

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND ON WEDNESDAY, 11 DECEMBER 2013 AT 3.00PM

Present:

Councillor C J James - Mayor and Chairperson

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

Officers:

D Mepham	-	Chief Executive
M Shephard	-	Corporate Director - Communities
S Cooper	-	Corporate Director - Wellbeing
D McMillan	-	Corporate Director - Children
P A Jolley	-	Assistant Chief Executive - Legal and Regulatory Services and Monitoring Officer
M A Galvin	-	Senior Democratic Services Officer - Committees
G Jones	-	Head of Democratic Services (Electronic Support)

271 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of an ordinary meeting of Council held on the 13 October 2013 were approved as a true and accurate record.

272 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from the following Members/Officers for the reasons:

Councillor R D Jenkins	-	Unwell
Councillor P J White	-	Unwell
Councillor D Sage	-	Recuperating
Councillor G Davies	-	Holiday
Councillor L Ellis	-	Medical Appointment

273 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

274 MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The Mayor stated that colleagues would be aware that this week saw the passing of Nelson Mandela, a human rights figurehead and the 'father' of modern day Africa.

Over the last few days, global media headlines have ably demonstrated the level of respect and esteem with which he was regarded, and it had been extremely moving to see how people from all around the world had been expressing their sympathy.

The Mayor had always remembered the words that Nelson Mandela spoke at his 1964 trial, shortly before he was incarcerated for 27 years, where he said:

“I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for, and to achieve.”

The Mayor would be writing to offer the respects and condolences of the people of Bridgend County Borough, and he was sure that colleagues would join him in noting the passing of this remarkable man.

2. On a more local level, the Mayor announced that pupils from Brynteg Comprehensive School had been crowned Bridgend County Borough’s ‘Young Consumers of the Year for 2013-14’ after fighting off stiff competition for other comprehensives in the area. This was the second year running that Brynteg have won the competition, which is organised by the Trading Standards team with sponsorship from Sony, Bridgend Designer Outlet, Sainsbury’s, Odeon Cinemas and the Co-operative.

The schools answered questions on a range of issues in the University Challenge-style quiz, including consumer and legal affairs, credit and finance, social responsibility, healthy living and the environment.

Brynteg would now go forward to represent the County Borough at the Welsh Final in Cardiff next year. He extended his best wishes to the team.

3. The Mayor was thrilled to attend the opening of the new £1.3 million Early Years Unit at Bryncethin Primary School.

Built as part of the Council’s ongoing school modernisation programme, the new unit was home to nursery and reception classes and also featured cloakrooms, toilets, office space and storage as well as an outdoor soft play and learning area.

The unit catered for a total of 60 pupils and enabled children aged 3 to 11 to be taught at one single site.

Traffic issues were also being eased outside the school thanks to the introduction of a special area where parents can drop off and collect their children.

Meanwhile, the former Sarn Nursery building was being renovated and will re-open in the spring as a Flying Start centre, offering eligible parents of children up to 3 years old access to free childcare, two health visitors, a Flying Start midwife and other services.

Thanks were extended to everyone who had played a part in helping to deliver Bryncethin Primary School’s new Early Years Unit.

4. Finally the Mayor reminded colleagues that nominations were being sought for the 2013-14 Mayor’s Citizenship Awards.

This was an opportunity to sing the praises of people who help to improve life in their local community, and the awards were open to people who live in the County Borough, as well as local groups and businesses.

Nominations forms could be downloaded from the Council website and the deadline for returning them was 24 January 2014.

275 CABINET MEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS

(1) Cabinet Member - Wellbeing

Garw Valley Life Centre

The Cabinet Member - Wellbeing advised that Bridgend County Borough Council had worked with HALO Leisure and Sport Wales to convert an outdoor tennis court area at the Garw Valley Life Centre into a floodlit all-weather sports pitch. The works had recently been completed and the official opening will take place during January 2014. The facilities will support local clubs, primary schools and youth service activity and allow more flexible programming of activities at the centre.

Héronsbridge School Partnership

The Cabinet Member - Wellbeing also confirmed that Bridgend County Borough Council had worked with Heronsbridge School and Sport Wales to develop a floodlit all-weather sports pitch at the school that will be used by both school community. The site will act as a Hub for disability sport, support school activities but also be available for community use. The project will be officially opened on the 18 December 2013.

Bryntirion Football Club Partnership

The Cabinet Member - Wellbeing informed Members that Bridgend County Borough Council had supported the development of facilities at Bryntirion football club as part of the new Club Penybont football club merger. Bridgend County Borough Council supported the development of a sports development plan that attracted £150k from Sport Wales to add to the funding allocated via ESCROW relating to the relocation of Bridgend Town Football Club. The full size 3g-third generation - all weather sports pitch is completed and the facility will be tested for a FIFA accreditation licence shortly.

Bridgend Library

He finally advised that the new Bridgend Library was opened to the public on Thursday 14 November 2013. Now part of an integrated facility at Bridgend Recreation Centre (soon to be re-named Bridgend Life Centre) the library has attracted over 10,000 visits including 1064 visits by children. New facilities such as self-service kiosks, enhanced IT devices and importantly over 7000 new books have all encountered and current users to visit. In only two weeks the library signed up 214 new borrowers in November compared to 70 for the whole month last year.

We committed to improve access to all of our leisure facilities including the library and to complement the significant development at the Recreation Centre we have established two new bus stops and secured an additional 20 journeys to the Rec/Library (10 outbound and 10 inbound). These were due to commence on Monday 9 December 2013.

(2) Cabinet Member - Resources

Member Development

The Cabinet Member - Resources confirmed that the next pre-Council Briefing will be from Y Bont on 8 January 2014.

The second stage of the School Performance training will be delivered on:

23 January 2014 from 09:00 - 12:00

29 January 2014 from 14:00 - 17:00

This school performance training is in response to the Estyn inspection and all Members were requested to make every effort to attend one of these follow-up training sessions.

Access to Social Media

The Cabinet Member - Resources advised that the Social Media protocol was approved by Council earlier this year. Members were reminded that should they wish to access social media via their Bridgend County Borough Council provided ICT equipment they needed to:-

Advise the Head of Democratic Services (HDS) of their intentions before:-

- Confirming their understanding of the six simple rules (ICT Code of Conduct)
- Signing the Social Media Protocol (copies held in the Members and Mayoral Office)
- Attending appropriate social media training (co-ordinated by Head of Democratic Services)

On completion of these requirements the ICT service desk could be advised of the social media sites Members wished to have access to. If these sites do not pose a security risk to the Bridgend County Borough Council networked then access will be provided to those specific sites he concluded.

(3) Cabinet Member - Children and Young People

The Cabinet Member - Children and Young People advised that the Authority were appealing for more volunteers for the Volunteer Driver Scheme to enable essential journeys to be made. This included transport for looked after children to and from contact with their birth family, and helping older people in the community with health appointments. The service provided transport for up to 100 passengers each week, and currently there were 19 volunteer drivers but more are urgently needed to cope with demand. Volunteer drivers donate as much or as little of their time as they feel able to, and often use their own cars, for which they are paid a mileage allowance and are reimbursed for expenses they incur such as car parking. Drivers received any benefits were not excluded or affected from volunteering. If anyone knew someone who is interested in becoming a volunteer driver then please contact the Co-ordinator Joanne Kilburn.

The Council were also looking for people to become support carers in order to help keep families together. Bridgend Support Care was a short-term preventative foster care initiative which aimed to be a cost-effective way of supporting families, but more importantly, avoid an increase in the number of children and young people entering long-term care. Planned, time-limited short breaks with the support carers were organised for the children, combined with support with the Family to promote change. Bridgend is one of only four councils running support care schemes in Wales.

The scheme was ideal for people who would like to get involved but cannot offer the full-time commitment of becoming general foster carers. Support carers need to have experience of working with children and they only help one family at a time to overcome difficulties. In recognition of their support and commitment, carers receive a weekly payment, Constituents could find out more by contacting the Foster Care Service on:

01656 642681/642674 or visit www.bridgend.gov.uk/supportcare

The Cabinet Member - Children and Young People stated that pupils from Bridgend Youth Choir were taking part in a special Christmas performance alongside the BBC National Chorus of Wales in St. David's Hall in Cardiff on Tuesday 17 December 2013. Secondary school singers from Archbishop McGrath, Brynteg, Y Dderwen and Porthcawl would be part of the BBC's Christmas Celebrations' concert. Tickets for the concert which is being recorded for BBC Radio Wales, are available from the BBC ticket line.

Archbishop McGrath pupil and Bridgend Youth Orchestra member, Macie Wallis, who is from Bettws, will be joining one of the best music schools in the Country, the Chetham's School of Music in Manchester. The achievement was the latest in a string of successes for the 12 year old violin first virtuoso, who was the first primary school pupil ever to be selected for the Four Counties Youth Orchestra, and was chosen to join the National Children's Orchestra of Great Britain earlier this year. The rising star performed in Bridgend Youth Orchestra's annual Christmas concert later this year. He extended his congratulations to Macie.

Finally, announced the Cabinet Member - Children and Young People, Members and staff were being invited to take part in this year's Santa Appeal - a Christmas present scheme for children and young people from disadvantaged families here in the Borough. This year the appeal was aiming to give over 250 local children and young people. Gifts should be new and unused he stated. You do not have to wrap your gift but if you do, please attach a label stating the age range and whether it is intended for a boy or a girl. Gifts for all age ranges were welcomed, but presents for late teens/young adults would be especially welcomed. The closing date for donations was Friday 20 December 2013.

276 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chief Executive announced that he was continuing work with Directorate teams, Heads of Services and Group Managers in the New Year, and amongst other proposals steps would be taken to fill certain management vacancies, via the Appointments Committee to fill the vacant post of Head of Strategy and Commissioning in the Children's Directorate.

The Chief Executive was pleased also to announce that the Council had given support to a Charity Shop that had opened last week in Aberkenfig. This would be managed by representatives from a group of churches and volunteers from that area, and the premises would look to raise money to provide initially a Clothes Charity shop and possibly in due course, a Debt Counselling Service. The official opening was made by the Bishop of Wales and the above representatives, and he confirmed that the Authority had been thanked for its support in helping get this project off the ground by providing the organisation with a lease agreement.

277 LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader announced that, together with the Mayor and many fellow Councillors and Officers he was proud to take part in the recent signing of the Armed Forces Community Covenant here in the Council chamber. Designed to strengthen the links between Bridgend County Borough and past and present members of the armed forces, the covenant was signed by military personnel and representatives of the civilian community. It complemented the national Armed Forces Covenant and meant that organisations work together at a local level to use their specialist knowledge, experience and expertise to provide appropriate help, support and advice. As a significant event in the history of the Bridgend County Borough, it also further strengthened the relationship between us. The Leader also believed that it was a mark of respect. The Authority were already immensely proud of its strong relationship with serving troops and their families, veterans and cadets from the area, and the community covenant demonstrates that the people of Bridgend County Borough have not forgotten the service, sacrifice and dedication of our armed forces.

The Leader stated that the Council had some very good 'green' news recently after statistics compiled by waste consultancy, Eunomia revealed that the recycling service provided by Bridgend County Borough Council and its waste partner Kier, had led to the area being ranked among the top five in the UK for generating 'carbon benefits'. The recycling efforts of local residents achieved a saving of 95 kilogrammes of carbon per person in 2011-12. Fifty seven percent of all waste was recycled in the County Borough every week, which means that fewer carbon emissions are produced here than in most other parts of the Country. He extended a big thank you to all residents who recycled their waste regularly, and hoped that even more households would take part in the kerbside scheme, and help the Council to deliver further environmental benefits.

278 AMENDMENT TO 2014-15 COUNCIL TAX BASE FOR COYCHURCH HIGHER AND COYCHURCH LOWER COMMUNITY COUNCILS

The Section 151 Officer submitted a report, the purpose of which was to advise Council that the previously reported council tax base figures for Coychurch Lower and Coychurch Higher Community Councils were inadvertently transposed and need to be re-approved by Council.

The 2014-15 council tax base for the Council and individual Community Councils was previously approved by Council on 13 November 2013. Subsequently, it had been identified that the council tax base figures which were stated in Appendix A of the report for Coychurch Higher and Coychurch Lower Community Councils were transposed.

The Assistant Chief Executive - Legal and Regulatory Services and Monitoring Officer confirmed that the correct council tax bases for both Community Councils, which require Council re-approval were shown in the table in paragraph 4.1 of the report.

He added that Appendix A to the report provided details of all Community Council tax bases and included the amendments in the table, in paragraph 4.1 of the report.

RESOLVED: That Council re-approved Appendix A of the report which included the corrected Council Tax Bases for Coychurch Lower and Coychurch Community Councils.

279 FAMILY ABSENCE FOR ELECTED MEMBERS

The Monitoring Officer presented a report, the purpose of which, was to inform Council of new legislation on Family Absence for Elected Members.

The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 makes available to Members of local authorities entitlement to a period of family absence, during which a Member is entitled to be absent from Authority meetings. The Measure creates an entitlement to five types of family absence, and these were outlined in Paragraph 3.1 of the report.

The Monitoring Officer went on to advise that, the Family Absence for Members of Local Authorities (Wales) Regulations 2013 made under the powers conferred by Part 2 of the Measure came into force on 5th December 2013. The Regulations prescribed the conditions that Members must satisfy to be entitled to a period of family absence and set out an administrative process, to follow to this end, as detailed in paragraph 4.3 of the report.

The Monitoring Officer confirmed that it was recommended that the functions of the Panel referred to in paragraph 4.3 be allocated to a sub-committee of the Democratic Services Committee and that 3 Members be appointed to this at the next meeting of the Democratic Services Committee on 23 January 2014.

He concluded by advising that the Authority was required under the Regulations to make standing orders as soon as reasonably practicable after the Regulations came into force. The Constitution had therefore been amended at Article 2 – Members of the Council and at Part 3 – Responsibility of Functions, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

RESOLVED: That Council

- (1) Noted the report and the provisions of the Family Absence for Members of Local Authorities (Wales) Regulations 2013.
- (2) Approved the establishment of the Panel (as set out in paragraph 4.3 of the report) to be a Sub-Committee of the Democratic Services Committee.

- (3) Approved the amendments to the Constitution as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

280 REMOTE ATTENDANCE

The Monitoring Officer presented a report, the purpose of which, was to inform Council of issues under the remote attendance provisions of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 and approve amendment of the Constitution.

He outlined some background information, namely that Section 4 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 enabled Elected Members of a local authority to attend remotely (i.e by an audio-visual link) a meeting of the Council. Up to one half of the quorum of a meeting may attend in this way. By "Council meeting" Welsh Government guidance includes any Committee or Sub-Committee of the Council as well as the full Council itself. The purpose of the provisions were intended to support equality issues.

The technical requirements of the Measure require a member attending remotely to be able to see and hear and be seen and be heard both by Elected Members in actual attendance, those other Members attending remotely and by members of the public attending the meeting exercising a right to speak at the meeting. The provisions were therefore more complex than a simple web casting of proceedings.

The next part of the report explained of the technical and practical difficulties of participation in meetings through Remote Attendance, some of which were not easy to overcome.

The Monitoring Officer concluded his report, by confirming that at a recent meeting of the Wales Monitoring Officers and Governance Group, it was confirmed that Welsh Government now agree that the correct interpretation of the Measure is that remote attendance is discretionary not mandatory but it is the view of the Welsh Government that it would not, however, be appropriate for a local authority's standing orders to rule out entirely the prospect of remote attendance as the intention of the Measure was to introduce flexibility, and some councillors, because of distance, health, caring or employment responsibilities might benefit from being able to attend meetings remotely.

It is therefore recommended that Part 4 of the Constitution be amended as attached at Appendix 1.

The amendment was intended to facilitate the move to remote attendance but additionally, it is recommended that Council receives a further report on the costs of a technical solution and the content of guidance once published, on the operation of remote attendance

RESOLVED: That Council:

- (1) Noted the report and the provisions of Section 4 of the Measure.
- (2) Approved amendment of the Constitution as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.
- (3) Receive a further report on the costs, funding and technical solution and the content of guidance once published on the operation of remote attendance.

281 INFORMATION REPORTS FOR NOTING

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

The Information Report for noting was detailed in paragraph 4.1 of the report.

RESOLVED: That Council noted the publication of the documents contained in paragraph 4.1 of the report.

282 INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES

The Assistant Chief Executive - Legal and Regulatory Services and Monitoring Officer submitted a report, informing Council of the Supplementary Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel (the Panel) for Wales in respect of payments to co-opted members of local authorities who have the right to vote.

He advised Council, that in the 2012 Annual Report the Panel determined that the annual maximum (10 days) payable to co-optees may be too restrictive and decided that each council will have discretion in determining the maximum to suit its circumstances. It also recognised that time spent on attending authorised training events, conferences and pre-meetings with officers can be part of the functions for which co-opted members may be paid.

The Assistant Chief Executive - Legal and Regulatory Services and Monitoring Officer explained it was considered that there was insufficient information available at that time to determine whether the 10 day maximum needed to be amended for this authority. A suitable period has elapsed to enable an evaluation to be undertaken. The outcomes of that evaluation were shown at Appendix 1 to the report.

During a 10 week period, from March to June 2013 the Panel visited each of the 28 authorities where issues were raised in respect of payments to co-opted members. The Panel considered that there were matters that needed to be rectified and that these should be actioned in advance of the next Annual Report which will not take effect until Spring 2014. A copy of the Supplementary Report of the Panel was attached at Appendix 2 to the report.

Paragraph 3.4 of the report, then outlined determinations that had been made by the Panel which would take effect from 1 January 2014.

The Assistant Chief Executive - Legal and Regulatory Services and Monitoring Officer advised that there were currently a total of 12 co-optees with voting rights currently sitting on Council committees. These were:

- 1 Independent "lay" member on the Audit committee;
- 4 Independent Members on the Standards committee (including the Chairperson) with a further 2 co-opted members from the Town and community Councils (1 co-opted post is vacant);
- 5 Registered representatives on the Children & Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Panel had determined that travelling and preparation time can be taken into account when considering the appropriate level of remuneration for co-optees.

The increase in the number of full day claims that may be received would not exceed that of the entitlement of a co-opted i.e. currently 10 full days. No claims would be considered if the current 10 day limit had been reached.

The Panel had also determined that an "appropriate officer" can be nominated to assess the:

- anticipated length of any meeting involving co-opted members
- preparation time that is required for any meeting
- travelling time to and from a meeting that can considered for remuneration

RESOLVED: That Council:

- (1) Noted the Supplementary Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel in respect of payments to co-opted members who have the right to vote;
- (2) Approved that the Monitoring Officer be designated as the “appropriate officer” within the authority for determining preparation time, travelling time and length of meetings for co-optee remuneration.

283 WEBCASTING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Assistant Chief Executive - Legal and Regulatory Services and Monitoring Officer presented a report, that informed Council of an aspiration to introduce webcasting for specific meetings of Council and its committees and sought authorisation for the recording of Council meetings and their subsequent publication to the internet.

The Assistant Chief Executive - Legal and Regulatory Services and Monitoring Officer confirmed it had been identified that a number of benefits could be achieved from the broadcasting of public meetings. These were listed in paragraph 3.2 of the report.

The Welsh Government (WG) has expressed its support for public broadcasting of Council and other committee meetings by the provision of a grant of £40,000 to assist all Local Authorities in Wales develop the delivery of webcasting and remote attendance facilities.

Other Local Authorities had introduced webcasting, and details of their webcasts and the number of unique viewings either of the live webcast or as part of an archived record were shown at Appendix 1, to the report.

These viewing figures were significantly higher than the number of people attending the public meetings of Council or engaging in the formal decision making processes.

The Assistant Chief Executive - Legal and Regulatory Services and Monitoring Officer confirmed that an initial plan had been developed to provide a staged progression towards the webcasting of meetings. The plan identified that recordings of Council meetings could be made and placed on the BCBC website with minimal cost and resource implications. This could then be developed into live webcasting in due course.

The Council Chamber had the benefit of having cameras and an audio visual system that had the capability to record meetings. The recording facility had not been used to date but as part of the plans to develop webcasting within the Authority, the system was used to confirm “proof of concept”.

A test recording been undertaken, which had a high quality picture and sound reproduction that indicated that the Council Chamber systems could be utilised to record meetings without the need for a technical upgrade. At present however meetings held in the Committee Rooms could not be the subject of webcasting as there were no facilities in these rooms to achieve this.

It was proposed that the recording of Council meetings now be formally developed with the intention to record and publish the Annual Meeting of Council on 14 May 2014 to the BCBC website. As part of the progression towards that target, it was planned that the Holocaust Memorial Day Event being held in the Council Chamber on 24 January 2014 will be recorded and published to the BCBC website by 27 January 2014.

In conjunction with the recording and publication of meetings, the possible options to further develop this facility would be identified and the practicalities and feasibility of live webcasting will be assessed. The development of live broadcasts will not involve any formal meeting of Council or its committees but specific test broadcasts may be made.

It was further proposed that Council receives an update report in April 2014 to provide information regarding the progress made in the publication of meeting recordings to the BCBC website, and future options for the delivery of a live webcasting facility for the Authority.

RESOLVED: That Council:

- (1) Noted the contents of this report and the aspiration to introduce webcasting for specific meetings of Council and its committees.
- (2) Sought authorisation for the recording of Council meetings and their subsequent publication to the internet.
- (3) Noted that an update report will be presented to Council in April 2014.

284 NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR D B F WHITE - SUPPORTING BRITISH NUCLEAR TEST VETERANS ASSOCIATION (BNTVA)

The Member who proposed this Notice of Motion, advised that Members of the Council and the Borough of Bridgend, had an opportunity today, to offer support and to recognise survivors of Britain's nuclear test from the 50's and 60's and their descendants in need. Furthermore, to also send a message to the UK and the UK Government that we have a moral duty to recognise the dangers and sacrifices endured by these men and their descendants. To ensure that justice is seen to be done for the thousands of brave men, many of them on National Service, who were ordered to witness repeated nuclear tests as British scientists tried to build atomic and hydrogen bombs.

It was clear he explained, from the convincing evidence given by the ex-servicemen, that they were neither adequately protected, nor properly made aware of the dangers to which they were exposed. The only advice offered to the men was to put their hands over their eyes and to turn the backs to explosives.

Some of the veterans as a result of their illness went on to make the ultimate sacrifice, whilst other veterans of the blasts had increased rates of cancer and rare diseases. In a Ministry of Defence health assessment audit carried out in 2011, it was established that their descendants are six times more likely to develop cancers and leukaemia along with unusual skin conditions and ten times the normal rate of birth defects, including musculoskeletal problems.

By passing the this motion, he stated that Bridgend would be the first local authority in Wales to demonstrate and recognise that all local authorities have a duty of care to the veterans and their descendants in need, both on a local and national level.

Sending a clear and concise message from this Chamber and on behalf of the communities Members represent, he stated that our nation should recognise the debt and now honour its obligations to these people and their families in need. To offer some clear light to those that witnessed and were present in the shadow of the bomb.

Group Leaders of each political group, together with other Members unanimously supported this Notice of Motion, and further

- RESOLVED:
- (1) That Council agreed that a directive be given to the UK Government, requesting their support to the campaign for recognition and support of nuclear test veterans and their dependents in need.
 - (2) That the Council writes to the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition, Welsh Government Minister for Health and Social Services and the Welsh Government Minister for Local Government and Government Business stating the Council's support.

- (3) That a letter be sent to the Council's local AM and MP outlining the Council's position in this matter.

The meeting closed at 4.20pm.