

**COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY, 16 DECEMBER 2020**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD IN REMOTELY VIA SKYPE FOR BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY, 16 DECEMBER 2020 AT 15:00**

Present

Councillor KJ Watts – Chairperson

SE Baldwin	TH Beedle	JPD Blundell	NA Burnett
MC Clarke	N Clarke	RJ Collins	HJ David
P Davies	PA Davies	SK Dendy	DK Edwards
J Gebbie	T Giffard	RM Granville	CA Green
DG Howells	A Hussain	RM James	B Jones
MJ Kearn	DRW Lewis	JE Lewis	JR McCarthy
D Patel	RL Penhale-Thomas	AA Pucella	JC Radcliffe
B Sedgebeer	RMI Shaw	CE Smith	SG Smith
RME Stirman	G Thomas	T Thomas	SR Vidal
MC Voisey	LM Walters	CA Webster	DBF White
PJ White	A Williams	AJ Williams	HM Williams
JE Williams	RE Young		

Apologies for Absence

JC Spanswick, JH Tildesley MBE and E Venables

Officers:

Lindsay Harvey	Corporate Director Education and Family Support
Gill Lewis	Interim Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change
Claire Marchant	Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing
Janine Nightingale	Corporate Director - Communities
Jonathan Parsons	Group Manager Development
Michael Pitman	Democratic Services Officer - Committees
Andrew Rees	Democratic Services Manager
Mark Shephard	Chief Executive
Gaynor Thomas	School Programme Manager
Kelly Watson	Chief Officer Legal, HR and Regulatory Services

480. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor SE Baldwin declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda item 12 - School Modernisation - Band B Capital Programme - Land Costs and took no part in the consideration of this item.

Councillor DBF White declared a personal in Agenda item 12 - School Modernisation - Band B Capital Programme - Land Costs as a governor of one of the schools mentioned in the report.

481. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of Council of 18 November 2020 be approved as a true and accurate record.

482. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM:

The Mayor

The Mayor announced with great sadness of the recent passing of a colleague and friend Kevin Stephens from Covid 19. Many Members will have known Kevin personally

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as he was a very well-regarded member of the democratic services team, indeed he would have today been assisting at this meeting of Council making sure that everything ran smoothly. Kevin had been a dedicated and hardworking member of BCBC for over 25 years and has in that time made many lifelong friends across the authority, Council's thoughts and support therefore go out to those staff who are coming to terms with the loss of their friend and colleague. Kevin was also a proud family man and in their time of loss Members send their heartfelt condolences to his wife Annie, his sons James and Luke and his mum Elsie. The Mayor informed members that he and his Consort had met the family outside the church prior to the funeral service taking place. As a mark of respect and in Kevin's memory all present observed a minute's silence.

The Mayor announced that he had the pleasure last week of saying thank you to all social services staff and volunteers who made the Santa appeal possible this year. Organising the collection while complying with the pandemic regulations was challenging for everyone involved, especially as the number of nominations of families in need had increased to over 300 children and young people. He stated that it was a credit to the Council's partners, Brackla Tabernacle Church, Bridgend Tesco, Hafod Y Wennol hospital and Brynteg School year 9 pupils, that the appeal was particularly successful and can reach as many children and young people as are in need.

### Deputy Leader

The Deputy Leader informed Council of the details of the Christmas and New Year recycling and waste collection arrangements and announced a very important change that Members may want to help make people aware of. Households where someone is showing coronavirus symptoms are requested to make sure that any tissue waste, such as kitchen roll, toilet paper or wet wipes, is double-bagged and set aside for 72 hours. After this, the bag can be placed out inside the household rubbish bag. To help keep collectors safe, on no account should such waste be included with paper recycling.

The Deputy Leader announced that collections this year will be carried out as normal on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, but not on Christmas Day, Boxing Day or New Year's Day. Waste that is due to be collected on Christmas Day will be picked up on Sunday 27 December. Collections due on New Year's Day will be picked up on Saturday 2 January. With the Boxing Day bank holiday moving to Monday 28 December, collections will take place as normal on this day. Residents will also be able to put out one extra rubbish bag for the first scheduled refuse collection after Christmas. There will be an additional vehicle collecting cardboard, so this may be collected separately to other household recycling. Residents are reminded there is no limit to how much recycling can be put out for collection, and that most materials can be recycled. The main items that cannot be recycled are cards that have glitter on them, wrapping paper, black plastic, cellophane wrap, bubble wrap and polystyrene. Real Christmas trees can be taken to a local community recycling centre.

### Cabinet Member Communities

The Cabinet Member Communities updated Council on the community asset transfer programme, in that Rest Bay Sports, which represents FC Porthcawl, and Porthcawl United have become the latest organisations to take advantage of the initiative. They have taken over the self-management of Rest Bay's playing fields and pavilion under a renewable five-year lease and have been awarded just over £45,000 towards the cost of redeveloping the pavilion. With a further £10,000 provided to secure pitch maintenance equipment, the clubs intend to transform the outdated pavilion by extending and refurbishing the first-floor level, and providing an elevated balcony overlooking the playing field.

He stated that the Council is continuing to support a large number of sports clubs while they undertake the self-management process and are planning to recruit a community

asset transfer surveyor to strengthen the process. As of October 2020, expressions of interest had been received for the management of 53 outdoor sports facilities and park pavilions, and by November, a further ten bowls clubs also agreed short-term tenancies. He announced that several additional transfers to sports clubs and town and community councils are due to be finalised in the coming months, and he would bring further news on this soon.

#### Cabinet Member Social Services and Early Help

The Cabinet Member Social Services and Early Help referred to the Leader's earlier announcement in which he outlined the serious situation that lies ahead as a result of the increase in cases of coronavirus, and how directorates are taking steps to ensure that it can be managed effectively. From the perspective of social services, there are a number of elevated risks as a result of an increase in staff absences, either because of Covid-19 or due to a need to self-isolate. Capacity among internal and independent domiciliary care providers is currently tight, so any further reduction in that workforce may mean they are unable to meet all care and support plan requirements. While there is capacity within residential and nursing homes and across children's residential care service, the situation remains similarly fragile. To accommodate this, a number of key actions are taking place in line with business continuity plans.

Firstly, essential services are being regularly reviewed, prioritised and co-ordinated at a director and heads-of-service level. The prioritised service areas across both adult and children's social care include safeguarding, care for the most vulnerable, mental health assessments, case management for vulnerable children, residential care and services that support fostering. Provision of respite care and day services will be kept under constant review until the situation improves, and contact will be made with affected individuals and families to explain any changes that may be needed and to provide support. Work was carried out at the start of the pandemic to determine whether staff had previous experience of working in, for example, direct care services. As a result of this forward planning, staff are now being redeployed to support operational managers. A basic training package is being put in place as part of this to ensure that redeployed staff can help deliver front line services efficiently, and they are also being paired with regular staff to maximise their effectiveness.

In addition, working is ongoing with the Finance team to establish a fast-track process for direct payments which can further facilitate care and support. The Cabinet stated that the situation is both challenging and fluid, but the Council has an extremely experienced director and senior management team in place to deal with it, and she was confident that the authority is in safe hands. The Cabinet Member stressed that while this is a temporary situation, how long it lasts for will ultimately be determined by whether the pandemic infection rate for Bridgend County Borough continues to rise or falls. The Cabinet Member supported the call from the Leader for people to observe all guidance, and to help fight the spread of coronavirus.

#### Cabinet Member Wellbeing and Future Generations

The Cabinet Member Wellbeing and Future Generations informed Members of important enforcement work which is continuing to take place across the county borough while the pandemic is in place. She stated that Members may have seen some of the coverage in the media of local premises which have received improvement notices following inspections from the Shared Regulatory Services team. She stated that the team is performing essential work in ensuring that businesses are following rules and regulations throughout the pandemic and are doing everything that they can to keep customers and staff safe. Enforcement generally takes the form of a premises improvement notice, which specifies the measures that need to be taken to meet the regulations within a certain time limit, which is usually 48 hours. If the business fails to

comply, enforcement officers can issue a premises closure notice, which can remain in place for up to fourteen days.

In some circumstances, enforcement officers can close the premises immediately without having served an improvement notice, but this would only be where there has been a serious breach of regulations. This has not proven to be necessary so far.

The Cabinet Member Wellbeing and Future Generations informed Council that one premises, a nightclub was served with a closure notice after failing to comply with required improvements, most premises which have received improvement notices have complied in full and have been able to continue trading. Of these businesses, eleven have been licensed pubs and bars. One was a gym, another a superstore, and four were fast food takeaways. Enforcement officers are continuing to visit premises to make sure they are meeting their responsibilities while the pandemic is in effect. She urged Members to direct constituents or a business within their ward would like to know more about this, to the Shared Regulatory Services website.

#### Cabinet Member Education and Regeneration

The Cabinet Member Education and Regeneration gave an update on what is currently happening within local schools in the run-up to Christmas. He stated that the Welsh Government has introduced national measures for all schools and colleges across Wales. In Bridgend County Borough, all secondary schools, including sixth forms, have moved to online learning only and after today, all infant, junior, primary and special schools, including The Bridge, will also move to online learning, which will be in place for the rest of the week. A number of schools have had to bring these plans forward early, due to the high number of staff and teachers who have either contracted coronavirus or are self-isolating as a result of coming into contact with someone who has tested positive.

He thanked and congratulated school staff and teachers for their ongoing hard work and commitment, and for ensuring that pupils can continue to receive lessons in the most difficult of circumstances.

He informed Council that children who are eligible for free school meals, will once have food parcels delivered in readiness for the Christmas holidays. Each parcel covers a two-week period and is being delivered to the home addresses of all eligible pupils. Those who are of secondary school age will also receive an additional food parcel to take account of the online learning arrangements.

#### Chief Executive

The Chief Executive reminded Members that public consultation has started on the Bridgend Town Centre Masterplan, and he asked Members to encourage residents to take part in it. He stated that the Masterplan is a hugely ambitious ten-year strategy with a number of long-reaching aims.

It includes a wide range of proposals such as creating a new town square, moving Bridgend College into the town centre, transforming derelict and empty buildings into new shops and housing, and much more. The Council has worked alongside specialist consultants to produce the masterplan, which aims to increase the number of people who shop, work, live, visit and enjoy the town centre by using a 'zoned' approach for cultivating retail opportunities, creating new commercial and office space, introducing new public realm works and providing better transport facilities.

Views and feedback have already been obtained from business owners and wider stakeholders; the views of residents were now being sought on the Masterplan. He stated that the consultation is going to be live until 1 March 2021 and the public can take part in several different ways, all of which are detailed at the consultation page of the Council website.

**483. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE LEADER**

The Leader was relieved and pleased to inform Members that Councillor John Spanswick has been discharged from the Princess of Wales Hospital and is now recovering at home. Following a positive test for coronavirus, Councillor Spanswick became very ill, and was admitted to intensive care after developing pneumonia. The Leader read out a statement which Councillor Spanswick had posted on social media.

“Just over two weeks ago, I tested positive for Covid, and for the next week I curled up and slept. One week later, unable to breathe properly, I was admitted to the Princess of Wales Hospital, and that's where our amazing NHS staff took over and gave me the best treatment I could have ever wished for.

After several scary moments thinking I may not be coming home, I have been one of the very lucky ones. The reason for this post is to give the biggest shout-out possible to all of the staff working in the hospital who turn up each day to battle with this dreaded Covid, and to all of the patients who desperately need their help. Most of the staff have had Covid themselves, yet they still turn up for work to make a difference in what are now very difficult circumstances. I will never be able to thank all of the NHS staff enough for the care and treatment they have given me, but they are the true heroes of our country. We all now need to play our part to help avoid this Covid spreading any more rapidly.”

The Leader asked Members to join him in wishing Councillor Spanswick well as he continues to recover at home.

The Leader informed Council that that the situation is quickly becoming dire. Just a few hours ago, Welsh Government announced that Wales is moving to alert level four, and that a series of new national changes will be implemented. All non-essential retail, including close contact services and all leisure and fitness centres, will close at the end of trading on Christmas Eve, and all hospitality premises will close from 6pm on Christmas Day. On 28 December, tighter restrictions for household mixing, staying-at-home, holiday accommodation and travel will also come into force.

He informed Council that £340m will be made available to support businesses affected by restrictions into the New Year, and further support has been promised for businesses affected by the new restrictions. Some important council services are now at risk because local cases of coronavirus are continuing to rise. In less than two weeks, Bridgend County Borough has moved from being one of the most improved local authorities in Wales to becoming the third highest area for positive cases of Covid-19.

Directorates are currently in the process of identifying services that are absolutely critical for preventing threats either on the basis of serious damage to human welfare, or serious damage to the environment. These are definitions of emergency as defined by the Civil Contingencies Act, and this is the first time that this Council has had to seriously consider such radical actions. This clearly indicates the level of crisis that the Council is in the process of dealing with. The Cabinet Member Social Services and Early Help will shortly be making an announcement from a social services perspective.

The Leader announced that high numbers of school-based staff who are self-isolating or ill with coronavirus has already forced one comprehensive, a special school and six primary schools to close earlier than planned. Council staff are already working flat-out to provide vital services in difficult circumstances, but any further reduction in the workforce will have a major impact on the Council's ability to do so. He stated that the Council is now in a position in where it is being forced to start considering which services will need to be pared back and reduced.

The Leader informed Council that colleagues in health are experiencing similar concerns, and the First Minister has confirmed that a further national lockdown may be necessary after Christmas. He stated that it was down to everyone as residents of the county borough to determine what happens next, and whether it will become necessary for such drastic measures to take place locally or not. He hoped that Members will support the fight against the spread of the coronavirus by telling constituents at every opportunity that it must be taken seriously. He stated that everyone needs to think about the possible consequences of their actions, and to follow the rules on wearing a mask, socially distancing, washing hands, and following the guidance and urgent action needs to be taken now to protect friends, family and neighbours.

484. PRESENTATION BY CWM TAF MORGANNWG UNIVERSITY HEALTH BOARD & PROGRAMME OF PRESENTATIONS TO COUNCIL

The Chief Executive introduced a presentation to Council by the Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board and informed Members that discussions will be held with Group Leaders on a programme of future presentations to be delivered by the Council's partners in 2021, to possibly include partners such as Awen and Halo. Members of Council were introduced to Professor Marcus Longley, Chairperson, Paul Mears, Chief Executive and Alan Lawrie, Chief Operating Officer of Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board.

The Chairperson of Cwm Taf expressed his thanks to the Council for its work in partnership with the Health Board during the pandemic. He informed Council of the key headlines from the last 12 months which had seen the publication of the Joint Review into Quality Governance; a response to Targeted Intervention (Quality and Governance) and Special Measures (Maternity Services); the implementation of a new operating model; the response to Covid-19; the appointment of a new Chief Executive; the launch of the CTM values and behaviours and a focus on stakeholder engagement.

The Chief Executive of Cwm Taf informed Council of the key headlines over the next 12 months, namely a clear long term Integrated Health and Care Strategy for the organisation; to learn from the new operating model; to continue to manage the Covid-19 pandemic; elective surgery recovery; a focus on population health; work to explore further opportunities for integration and partnership working and to maximise the opportunities from the digital agenda. He updated Members of the very rates of infection at present throughout its boundaries and informed Council that the Test, Trace, Protect project is partnership working at its best. Whole population testing is underway in Merthyr Tydfil and the Upper Cynon Valley and the vaccination programme is underway, which commenced in Bridgend. He stated that the Health and Care System is under significant strain, with higher number of COVID-19 patients in hospitals than ever before and that Ysbyty'r Seren is open and 53 beds occupied. There is proactive management of delayed transfers of care in collaboration with the Council.

The Chief Executive of Cwm Taf outlined its ambition together with its mission, vision and strategic objectives. He commented on the process for the integration of the Bridgend locality into Cwm Taf and that the underlying principle of the boundary change was no change in service provision to patients, but the opportunity to maximise synergies across the newly enlarged Health Board. There was an opportunity to learn from leading example of health and social care integration in Bridgend and a new operating model has created an Integrated Locality in Bridgend, which facilitates close working with Council colleagues and voluntary sector. He outlined examples of collaborative working and the integrated winter plans, developments in primary care and the improvements which had taken place to Maesteg Hospital. He informed Council of the significant progress made in maternity services. Moving forward, the Chief

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Executive informed Council of the Health Board's plans for the continued management of the COVID-19 pandemic; the completion of outstanding work associated with Bridgend integration; working with the Council on further developments in Health and Social Care integration; the locality focusing on population health and wider community engagement and to continue to engage and involve key stakeholders on service developments in Bridgend.

Members of Council paid tribute to all the staff in the NHS who have worked tirelessly during the pandemic. A member of Council referred to 2 health boards in Wales having announced yesterday that non-essential hospital treatment and questioned why better and earlier use had not been made of field hospitals. A member of Council also asked whether the health board could share with Members information on covid hotspots. The Chief Executive of Cwm Taf informed Council that the field hospital was opened in October where patients recovering are admitted as it was considered better to have a separate facility for people recovering from covid as it was known whether people being admitted to hospital had covid. The Chief Executive stated that he would have conversation with the Chief Executive and Leader as to how best to disseminate information on covid hotspots to Members.

A member of Council referred to the lack of ante-natal classes at present which could impact early years services and that mothers are missing out on key skills. A member of Council also referred to the initial rates of breast feeding in the UK which then drop dramatically which then impacts on infants later and asked what can be done to encourage mothers to continue with breast feeding. The Chief Executive of Cwm Taf informed Council of the challenging time for maternity services during the pandemic and that services had to be reviewed constantly to be delivered safely and that it had been difficult for staff working in visiting teams. He stated that the health board encourages breast feeding and that further work will be undertaken to improve breast feeding rates.

A member of Council asked what steps across Wales are being taken to ensure clinicians are kept up to date on their training during the pandemic. The Chief Executive of Cwm Taf informed Council that a number of services have had to be stood down during the pandemic, however he highlighted the importance of junior medical staff continuing to observe operations being performed. He stated that a number of surgeons have continued to perform operations. He informed Council that the Medical Director is constantly reviewing processes to ensure junior doctors observe operations and that surgeons continue performing operations.

A member of Council questioned the impact on the transfer of pathology services from Bridgend to Swansea resulting in a loss of expertise and whether proposals for that service had been developed. The Chief Operating Officer informed Council that the health board had not made the progress it would have wanted to due to the pandemic, but the development of pathology services in Cwm Taf remained a priority due to the transfer of the previous service to Swansea.

A member of Council questioned whether there are proposals for pain management to be developed in the community. The Chief Executive of Cwm Taf commented on the debilitating nature of pain management and it was looking at how more services could be moved into the community and where there is a lack of public transport would look at providing transport facilities.

A member of Council referred to the significant amount of residential development taking place in the gateway to the valleys area and questioned the progress on the development of primary care facilities in the location. The Chief Operating Officer informed Council that Cwm Taf is very aware of the volume of house building in that location and across the M4 corridor and conversations had been held on the

development of a new primary care facility in Cornelly. He stated that the development of primary care facilities in the gateway to the valleys area need to be developed.

A member of Council referred to the link between housing and health and asked what the health board can do to release surplus land for the development of social housing as there is a strong link between good health and the provision of good housing. The Chief Executive of Cwm Taf informed Council that as it develops its operating model it would look at the freeing up of surplus land and it would look to work with officers on developing innovative solutions. The Chief Operating Officer commented that discussions had been held with housing associations at opportunities under the auspices of the Regional Partnership Board.

A member of Council questioned the steps being taken by Cwm Taf to treat elderly people who have been diagnosed dementia. The Chief Executive of Cwm Taf stated that dementia has become a significant illness and that many who are recovering from covid may have dementia. He informed Council that the health board works closely with Adult Social Care to support those with dementia. The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing informed Council that dementia services are developed in an integrated way and there had been a positive development with Community Psychiatric Nurses working in clusters.

A member of Council was pleased to note the integration of health and social care and questioned the process for the payment of direct payments for military families who transfer from one area to another. The Chief Operating Officer confirmed that it had processes in place with continuing care with the transfer of funding between health boards for military personnel and armed forces veterans. The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing informed Council that where military families move between authorities in Wales the Council works closely with local authorities on direct payments.

**RESOLVED:** That Council:

- (1) noted the presentation by the Chief Executive and Chairperson of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board.
- (2) noted that a programme of presentations will be delivered by the Council's partners during 2021.

**485. REVIEW OF POLITICAL BALANCE - CHANGES TO COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

The Monitoring Officer reported on the outcome of a review of the political balance of the Authority resulting from changes to the membership of political groups; sought approval of the revised political balance; requested a nomination from the Independent Alliance Group to sit on the Town and Community Council Forum and for the Plaid Cymru Group to relinquish a seat on the Forum and for Council to note that Councillor T Thomas will no longer sit on the Appointments Committee as this was a role undertaken in his role as Group Leader of Plaid Cymru and will now be undertaken by Councillor RM James, the Group Leader of Plaid Cymru.

The Monitoring Officer reported that the Council is required by legislation and the provisions of Part 4 of the Rules of Procedure (Council Procedure Rules) of the Constitution, to undertake arrangements which will continue to facilitate and carry out the decision-making processes of the Authority. On 30 September 2020, Council at its Annual Meeting, approved the political balance and made appointments to Committees to reflect the political make-up of the Authority.



The Monitoring Officer outlined the recent changes to the membership of political groups, in respect of the membership of the Plaid Cymru Group and the Independent Alliance Group. Councillor T Thomas has left the Plaid Cymru Group and has joined the Independent Alliance Group. Councillor R Stirman has left the Plaid Cymru Group and will sit as a stand-alone Independent member. Councillor RM James is now the Leader of the Plaid Cymru Group. Councillor J Williams will no longer sit as a stand-alone Independent member and has joined the Independent Alliance Group. Councillor S Aspey has left the Independent Alliance Group and will sit as a stand-alone Independent member.

**RESOLVED:** That Council:-

- (1) noted the change to the political composition of the Council;
- (2) approved the allocation of seats to political groups in accordance with the political balance rules as set out in Appendix 1 of the report and approve the changes to the membership of Committees as outlined in paragraph 4.3 of the report.
- (3) appointed Councillor AJ Williams from the Independent Alliance Group to sit on the Town and Community Council Forum.
- (4) noted that Councillor T Thomas will no longer sit on the Appointments Committee as this was a role undertaken in his role as Group Leader of Plaid Cymru and will now be undertaken by Councillor RM James, the Group Leader of Plaid Cymru.

486. **INFORMATION REPORT FOR NOTING**

The Chief Officer Legal, HR and Regulatory Services and Monitoring Officer reported on the Information Report which had been published since the last meeting of Council.

**RESOLVED:** That Council acknowledged the publication of the document listed in the report.

487. **NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR T GIFFARD**

1. This Council believes that:

1.1. Woodland and open green spaces play a vital role in our physical, mental and emotional wellbeing, as well as being an integral part of Bridgend's biodiversity

1.2. The Covid-19 pandemic, and the nature of local and national lockdowns, has increased the need for open and accessible outdoor recreational spaces, and that these are essential for building cohesive and healthy communities which ensures the wellbeing of future generations

1.3. Local government has both a duty and a moral responsibility to limit ecological damage and negative impacts on local biodiversity

1.4. Any loss of open green space or woodland in Bridgend is hugely regrettable, and will have a negative impact on the ecology and biodiversity of Bridgend, and the physical, mental and emotional wellbeing of its residents

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1.5. Bridgend County Boroughs Council could lead Wales and the United Kingdom in tackling biodiversity loss, promoting the positive impacts of green open space, and ensuring all new developments are delivered in a way that improves, rather than detracts from, the accessibility and biodiversity of Bridgend's open green spaces and woodlands

2. This Council acknowledges that:

2.1. A review is being held of the Outdoor Sports and Children's Playing Space Audit as part of the emerging replacement LDP, ensuring the typology of open space categorisations outlined in the Welsh Government's Technical Advice Note 16: Sport, Recreation and Open Space are followed, with particular attention to differentiating outdoor/natural green space and amenity green space.

2.2. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 calls on Bridgend County Borough Council to:

2.2.1. "improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural wellbeing" of Bridgend

2.2.2. contribute to creating "a nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change"

2.2.3. contribute to creating "a society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood"

2.3. The Bridgend Public Services Board's Well-being Plan, of which Bridgend County Borough Council is a significant member, requires the council to:

2.3.1. ensure "communities place a greater value on their environment and more people get involved in local issues and recognise the importance of green space in wellbeing and as a prevention factor"

2.3.2. promote "healthy active people in resilient communities, volunteering, keeping young people in the local area, reducing travel to work, increased use and awareness of green spaces"

2.3.3. "work together to maximise the benefit from cultural, built and natural assets"

2.3.4. "make sure that as many people as possible know about the mental and physical benefits of spending time outdoors"

2.3.5. "preserve and protect habitats, promote sustainable management of green spaces, prevent loss of assets. Mitigate against climate change, biodiversity decline and flood risk"

2.3.6. "provide safe and accessible cultural and green assets for older people, carers, disabled people, young families and children"

2.3.7. "encourage community interaction by providing safe and accessible cultural and green assets. Communities feel connected to and engaged with their environment"

2.3.8. "promote sport and recreation linked to natural environment"

2.3.9. "reduce biodiversity decline"

2.4. The Placemaking Wales Charter, of which the Welsh Government is a signatory, calls on councils and organisations to ensure the following principles are met when planning, designing or managing new and existing places:

2.4.1. "The local community are involved in the development of proposals. The needs, aspirations, health and well-being of all people are considered at the outset. Proposals are shaped to help to meet these needs as well as create, integrate, protect and/or enhance a sense of community and promote equality"

2.4.2. "Places grow and develop in a way that uses land efficiently, supports and enhances existing places and is well connected"

2.5. Failure to embed the objectives and goals of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act and the Bridgend Well-being Plan will lead to the irreparable loss of vital open green space and woodland in communities across Bridgend

3. Therefore, this council resolves to:

3.1. Become a signatory of the Placemaking Wales Charter

3.2. Work to protect green open space and woodland within new and existing communities throughout the County Borough of Bridgend.

3.3. Should the loss of green space be the only option for any council building project, that a local referendum be held within the council ward where the work is due to be located to determine the community's support for such a project.

The Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor A Pucella.

An amendment to the Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor R Stirman, which was seconded by Councillor T Thomas that the words "County Borough" be added after the word "Bridgend" in paragraphs 1.1, 1.3 and 1.5 and that the words "would then become a material planning consideration when decisions are made" be added to the end of paragraph 3.3.

The Monitoring Officer advised Council that the proposal for a referendum contained in the notice of motion and amendment would not be appropriate when there is a process for proposals to be subject to statutory consultation with the public. The Monitoring Officer also advised that the amendment would not be lawful as it would bind the hands of the Development Control Committee. Councillor Stirman withdrew her amendment.

The Cabinet Member Communities expressed his concern with the Notice of Motion as everything included within paragraphs 1.1 to 1.5 are already being done by the Council and are embedded in the planning system. He stated that paragraphs 2.3 and 2.3.1 are also taken into consideration by the Council as part of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act. Paragraph 2.3.3 is already part of the planning process, while paragraph 2.4 which refers to the Placemaking Charter is already being done and is the subject of consultation. He stated that he agreed with the thrust of paragraphs 3.1 and 3.2, however in relation to paragraph 3.3, he informed Members that the Council has in existence a consultation process and has direct interaction with the public and questioned what part of the Notice of Motion the Council was not in compliance with and further, questioned the relevance of a referendum as it would not have any standing and no discernible benefit.

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The Monitoring Officer advised that a local referendum would be indicative and not binding on the Development Control Committee and would not carry the same weight of the statutory consultation process. The Monitoring Officer further advised that as the Development Control Committee is a statutory Committee a decision made by it can be appealed to the Planning Inspectorate.

The Group Manager Planning and Development gave an overview of planning in relation to the Notice of Motion and informed Members that the Council open spaces in the existing Local Development Plan (LDP) and will be protected in the new LDP and which would be the subject of extensive consultation and that there are key stages where the Council must engage with the community. Engagement will take place with the public on the LDP prior to it being submitted to the Welsh Government, who would then refer it to an Inspector for it to be scrutinised. The Inspector after scrutinising the LDP would refer it to the Welsh Ministers for approval prior to its adoption by the Council.

A member of Council informed Members that he believed a referendum on the proposed residential site at Tondu would have been met with a significant number of objections.

A member of Council stated that the Council already has robust processes in place and to hold local referendums would be a dangerous precedent and hamstrung the Development Control Committee.

The Cabinet Member Communities informed Members that the Monitoring Officer and Group Manager Planning and Development had advised Council in relation to the Notice of Motion and that the holding of a referendum would not hold any weight in planning decisions and to allow the Notice of Motion would raise the expectations of the public. He informed Council that he agreed with the pre-ambles in the Notice of Motion and he believed that a Notice of Motion to sign to the objectives and goals of the Placemaking Charter would receive the support of Council.

Councillor Giffard in summing up stated that the wording of the Notice of Motion had been the subject of consultation with the Monitoring Officer. He stated that it was acknowledged that the Council had already signed up to many of the points highlighted in the pre-ambles in the Notice of Motion. He also stated that many residents feel that their voices do not matter and that the Notice of Motion puts the power back in the hands of local people.

Following a vote by all Members present, it was:

**RESOLVED:** That the Notice of Motion was lost.

488. **URGENT ITEMS**

There were no urgent items.

489. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED:** That under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business as it contained exempt information as defined in Paragraph 14 of Part 4 and/or Paragraph 21 of Part 5 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

Following the application of the public interest test it was resolved that pursuant to the Act referred to above, to consider the following item in private, with the public excluded from the

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meeting, as it was considered that in all circumstances relating to the item, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

490. **SCHOOL MODERNISATION - BAND B CAPITAL PROGRAMME - LAND COSTS**

The meeting closed at 17:56