus Account (current account) 129,709.42

Corporate Instant Deposit (operational reserves) 10,641.62

Corporate Instant Deposit (Restricted Reserves) 16,855.53

Members to note the information

**Agenda Item 10.3**

**Report to Town Council 20th June 2022**

**Applications for Financial Assistance**

£

Budget 6000

Commitment 400

Available 5600

1 2nd Caerphilly Brownies Girlguiding

The group has applied for a grant to assist with costs associated with a summer residential trip, in particular the minibus hire. Based on the numbers of members resident within the Town Council area a grant of £250 could be made in accordance with the policy for financial assistance. The financial assistance expenditure would be authorised under the Local Government Act 1972, section 137.

**Financial Assistance – Application Form**

**Name of Organisation**

2nd Caerphilly Brownies Girlguiding

**Purpose or Activities of Organisation**

Provide events, adventures and regular meetings for girls aged 7 to 11 years old

**Membership of Organisation / or Beneficiaries of Activities**

Number of members resident in the Town Council area 22

**Membership Fees**

Subscriptions paid each term (amount not stated)

**Present Financial Position**

Currently about £3000 in account as large payment due for residential trip. Usually about £1000 held in account.

**Purpose for which assistance is required and estimate of costs**

Assistance required for help towards hire of a minibus for a narrowboat weekend this summer. Cost of minibus £420 and would appreciate any help to support this.

2 Aber Valley Wolves Rugby League Club

The application for financial assistance is to support the hire of facilities for new U12s team and girl’s U16s team. The club has 50 members resident within the Town Council area. The policy on financial support states that local organisations with more than £10000 bank balance will not normally be considered for a grant. However, it is noted that £7500 has already been spent on equipment. In accordance with the policy a grant of £400 could be awarded. The financial assistance expenditure would be authorised under the Local

Government Act 1972, section 137. The club previously received a grant of £400 in June 2021.

**Financial Assistance – Application Form**

**Name of Organisation**

Aber Valley Wolves Rugby League Club

**Purpose or Activities of Organisation**

Rugby League Club

**Membership of Organisation / or Beneficiaries of Activities**

Number of members who are resident in the Town Council area 50

**Membership Fees**

£50 includes match shorts and socks

**Present Financial Position**

£10318 (including subs paid for 2022 season). £7500 has already been spent on purchase of balls, first aid items, shorts and socks for each player, cones, bibs, water bottles, ball pumps, team jerseys, facility hire

**Purpose for which assistance is required and estimates of costs**

Facility hire for new U12s team and girls U16s team and first aider bibs, balls. Cost £450

3 Caerphilly Miners Centre for the Community

The application is for financial assistance to support a summer holiday activities scheme for children aged 8 to 12. The application states 100 out of a total membership of 140 would be beneficiaries and a grant of £400 is requested. The policy on financial support states that local organisations with more than £10000 bank balance will not normally be considered for a grant. The organisation currently has a bank balance in excess of £30000 but it is indicated that none of the funds can be allocated to this project. On this basis and in accordance with other criteria in the policy a grant of £400 could be awarded. The financial assistance expenditure would be authorised under the Local Government Act 1972, section 137.

**Financial Assistance – Application Form**

**Name of Organisation**

Caerphilly Miners Centre for the Community

**Purpose or Activities of Organisation**

To invest in our community, take action on climate change, to ensure the well bing of our community and celebrate our social heritage

**Membership of Organisation or Beneficiaries of Activities**

100 members out of 140 total

**Membership Fees**

£8 per year

**Present Financial Position**

We have over £10000 in our bank account, but none of it is available for this project

**Purpose for which assistance is required and estimates of cost**

Creative activities to support the wellbeing and development of children aged 8 -12 across the summer holiday period - £90 tutor rates, £10 material costs x 4 activities = £400

**Agenda Item 11**

**Report to Town Council 20th June 2022**

**Correspondence**

**11.1 Complaint received by email 30.5.22**

“I must express how disappointing it is that there is no decoration in the town centre to celebrate a once in a generation event the Queen’s 70th anniversary. It is yet another example of a missed opportunity to bring some cheer to Caerphilly.

I’m guessing the excuse of funding will be made in response so I’ll point to the banners on the lamp posts that have no use whatsoever, the Big Cheese waste of funds, the fireworks, lights on lamp posts everywhere at Christmas etc.

I would ask you to look at the flags outside of the visitor centre next to the cenotaph. They are nothing more than rags embarrassingly hanging from the flagpoles. Could someone please just remove them they have been like this for months.

I would encourage one of you to walk down Cardiff Road as I did on the weekend with friends from Cardiff. I was ashamed at the state of the pavement, the detritus on the pavement is terrible. Cigarette butts, rubbish, gum etc and my friends commented on this. Couldn’t this be cleaned at least weekly as what I saw was certainly not that day’s filth.

It strikes me that the town council(lors) has given up on the town centre and have no interest in the appearance of a town I used to be proud of. If these issues are not your responsibility then point me in the direction of who is.

I would be interested in your comments.

Regards

Dean Langley”

Receipt of the email has been acknowledged and the writer advised that cleansing of the town centre, banners on lamp posts, flags at the visitor centre and Big Cheese are all the responsibility of CCBC. The email may have been written before the town centre summer floral decorations were installed.