

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND ON WEDNESDAY, 29 MAY 2013 AT 3.00PM

Present:-

Councillor G Thomas - Deputy Mayor and Chairperson

<u>Councillors</u>	<u>Councillors</u>	<u>Councillors</u>	<u>Councillors</u>
S Aspey	M Gregory	J R McCarthy	C E Smith
M W Butcher	D M Hughes	H E Morgan	R Thomas
N Clarke	E M Hughes	L C Morgan	H J Townsend
H J David	R M James	M E J Nott OBE	K J Watts
G Davies	R D Jenkins	D G Owen	C Westwood
G W Davies MBE	P John	G Phillips	D B F White
P A Davies	B Jones	D R Pugh	P J White
E Dodd	R C Jones	C Rees	H M Williams
D K Edwards	C L Jones	C L Reeves	R Williams
L Ellis	D R W Lewis	M Reeves	M Winter
E P Foley	J E Lewis	D Sage	R E Young
C A Green			

Officers:-

D Mepham	-	Chief Executive
P A Jolley	-	Assistant Chief Executive - Legal and Regulatory Services and Monitoring Officer
M Shephard	-	Interim Corporate Director - Communities
T Guy	-	Head of Strategy, Commissioning and Partnerships
R Hughes	-	Interim Head of Healthy Living
G P Jones		Head of Democratic Services
M A Galvin	-	Senior Democratic Services Officer - Committees

186 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council of 1 May 2013 be approved as a true and accurate record.

187 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from the following Members for the reasons so stated:-

Councillor C James	-	Holiday
Councillor P James	-	Holiday
Councillor J H Tildesley MBE	-	Holiday
Councillor M Thomas	-	Holiday
Councillor E Venables	-	Holiday
Councillor J C Spanswick	-	Holiday
Councillor A D Owen	-	Work Commitments
Councillor M Jones	-	No reason given

188 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

189 DEPUTY MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Deputy Mayor announced that the Mayor was away this week but in his absence he thanked Members and Officers for the good wishes sent to Councillor James and himself as they begin their terms of office. They were looking forward to another busy and productive year for the Mayoral office.

The Deputy Mayor stated that his first official engagement was this morning when he had the pleasure of attending the 100th birthday of Mrs Trigg from Westfield Avenue, Bridgend. Tomorrow he would be attending the Bridgend Carers AGM and on Sunday he was looking forward to performing the official opening of the new woodland walk at Maesteg Welfare Park. In partnership with Bridgend County Borough Council, Communities First and local contractors had undertaken works, which meant that parts of the park which were not previously accessible have now been opened up for the public to enjoy. The project had been funded through a grant from the Welsh Government together with contributions from Bridgend County Borough Council, the Environment Agency and the Countryside Council for Wales. It was quite a transformation and the Deputy Mayor thanked everyone who played a part in making it happen.

Finally, he reminded Members that the latest edition of Bridgemembers magazine was on their desks. This is produced especially for Members so he urged those present to take some time to read this and pass on any feedback.

190 CABINET MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Deputy Leader

The Deputy Leader confirmed that he was delighted to be able to report the continuing success of the town centre events programme. Mash-up in Bridgend attracted over 28,000 visitors to the town, an impressive 11% more than the same event last year, with the whole town coming alive to street spots, music and dance.

The event received such strong corporate support from service areas outside of Regeneration, such as arts, the youth service and Streetscene, and was a truly corporate effort. Perhaps more impressive however he stated, was the strong inter-agency partnership working with agencies such as Groundwork and Welsh Athletics, and the many traders who helped to deliver and promote the event, such as the Bridgend Music Shop, Aroma Café and Candyshack.

Many traders had already written to the Council to advise of the positive impact the event had on their businesses, and in the final instance, this is perhaps the most important aspect. In the words of one trader (Steve Carter of Candyshack): "From the time we opened until 1745 hours we were absolutely jammed packed and we more than quadrupled our normal Saturday takings. The amount of people that came through our doors was phenomenal, literally hundreds. We had many new customers who had travelled to Bridgend solely for the Mash-up and the response we received from them was fantastic. They loved the event, the shop and Mickey and Minnie who posed for countless photographs for young and old alike. It undoubtedly proved that Bridgend has the potential to be a busy, vibrant town and with the right shops, events and attractions can get back to how it used to be".

The Deputy Leader concluded by advising that, as Members may be aware, further events were being planned for Maesteg and Porthcawl during the year.

2. Cabinet Member - Resources

The Cabinet Member - Resources advised Members of the following up and coming pre-Council presentations and Member development training sessions:-

Pre-Council Presentation

<u>Date</u>	<u>Subject</u>
3 July 2013	Bridgend Lifesavers Credit Union (2.00pm – 3.00pm)
24 July 2013	Advocacy for Children (2.00pm - 3.00pm)

Member Development Events

30 May 2013	Social Media Training (WLGA) (10.00am – 12.00pm)
4 June 2013	Personal Development Reviews Training - Reviewees and Reviewers (4.00pm - 6.00pm)
13 June 2013	Annual Report Training (refresher) (3.00pm - 5.00pm)
17 June 2013	Annual Report Training (refresher) (10.00am - 12.00pm)
18 June 2013	Domestic Abuse Seminar Workshop (10.00am - 1.00pm)
19 June 2013	Domestic Abuse Seminar Workshop (3.00pm - 6.00pm)

3. Cabinet Member - Children and Young People

The Cabinet Member Children and Young People extended his congratulations to Mr Nick Brain on his appointment as the new head of Bryntirion Comprehensive School and to Mr James Ridley as the new headteacher of Llangynwyd Primary School. Both Bryntirion and Llangynwyd were good schools and the new leaders can build on the strong foundations laid by the outgoing headteachers.

Congratulations to Mynydd Cynffig Infants School on achieving a Fairtrade status. The independent assessor described the commitment and progress made by staff and pupils as fantastic. The school was also complimented for its unique and innovative ideas including incorporating Fairtrade into the teaching of maths and art. Twenty-one Bridgend schools have now earned the right to fly the Fairtrade flag.

Well done to Cefn Glas Infants School who can be very proud of achieving both the Investors in People Silver Award and the National Quality Award for Healthy Schools. Cefn Glas is the second school in the Borough to win the healthy schools National Quality Award. Pontycymmer Nursery was the first to scoop this very prestigious award and Cefn Glas have been grateful to the nursery and to our healthy schools co-ordinator for all their help and advice. Silver in the Investors in People was earned by an outstanding team effort and initiatives like teachers coaching each other at the school. Cefn Glas Infants does not pause for breath and is already going for the gold award in Investors in People, he added.

The Cabinet Member - Children and Young People confirmed that last month that Heronsbridge Special School collected top honours at the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Show in Cardiff with its 'Artful Bodger's Garden' winning a gold award. It has been recreated in the school's orchard to provide a woodland area for pupils to enjoy outdoor learning. Members and the public will be able to see

these prized gardens and the school's new eco cabin on Sunday 23 June as part of the National Gardens Scheme.

4. Cabinet Member - Wellbeing

The Cabinet Member - Wellbeing informed Council of two very important weeks coming up in June.

The first was National Carers Week 2013 (from 10th to 15th June) . To mark this, Bridgend Carers Centre has a number of events running that week, starting with a free information event at their base in Park Street on Monday 10th June (from 10am – 2pm). If anyone had caring responsibilities or knew someone who did, the Cabinet Member - Wellbeing urged Members to get in touch with the Carers Centre. He had their contact details if any Member wished to obtain this from him.

The Cabinet Member - Wellbeing confirmed that it was Social Care Week 2013 from 17th to 21st of June, which was a chance to mark the role of those employed in the social care sector. Five per cent of the total workforce in Wales is involved in some form of social care, including social workers, home care workers, foster carers, residential care workers, charity support workers and others, all delivering a vital service to our most vulnerable children and adults. Here at Bridgend County Borough Council would be holding a 'Celebration of Success' ceremony on 19 June at the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl which will be attended by dozens of social care workers and key speakers from the Care Council for Wales. This sort of event reminds us that we and our partners deliver something very special and important, he concluded.

191 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chief Executive formally congratulated Ness Young on her appointment as the new Corporate Director for Resources. He continued that, Ness had been working with the Authority on an interim basis for just over a year, and she was looking forward to continuing her relationship with Members in the future. He was sure Members would join the Cabinet and Corporate Management Board in offering her every support and good wishes in her new role.

The Chief Executive also welcomed the new Head of Learning Deborah McMillan, who joined the Authority from Herefordshire Council, where she was the Head of Children's Provider Services. Deborah would oversee school improvement, inclusion, the education psychology service, youth service, post 14 education and training, early years and the music service. He confirmed that she had asked him to share with Members how pleased she was to join the Council, and to have such an important role in building on the excellent work already underway to raise aspirations and driving up educational achievement.

Finally, the Chief Executive thanked all the staff involved in the Mash-Up event in Bridgend town centre recently. He felt there could not be many towns in the UK which could claim to offer pole vaulting and rapping outside their banks and shops. It was fantastic to see the town centre so busy and lively, and the positive knock-on effect for traders. He was very proud that the Council was so instrumental in putting on such original events.

192 ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE - LEGAL AND REGULATORY SERVICES ANNOUNCEMENT

The Assistant Chief Executive - Legal and Regulatory Services and Monitoring Officer announced that the Labour Group had made the following changes in relation to their membership on Committees:-

- (i) Community Safety and Governance Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Councillor C Westwood to fill the current Labour vacancy, and Councillor J McCarthy to replace Councillor M Reeves.
- (ii) Audit Committee - Councillor J E Lewis to replace Councillor C E Rees.

193 LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader commenced his report by confirming that it had been his pleasure to attend the annual Adult Community Learning awards ceremony at the Grand Pavilion last week. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the achievements of local adult learners who are striving to improve their education and career prospects. As was highlighted from the event, it was not just about gaining qualifications, but also gaining confidence and new skills on top of this. He thanked ACL staff and partners for putting on this event and for their on-going commitment to offering accessible learning here in Bridgend County Borough.

The Leader was sure that Members would welcome last week's recommendation that Princess of Wales Hospital should keep its frontline services and become one of five 'regional centre' hospitals. An important consultation period was now ongoing and it was vital that Members and their constituents continued to give their views about the future of the Princess of Wales. He urged Members to look out for their opportunity to comment and attend events when these details were shared.

Finally, the Leader was delighted to confirm that the new Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen had already been recognised for its sustainability with a BREEAM (pron Breem) award. BREEAM recognises best practice in sustainable building design, construction and operation and its annual awards celebrate the highest scoring buildings certified each year. He was pleased to report that this year the Authority won an education category for the outstanding work it was undertaking with its project team partners, to create such an environmentally-sound facility for the community.

194 SINGLE INTEGRATED PARTNERSHIP PLAN (BRIDGEND COUNTY TOGETHER)

The Leader of the Council presented a report, the purpose of which, was to present Council with the above Plan, for formal approval and adoption.

Bridgend County Together was a partnership plan that has been developed by the Local Service Board over the last 18 months based on feedback from citizens and a review of the data we have about the County.

It replaced the Community Strategy, Children and Young Peoples Plan, Health, Social Care Wellbeing and Community Safety Plans based on guidance from Welsh Government entitled 'Shared Purpose, Shared Delivery'.

It sat above the Corporate Plan for the Council and sets the Local Service Board priorities over the next five years.

The LSB is responsible for the delivery of the plan and approved/signed of a final version at its meeting on the 30th April. However, there is a requirement for each LSB member organisation (including the Council) to consider and agree the final plan.

The Local Service Board four priority outcomes (healthy, wealthy, wise and place) had been adopted by Council as part of the Corporate Plan, and the Authority's priorities have been informed by the strategic needs assessment (evidence base) which was developed by the LSB. Members can therefore be assured stated the Leader that there

are the appropriate links between both the Authority's Corporate Plan and Bridgend County Together.

The process followed to develop the plan was not a one-off exercise. The action plan (referred to as summary report cards in the plan) is intended to be amended to respond to changing situations and to be updated as actions are completed.

The LSB partnership structure will regularly monitor progress on the plan alongside the LSB Overview and Scrutiny Committee. These will be complemented with annual reports to the public, elected members and Welsh Government on progress. The first update will be provided in April 2014.

With the robust process followed to develop Bridgend County Together and the monitoring arrangements in place to ensure its delivery it is recommended that Council approves and adopts the Plan which has been appended to the covering report the Leader concluded.

A Member referred to page 9 of the Plan, attached to the report at Appendix 1, and to one of the suggested service areas subject to future reform and change, i.e. increasing the percentage of pupils in Bridgend achieving the Level 2 threshold, including English/Welsh and Maths, from 51% in 2012 to 65% by 2015. She felt that this increase was a very challenging target and asked if it was too ambitious.

She also noted that the Local Service Board (LSB) had only one appointed Member on it from Bridgend County Borough Council, the Leader, and she considered that further Members should be appointed to sit on this body, (for example all Members of the Cabinet) in order to achieve a wider level of expertise based on their differing portfolio's.

In relation to the point made regarding further representation from Council on the LSB, the Leader confirmed that he would feed this back to the Board for further consideration.

With regard to the proposal in the coming years to increase levels of attainment to the Level 2 threshold, the Cabinet Member - Children and Young People agreed that the proposed increase in terms of percentages from 51% to 65% was a challenging target. However, last year schools in Bridgend had achieved overall the highest improvement with regard to pupils obtaining 5 GCSE's including English/Welsh and Maths, when compared to other authorities in Wales.

He added that the Authority had to be aspirational in order to succeed and secure improvements such as in the above mentioned area.

The Cabinet Member - Children and Young People added in response to the Leader's comments regarding representation on the LSB that there were two sub-boards of the LSB, namely the People's Board, of which the Cabinet Member - Wellbeing and himself were Members, and the Communities Board of which the Cabinet Member - Communities was a Member. Both of these bodies supported the LSB, so in effect, he stated that there was more than one Member of the Authority that contributed to the work processed overall by the LSB.

A Member noted from the Plan that there were plans to promote the use of social media, particularly in relation to employment opportunities/vacant posts. Whilst she did not disagree with this, she felt that individuals should also be educated in using social media options responsibly, as people could be held to account if they said something inappropriate on social media sites.

An example of this was Paris Brown, the former Youth Police and Crime Commissioner in Kent, who resigned from her post as a result of "tweeting" inappropriately.

The Chief Executive stated that this was a valid observation, which he would in turn refer to the Human Resources Department and Job Centre Plus (DWP).

A Member noted the aims and objectives of the Plan, and asked what was the role of Members in assisting to achieve these. He added by what methods would Members be updated on the progress of the Plan.

The Chief Executive advised that there was a number of organisations that supported the Plan, and that progress on its components would be shared regularly in some manner or another, at various meetings both internal within the Authority i.e. Overview and Scrutiny, and external meetings within the partner organisations. He added that the Plan was long term and would change over its lifetime, and there was a requirement to formally review the Plan annually and provide feedback on the review to the public, Welsh Government, elected Members (via Council) and LSB member organisations.

RESOLVED: That Council approved and adopted the Plan attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

195 MEMBER ROLE DESCRIPTION - LOCAL AUTHORITY SCHOOL GOVERNOR

The Assistant Chief Executive - Legal and Regulatory Services and Monitoring Officer submitted a report, the purpose of which was to:-

- Consider the role description for an Local Authority School Governor (Appendix 1 to the report referred);
- Propose and agree any amendments that may be required to the role description;
- Adopt the agreed Member role description for an Local Authority School Governor.

The Assistant Chief Executive - Legal and Regulatory Services and Monitoring Officer reminded Members, that at its meeting on 1 May 2013, Council approved and adopted a number of Member role and descriptions for various positions, and that The Head of Democratic Services and the Governor Support Team had developed the draft role description for LA School Governor.

The Corporate Director Children and the members of the Democratic Services Committee had considered the draft role description and provided comments which had been included in the final draft role description accordingly.

Council was requested to consider the LA School Governors Role Description as appended to the report therefore, and if it deemed necessary, to propose any amendments to ensure that it accurately reflects the roles that elected members carry out.

RESOLVED: That Council adopted the Local Authority School Governor Role description attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

196 APPOINTMENT OF REGISTERED REPRESENTATIVES AND A CO-OPTED MEMBER TO THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Assistant Chief Executive - Legal and Regulatory Services and Monitoring Officer presented a report, that sought Council's approval for the appointment of Registered Representatives and a non-voting Co-optee to the Children and Young Persons Overview and Scrutiny Committee, for maximum term of four years.

The report gave some background information, and confirmed that Mr William Bond has completed a term of office as the Special School Parent Governor Representative, and has been nominated for re-appointment to serve a further term on the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Mr Kevin Pascoe had completed a term of office as the Primary School Parent Governor Representative. Following an election held in accordance with the Parent Governor Representatives and Church Representatives (Wales) Regulations 2001, Mr. Richard Thomas has been nominated to serve as the Primary School Parent Governor Representative.

Mr Ian Davies has completed a term of office as a Co-opted member representing the ATL union, and has been nominated for re-appointment to serve a further term on the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee have been informed of these nominations and recommended them to Council for appointment.

RESOLVED: That Council noted the report, and approved the appointment of the following individual to the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee, each for a term of four years.

- (i) Mr William Bond, Special School Parent Governor representative.
- (ii) Mr Richard Thomas as Primary School Parent Governor representative.
- (iii) Mr Ian Davies as Co-opted member representing the Association of Teachers and Lecturers.

197 INFORMATION REPORT FOR NOTING

The Monitoring Officer presented a report, the purpose of which, was to inform Council of any information reports for noting since its last ordinary meeting.

RESOLVED: That Council noted the publication of the document contained in paragraphs 4.1 of the report.

The meeting closed at 3.40pm.