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

**C A E R F F I L I T O W N C O U N C I L**

**CLERC Y TREF: MAER Y TREF:**

**TOWN CLERK: TOWN MAYOR:**

**P G Davy Cllr M Prew**

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE CAERPHILLY TOWN COUNCIL HELD BY MULTI LOCATION ON 18TH MARCH 2024**

**Present:**

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

**Apologies:**

Councillor M Prew, C Elsbury

**In Attendance:**

P G Davy, Town Clerk

In the absence of the Mayor the meeting was chaired by Councillor D Roberts, Deputy Mayor.

**100 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 19TH FEBRUARY 2024**

Minutes of the Ordinary Town Council Meeting held on 19 February 2024 were received and confirmed and signed by the Mayor when practical.

**101 MATTERS ARISING**

Minute 91 Homeless individuals were using the shop doorway at 69/71 Cardiff Road. Police had advised the installation of a roller shutter security screen.

Minute 94.2.3 CCBC will not support a full day closure of the Twyn car park for the Christmas Lights switch on event on 15.11.24. Car park can only be closed from 5.00pm to 8.30pm, the same as previous years. Event will therefore have to remain in the location in front of the Twyn community centre.

**Address: Twyn Community Centre The Twyn Caerffili CF83 IJL**

**Telephone: 07950 935822**

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

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

**102 COMMUNITY SAFETY MATTERS**

 Gwent Police were not in attendance and no written report had been received.

**103 TOWN MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

An invitation had been received to the official opening of Ffos Caerffili but this had been postponed to April.

**104 ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

Concern was raised at the poor condition of many roads in the town and the failure rate of patched potholes requiring further repair. A response from CCBC to the issue raised at the last meeting regarding the number of potholes on Crescent Road was still awaited.

**105 TOWN CLERK’S REPORTS**

1 Newsletter

The draft newsletter was approved and the quotation of £398-00 for printing and £468-00 for distribution was accepted. The expenditure will be incurred in the new financial year and a budget of £900 has been approved. Expenditure is authorised under the Local Government Act 1972, section 142. It was agreed that Members should submit suggestions for topics to be included in a future newsletter.

2 Policy on Financial Assistance

The maximum levels of grant were set when the policy was approved in March 2019. In view of inflation over the last 5 years it was agreed to increase the maximum levels as below:

Tiered Structure

 Existing £ New £

Less than 15 members up to 150 up to 200

16 to 40 members up to 250 up to 300

41 members up to 400 up to 500

Local organisations with more than £10,000 bank balance will not normally be considered for a grant. (No change).

Where the application relates to major capital expenditure (eg building project) a higher level of grant may be considered but not exceeding a maximum of £1500 (existing £1000) and in this case the bank balance threshold will be disregarded.

Wales wide organisations will receive a maximum grant award of £150 (existing £100).

The new monetary amounts will be effective for grant applications received after 1st April 2024.

The current policy in respect of donations was reaffirmed, that other than the Mayor’s

charity, donations are not routinely made, and charities / organisations requesting a donation are referred to the policy on financial assistance.

3 Town Councillor Allowances for 2024/25

The Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW) has set out the Determinations on the 2024/25 allowances, mandatory and optional, for town and community councils.

Members were reminded that mandated payments will be paid automatically unless individual Members confirm in writing to the Town Clerk that they wish to forego the payments.

It was resolved:

1 to note the mandatory payments for 2024/25 as determined by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales.

2 The extra costs payments be paid as a single lump sum of £208 in April 2024.

3 A clawback of the annual payment based on a monthly pro rata calculation will apply to any Member who leaves the Town Council during the financial year or changes role where there is a financial implication relating to allowances.

4 To confirm the annual payment to the Town Mayor of £900 for 2024/25 as budgeted (paid quarterly).

5 In accordance with past practice not to adopt any of the optional Determinations other than applying the HMRC mileage allowance of 45p per mile in respect of out of Caerphilly County Borough travel on Town Council business.

 **106 PLANNING MATTERS**

A list of all the planning applications received since the last Town Council in February 2024 was included on the agenda as confirmation of consultation by the Local Planning Authority. The applications are circulated as soon as received from CCBC on an individual basis and it is for Members to identify any matters they wish to raise before the expiry of the 21 day consultation period. No comments have been made on any of the applications listed.

Councillor J Fussell declared an interest.

Councillor S Kent declared an interest in application 24/0128/RET.

**107 PAYMENTS AND FINANCIAL MATTERS**

1 List of payments were noted and approved.

2 Bank account balances were noted.

3 Applications for Financial Assistance

 1 The Aloud Charity

A grant of £150 was approved. Expenditure authorised under the Local Government Act 1972, section 137.

2 Caerphilly and District Twinning Association

A grant of £400 was approved. Expenditure authorised under the Local Government Act 1972, section 137.

Councillor P J Bevan declared an interest and took no part in the discussion or decision.

**108 CORRESPONDENCE**

1 Free Portrait of His Majesty the King

It was agreed not to take up the offer as the Town Council has no suitable location where the portrait could be displayed.

2 Caerphilly Rugby Club Roof

It was agreed to provide a letter of support for the Rugby Club application to the Community Ownership Fund to secure grant funding towards the roof repairs.

Councillors P J Bevan, M Downes, and J Grenfell declared an interest.

**109 MEMBER REQUESTS FOR FUTURE REPORTS**

There were no requests.

The meeting closed at 7.10 pm.