

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND ON
WEDNESDAY, 14 DECEMBER 2011 AT 3.00PM

Present:

Councillor - C J Michaelides - Mayor and Chairperson

<u>Councillors</u>	<u>Councillors</u>	<u>Councillors</u>	<u>Councillors</u>
R D L Burns	C A Green	L C Morgan	J H Tildesley
M W Butcher	M Gregory	W B Morgan	D A Unwin
N Clarke	P A Hacking	M E J Nott	K Watkins
H J David	C E Hughes	D R Pugh	K J Watts
A E Davies	E M Hughes	M Reeves	C Westwood
C Davies	K S Hunt	D Sage	P J White
G Davies	C J James	S B Smith	M C Wilkins
K R T Deere	R M James	J C Spanswick	H M Williams
E Dodd	R D Jenkins	W H C Teesdale	R Williams
D K Edwards	A Jones	G Thomas	M Winter
P A Evans	D N W Jones	M Thomas	R E Young
E P Foley	M Lewis		

Officers:-

J Farrar	- Chief Executive
P A Jolley	Assistant Chief Executive - Legal and Regulatory Services and Monitoring Officer
D MacGregor	- Assistant Chief Executive - Performance and Section 151 Officer
H Anthony	- Corporate Director - Children
L Fradd	- Corporate Director - Communities
A Harris	- Corporate Director - Wellbeing
L Jones	- Group Manager - Public Protection
J Monks	- Democratic Services Officer - Committees
G Jones	- Democratic Services Manager (Electronic Back-up)

596 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of an ordinary meeting of Council dated 16 November 2011 be approved as a true and accurate record.

597 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

Councillor T Hacking	- Work Commitments
Councillor M Inglesant	- Recuperating
Councillor P Penpraze	- Unwell
Councillor R Shepherd	- Unwell

598 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor D Unwin	- Item 6 – Councillor Unwin - declared a personal interest as he is an LEA Governor of Brynteg and Bryntirion Comprehensive.
Councillor N Clarke	- Item 7 - Councillor Clarke declared a personal interest as she is a Member of Porthcawl Town

Council

- Councillor A E Davies - Item 7 - Councillor Davies declared a personal interest as she is a Member of Porthcawl Town Council
- Councillor G Davies - Item 7 - Councillor Davies declared a personal interest as he is a Member of Porthcawl Town Council
- Councillor K R T Deere - Item 7 - Councillor Deere declared a personal interest as she is a Member of Porthcawl Town Council

599 MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor announced that nominations were being invited for the 2012 Mayor's Citizenship Awards. These are always very popular and a chance to acknowledge the wonderful work of our unsung community heroes. He asked Members to consider putting forward a nomination. He advised that full details could be found on the BCBC website.

On behalf of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor last week attended the official opening of the new Bridgend County Care and Repair offices with the Cabinet Member - Wellbeing. As part of the opening it was announced that they are expanding the service further and were very grateful for the ongoing support of Council. The Mayor wished them well in their new home.

The Deputy Mayor also joined the Cabinet and the First Minister for the official opening of Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School earlier this month. The Mayor commented that it is a very impressive building and was sure the students will benefit from learning in this first class environment. He acknowledged all the work, support and funding by this Council to bring about the new school, and thanked Officers, who had been instrumental in this important project, for their hard work.

The Mayor reminded Members of the free 'Following The Flame' exhibition which celebrates Wales' contribution to the Olympics. The exhibition is situated at Bridgend Recreation Centre and runs until the beginning of next year.

He also asked Members to remind their constituents that there will be no recycling and waste collections on Boxing Day or Monday, 2 January. All collections will be one day later than usual for those two weeks and anyone with a Friday service should put out their boxes and bags on the Saturday instead. Normal service resumes on Monday, 9 January. These arrangements will be subject to weather conditions and in the event of severe weather, residents are advised to check the BCBC website for information.

Finally, on behalf of the Mayoral office, the Mayor extended best wishes to those present for a peaceful Christmas and a happy new year.

600 CABINET MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Cabinet Member - Resources

The Cabinet Member - Resources reminded Members of the forthcoming Member Development Sessions due to be held:-

- a. The Elected Member Development Group (EMDG) is due to meet on 19 December 2011 in Committee Room 1 at 10.00am. The first item of business is to act as a Focus Group to explore the development of communications from the Welsh Government (WG) to support non-executive Members in their scrutiny and constituency roles. Members of the EMDG are requested to confirm with the Democratic Services Manager that they are able to attend this meeting, and if any other Members wish to participate in the Focus Group element of this meeting, they should speak with Councillor R D L Burns.
- b. Member Development sessions for the electronic referral system will be held in the Council Chamber on:-
- Wednesday, 18 January 2012 at 10.00am
 - Thursday, 19 January 2012 at 2.00pm

The session will provide an overview of the new electronic system on how to create, monitor and manage referrals electronically. There are also a number of pre-Council briefing sessions planned in the new year and these will include presentations from:-

- January - Citizens Advice Bureau
- February - Bridgend College
- March - Adoption Services
- April - Valleys To Coast (V2C)

The appointments will be put in Members' electronic calendars.

The Cabinet Member - Resources informed Members of the opening times of the Council Offices during the Christmas period:-

In line with previous years, there will be reduced operating hours over the Christmas period for the Customer Service Centre, Telephone Contact Centre and Reception cover for Sunnyside by customer service staff. The hours of operation will be as follows:-

- Friday, 23 December - 8.30am – 4.30pm
- Monday, 26 December - CLOSED
- Tuesday, 27 December - CLOSED
- Wednesday, 28 December - 8.30am – 4.30pm
- Thursday, 29 December - 8.30am – 4.30pm
- Friday, 30 December - 8.30am – 4.30pm
- Monday, 3 January - CLOSED
- Tuesday, 4 January - Normal hours 8.00am to 5.30pm

Notices have been displayed in the Customer Service Centre and will be included in press releases

2. Cabinet Member – Children and Young People

The Cabinet Member - Children and Young People informed Members that schools in Bridgend County Borough are set to benefit from new capital investment totalling almost £45m following a successful Council bid to the Welsh Government for the Authority's ambitious school modernisation programme.

The Council is committing half of the investment, with the Welsh Government committing £22.5m as part of the 21st Century Schools Programme, making a

total of nearly £45 million. This would enable the Authority to carry out several major projects, including the provision of new primary schools for Coity and Pencoed, as well as schemes for new and modernised primary schools in Garw Valley South, the Valleys Gateway area and Kenfig Hill. The reason that Penyfai School is not included in this list is that the Authority will be building a new school at Penyfai sooner than the 21st Century Schools Programme is set to start.

The funding will also be used to benefit pupils at special schools in the County Borough. As 2014 is the earliest date that any building work can begin, work will now go ahead on developing the plans to ensure that each project meets Welsh Government standards and that funding can be released.

She concluded by saying that this is fantastic news and a major step forward for the Authority's plans to modernise education in Bridgend County Borough. The Council is making great efforts to deliver efficient, more sustainable schools that will be able to meet the learning needs of children and young people into the 21st Century and beyond.

3. Cabinet Member - Wellbeing

The Cabinet Member - Wellbeing announced that the new Extra Care facility known as Llys Ton had been handed over to Valleys To Coast (V2C) by the building contractor. Based in Kenfig Hill, the £5m purpose-built complex was developed by V2C with support from BCBC, offering 39 high quality one and two bed apartments for up to 70 tenants aged 50 and over.

He advised that he had visited the site this week with the Leader and Cabinet Member - Resources and commented that the accommodation was state of the art, recommending that Members visit the complex. He thanked local residents living near the facility for their patience during the development of the site.

The Ward Member for Pyle commented that he was pleased the Cabinet Member - Wellbeing had taken the time to thank the local residents for the inconvenience caused during the period that building work was being carried out at the site. He advised that he had approached the Highways Department to give consideration to additional parking opposite the facility in order to avoid problems with access for visitors.

601 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ANNOUNCEMENT

None.

602 LEADER'S REPORT

- a. The Leader passed on his congratulations to the Trading Standards team for their hard work in launching the new CounterAct scheme last week. CounterAct is a partnership between Bridgend County Borough Council, South Wales Police, South Wales Fire & Rescue Service and the local licensed trade and is aimed at promoting a safe approach to alcohol in the Borough's pubs and clubs. He advised that by pooling expertise the scheme will help make Bridgend County Borough a safer and more vibrant place where a sensible approach to alcohol is promoted; and Trading Standards had been instrumental in bringing this about.
- b. The Leader announced that once again the Authority had done very well in the "Loo of the Year" Awards – and had received 4 Five Stars and 2 Four Stars, which is the best ratio the Authority had ever achieved. The Five Star facilities were situated in Rest Bay Car Park; Bridgend Bus Station; Kenfig Nature Reserve and Coychurch Crematorium. The Four Star

facilities were situated in Maesteg Bus Station and Griffin Park, Porthcawl. He congratulated the Communities Directorate for being 'flushed' with success!!

- c. The Leader was pleased to announce that Bridgend was once again a record-breaker thanks to last weekend's 'elf-steddfod', with 936 elves in attendance to beat Bridgend's previous record of 720 for the largest number of elves gathered in one place. Not only was this a fun event but it also brought many more people into Bridgend to boost Christmas trade.
- d. On the subject of Christmas, he reminded constituents that there would be free town centre car parking in Council car parks after 2.00pm all this week and after 10.00am from next Monday, 19 December until Christmas Eve. There is also free parking all day at the Council's Sunnyside Offices in Bridgend on Saturdays and Sundays until Christmas. He asked constituents to support local traders by shopping in the Borough this Christmas.

603 TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING QUESTION FOR THE LEADER/MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE

Question from Councillor D A Unwin to the Cabinet Member - Children and Young People

"Given that we now constantly hear nationally how an increasing number of school leavers are found not to be prepared for the basic workplace or have sufficient knowledge of life skills – and only this week we hear of 150 school leavers out of 210 taken on by a leading supermarket in one area having to be sent away for "further remedial pre-job training" – can we please be apprised of the BCBC structures and guidelines in place to try and ensure our secondary schools facilitate such basic skills in English and Maths and work awareness requirements for our school leavers; and what percentage, and in numbers, of pupils left our schools last July without a GCSE in either English or Maths or both".

Response to question by Councillor D A Unwin from the Cabinet Member - Children and Young People

"All learners in our secondary and special schools follow courses in English or Welsh first language and in Mathematics at levels appropriate to their ability. These courses lead to a range of accredited outcomes at the age of 16, including GCSE and Entry Level qualifications. The Council's Basic Skills Strategy focuses on the early identification of children and young people with literacy and/or numeracy issues and appropriate programmes to support their skills development. Complementary programmes such as Pre-VENT 11-13 and 14-19 also include attention to basic skills.

Many young people also experience opportunities to apply their literacy and numeracy skills in the context of new qualifications such as the Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification (WBQ) programmes which are available at Foundation, Intermediate and Advanced Levels across the County Borough. These WBQ programmes also provide opportunities for young people to follow a work-related education programme, which includes first hand experiences of the world of work.

Provisional data indicates that in 2011, 117 young people in the County Borough (approximately 7%) did not achieve a GCSE pass at grades A* - G in English at the end of key stage 4. 613 (approximately 39%) did not achieve grades A* - C. In Mathematics, 159 young people (approximately 10%) did not achieve GCSE

grades A* - G, and 747 (approximately 48%) did not achieve grades A* - C . 881 young people (approximately 55%) did not achieve five grade A* - C GCSE passes, or the equivalent, including a pass at grades A* - C in both English and Mathematics.

Our 14-19 Network has extended the number of vocational and Work Based Learning courses at Key Stage 4 and Post 16. Bridgend meets the targets for a range of provision set down in the Learning and Skills Measure. A number of these courses are delivered in partnership with Bridgend College and increasingly, via Work Based Learning Providers. All vocational courses focus on the development of practical, employability and key skills and are endorsed by the appropriate industry and/or Sector Skills Council.

All schools and a range of Youth Support Service settings are able to offer learners British Safety Council's suite of Health and Safety qualifications, which are specifically designed to prepare young people for life in the workplace. Many schools offer these to their learners before they embark on their one week of work experience in Year 11. Many secondary schools also offer a specific Work Skills qualification at Level 1 or 2 as part of their Key Stage 4 curriculum.

In addition to the range of formal qualifications and courses referred to above, secondary school age pupils are prepared for the world of work in a number of other ways. These include the opportunity to participate in:-

- (a) our 14-19 Learning Pathways Event for all pupils in Year 10, which provides learners with the opportunity to research their interests and career paths, speak to future employers and learning providers and experience the interactive learning activities on offer;
- (b) the Key Stage 4 and Post 16 Compact Schemes that set down for young people a range of employability related targets which, if met, allow young people to include a compact graduate status certificate in their Bridgend Record of Achievement;
- (c) mock interview programmes that offer all Year 11 learners the opportunity to practice their interview skills with a real employer;
- (d) 'Young Enterprise' activities, such as Project Dynamo, Events R Us and Dragon's Apprentice, that assist pupils in developing their entrepreneurial skills as well as improving their communication, problem solving and team building skills, all of which are valued in the workplace;
- (e) the Institute of Leadership and Management (ILM) accredited courses for our more able and talented students in Year 12, that include the opportunity for students to shadow top level managers from local businesses and industry.

All of Bridgend's secondary schools have either achieved or are working towards the award of a Quality Improvement Mark with Careers Wales. This quality mark focuses on ensuring that schools provide young people with the appropriate opportunities to develop the necessary skills, attitudes and values needed to be effective employees of the future. It is also worth noting that teacher placements in industry remain a popular form of continued professional development. Over 60 secondary school teachers participated in teacher placements during 2010-11".

The Cabinet Member - Children and Young People referred to the 150 school leavers mentioned in the question and advised that they actually lived in Manchester. This had been a television news item which had implied that half of

school leavers were leaving without relevant qualifications, which she stressed, was not the case even in Manchester, and she did not believe that the news item reflected what was happening in Bridgend.

Supplementary Question

Councillor Unwin responded by saying that there was a problem nationwide with youngsters leaving school without basic English and Maths and did not believe Bridgend was any worse than anywhere else. He made a plea for a mechanism to be put in place for the Education Department to provide relevant statistics in relation to Bridgend County Borough Council activities. He asked how many secondary schools were working towards the Quality Improvement Mark with Careers Wales.

Supplementary Response

The Cabinet Member - Children and Young People advised that availability of information was systematic year on year, but 2011 had not been as good as expected. She added that information was always available on request from the relevant Scrutiny Committee.

The Corporate Director - Children advised that she would notify Members of the number of secondary schools taking part in the Careers Wales award. In terms of annual reporting, there was information on attainment of Key Stage 4, which was externally verified. She reported that the information at Key Stages 1 - 3 were the result of teacher assessments. There were concerns about consistency of the data as there had not been thorough a national moderation of outcomes. However, in future there would be assessments of reading for every pupil from Year 2 to Year 9, with numeracy assessments being introduced the year after reading. This information would be consistently determined and would sit alongside the teacher assessments.

One Member referred to the report on Families Together Strategy discussed at Cabinet this week, which offered support where families needed it. He asked if additional statistics could be provided within the Strategy regarding school leavers who did not have basic skills in reading and writing.

The Cabinet Member - Children and Young People agreed that this could be included in the consultation process which would provide useful feedback.

604 DESIGNATED PUBLIC PLACES ORDER - PORTHCAWL

The Deputy Leader introduced a report to seek Council's approval to adopt a Designated Public Places Order (DPPO) in Porthcawl. Evidence of an existing problem relating to anti-social behaviour in some areas of the town had been identified by South Wales Police and local residents. The proposal addresses the consumption of alcohol in public places and supports a number of corporate priority themes relating to the reduction of crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour and improvement of the environment. In addition, the Authority has a statutory duty under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to do all it can to prevent crime and disorder.

A local authority can implement a DPPO to control alcohol in a specific area under the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2011, if it is satisfied that there is nuisance or annoyance to members of the public, or disorder has been associated with the consumption of alcohol in that place. However, Home Office guidelines state that it cannot be used in an arbitrary fashion.

The Deputy Leader advised that a number of local authorities had implemented such measures and if successful, a DPPO would also be implemented in Pencoed and Bridgend where there were similar problems. He informed Members that Porthcawl Town Council had offered to take this forward in partnership with the Authority. He referred to the map of the proposed DPPO, attached to the report at Appendix 'A' and advised that as well as being discussed in Cabinet, there had been consultation and responses from Local Ward Members and various groups who had requested that the proposed area outlined on the map be extended to include the hatched area.

RESOLVED: That Council agreed to make a Designated Public Places Order (DPPO) for Porthcawl to take effect from 1 March 2012, the extent of which is set out in Appendix 'A' and is to include the hatched area.

605 POLLING STATION REVIEW

The Returning Officer presented a report to inform Council of the results of the Polling Station review, which was recently undertaken.

Under Section 16 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006, the Authority has a duty to undertake a review of polling district boundaries every four years, to ensure polling stations are in the best location to take into account the changes in population in certain areas. Appendix 1 to the report summarised the outcome of the process in table form.

A request was made by Members for the arrangements within the Newcastle electoral division to be given further consideration and that the Bridgend Recreation Centre be explored as an alternative option

RESOLVED: That Council agreed the proposed response to the Polling Station review as summarised in Appendix 1 to the report, subject to further consideration being given to the Newcastle electoral division.

606 REAFFIRMATION OF THE FREEDOM OF THE COUNTY BOROUGH OF BRIDGEND FOR THE ROYAL WELSH

The Monitoring Officer presented a report to inform Council of the intention for the Royal Welsh to reaffirm their Freedom of the County Borough of Bridgend; and to seek approval for detailed planning to be undertaken with the Royal Welsh to hold a reaffirmation event between 24 September and 9 October, or 22 October and 4 November 2012.

He explained that the Authority had always supported the Armed Forces and the Royal Welsh were conferred with the Freedom of the Borough in perpetuity at an Extraordinary meeting of Council held on 5 December 2007. The Regiment was formally granted the Freedom in August 2008. The Royal Welsh contacted the Authority expressing their intention to re-establish links with the area and to reaffirm their Freedom of the Borough. The Monitoring Officer informed Council that the cost of the event is estimated to be £2,000 which would be met from existing budgets.

One Member pointed out that the most suitable dates would be between 24 September and 9 October so as not to clash with Armistice Day which was always held on 11 November. The Monitoring Officer advised that the actual date would be negotiated with the Regiment.

RESOLVED: That Council noted the intention of the Royal Welsh to exercise their Freedom of the Borough and approved that detailed planning be undertaken with the Royal Welsh to hold the re-affirmation parade between 24 September and 9 October 2012.

607 INFORMATION REPORTS FOR NOTING

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report, which informed Council of an information report for noting since its last ordinary meeting of Council.

The item was outlined under paragraph 4.1 of the report.

RESOLVED: That Council noted the publication of the aforementioned document.

The meeting closed at 3.50pm.