**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 CAERPHILLY TOWN COUNCIL HELD BY MULTI LOCATION ON 19TH JUNE 2023**

**Present:**

Councillor P J Bevan, M Downes, J Fussell, J Grenfell, S Kent, C Lewis, A Broughton Pettit, M Prew, D Roberts

**Apologies:**

Councillors J Pettit, P Reed, C Elsbury

**In Attendance:**

P G Davy, Town Clerk

**25 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 15TH MAY 2023**

Minutes of the Ordinary Town Council meeting held on 15th May 2023 were received and confirmed and signed by the Town Mayor.

**26 MATTERS ARISING**

Minute 19. The matter had been referred to CCBC and although there had been no reply, it had been noted that work was in progress on site to repair the benches.

**27 COMMUNITY SAFETY MATTERS**

The police were not in attendance but had issued a written report (circulated to Members prior to the meeting) which included the following:

* Continuing ASB in Morgan Jones Park and Churchill Park which is being addressed with increased patrols and assistance from the Community Safety Wardens and mobile CCTV
* Shoplifting at major retail stores. There is an action plan involving liaison with store managers and crime prevention advice

**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**

* Parking issues at Twyn Primary School
* Vehicle crime and interference with vehicles on Castle View Estate
* Homeless issues in town centre appear to have reduced
* Caerphilly Pride event on 24.06.23
* Morgan Jones Park Summer Fun Day 26.08.23

Members requested information be requested from the police in respect of break ins to properties and vehicles on the Kingsmead Estate, and vandalism to vehicles in St Martins Road.

**28 TOWN MAYOR’S DIARY**

The Mayor had attended the Malcolm Uphill Memorial event which involved 120 motorbikes and £600 had been raised for the Falklands Veterans Charity.

The Mayor had toured all the venues involved with the Flower Festival and he commented on the excellent displays.

The Mayor announced his charity for the year will be AP Cymru which supports autistic young people and their families.

**29 ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

Members raised concern about the amount of litter and rubbish around the town and the poor impression this gives to residents and visitors. There is currently no evidence the mini sweeper is cleaning the pavements. There had been a poor response from CCBC to the bins that had been tipped over at the Twyn School.

Specific requests were raised for cleansing of the lane off Rectory Road, and a dog waste bin at Bartlett Street park.

Members requested information on Manchester House, Market Street which is in a poor condition.

The No Mow May initiative resulted in litter hidden in the long grass.

**30 TOWN CLERK’S REPORTS**

1 External Audit Report 2021-22 – Certified Annual Return

The Auditor General for Wales had issued a qualified audit opinion. 7 transactions had been identified where it was considered there was a failure to comply with financial regulations. The Town Clerk outlined the transactions he believed to be at issue. It will be necessary to allocate more resources to competitive tendering to demonstrate value for money. To ensure lawful expenditure immediate action is required in relation to the Christmas Lights for 2023 and the floral displays for 2024.

Following discussion it was resolved:

1 For clarity to request Audit Wales to confirm the 7 transactions referred to in the opinion.

2 To establish a Procurement Advisory Panel consisting of 4 Members (3 Plaid and 1 Labour) to advise and assist the Town Clerk in competitive tendering of contracts. The

authority to award contracts will remain with the Town Council, but otherwise authority is delegated to the Town Clerk to progress matters in consultation with the Advisory Panel.

The Members appointed to the Procurement Advisory Panel are Councillors J Fussell, C Elsbury, P Reed and the Labour representative to be confirmed.

3 It was agreed that the limited staff resources would need to be prioritised to tender the Christmas Lights for 2023, and as soon as time permits to tender for the floral displays for summer 2024.

4 It was agreed to undertake a review of the staff resources in view of the increased workload of the Town Clerk.

2 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Payment 2022/23

It was noted there will be no CIL payment for 2022/23 in the absence of CIL receipts by CCBC. There is currently an uncommitted balance of £9,990-31. A meeting of the CIL Working Group will be convened to review use of the available funds.

3 Fireworks Display at Caerphilly Castle 4 November 2023

Cadw had advised that building works at the Castle are ongoing and the launch sites on the horn work and inside the castle will not be available in November 2023. Had it been possible for the event to proceed it would have been necessary to undertake a competitive tender process to appoint a fireworks contractor. The Town Council confirmed that the fireworks display will not proceed in November 2023.

It was agreed to investigate the possibility of a St Davids Day celebration fireworks display on Saturday 2 March 2024.

**31 PLANNING MATTERS**

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

23/0341/HH – no objections

23/0351/HH – no objections

23/0357/HH – no objections

23/0359/TPO – no objections

23/0361/HH – no objections

23/0366/HH – no objections

23/0368/FULL – no objections

23/0369/ADV – no objections

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

**32 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 Aber Valley Ministry Area

It was agreed to provide a grant of £400. The financial assistance expenditure is authorised under the Local Government Act 1972 section 137.

Caerphilly Miners Centre for the Community

It was agreed to provide a grant of £400. The financial assistance expenditure is authorised under the Local Government Act 1972 section 137.

Caerphilly Art Society

It was agreed to provide a grant of £150. The financial assistance expenditure is authorised under the Local Government Act 1972 section 137.

**33 CORRESPONDENCE**

Caerphilly Sports Awards 2023

The Town Council agreed to sponsor a table at a cost of £50 funded from the Sponsored Events budget. Members felt it would be appropriate for a representative of the Town Council to be invited by CCBC to attend the event.

**34 MEMBER REQUESTS FOR FUTURE REPORTS**

A request was made for a “Notice of Motion” to be considered at the next Town Council to adopt the Welsh name for the Town Council.

The meeting closed at 7.40 pm