

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES ANGEL STREET BRIDGEND CF31 4WB ON WEDNESDAY, 6 JULY 2016 AT 3.00 PM

Present

Councillor RD Jenkins – Chairperson

S Aspey	M Butcher	N Clarke	HJ David
G Davies	PA Davies	E Dodd	DK Edwards
EP Foley	CA Green	P James	RM James
CL Jones	M Jones	RC Jones	DRW Lewis
JE Lewis	JR McCarthy	MEJ Nott OBE	AD Owen
DG Owen	D Patel	G Phillips	D Sage
CE Smith	JC Spanswick	G Thomas	M Thomas
RL Thomas	JH Tildesley MBE	HJ Townsend	E Venables
KJ Watts	C Westwood	PJ White	HM Williams
R Williams	RE Young		

Officers:

Susan Cooper	Corporate Director - Social Services & Wellbeing
Sarah Daniel	Democratic Services Officer - Committees
Randal Hemingway	Head of Finance & Section 151 Officer
Andrew Jolley	Corporate Director Operational & Partnership Services
Deborah McMillan	Corporate Director Education & Family Support
Andrew Rees	Senior Democratic Services Officer - Committees
Mark Shephard	Corporate Director - Communities

641. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from the following Members:

Councillor C Reeves
Councillor M Reeves
Councillor L Morgan
Councillor M Gregory
Councillor GW Davies
Councillor N Farr
Councillor DBF White
Councillor B Jones
Councillor CM James
Councillor H Morgan
Councillor E Hughes

642. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

643. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of Council of 8 June 2016 be approved as a true and accurate record subject to Councillor R Williams apologies being added to the list of apologies for absence in Minute No. 630.

644. **TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM:**

Mayor

The Mayor announced that he and his consort had had a very busy first few weeks and wished to share some of the events that they had already attended. He announced that on Monday 20 June he had the privilege of raising the Armed Forces Flag. He explained that the flag was raised every year in honour of the armed forces and in doing so the Authority joins hundreds of people and Councils throughout Britain. The flying of the flag served to remind everyone of the sacrifices that were made by so many servicemen and women in order that we could all live in a safer and fairer world. He thanked everyone who attended on the day to show their support and gave particular thanks to Callum MacLauchlin who was a student with the MPCT and future Welsh Guard and raised the flag on his behalf.

Staying with the military theme, the Mayor and his consort were delighted to be invited to attend a National Service of Commemoration of the Somme in Llandaff Cathedral. He stated that this was a wonderfully moving service and marked the start of an overnight military vigil which concluded with an early morning Service of Remembrance at the National War Museum. Closer to home the Mayor and his Consort also attended an equally moving service of commemoration in St David's Church in Pontycymer.

The Mayor announced that earlier in the week he met with the Headteachers of the Borough who were retiring at the end of the academic year. He informed Members that it was a lovely opportunity to pass on the thanks of the Council for all their hard work and dedication throughout their time with the Authority. He wished them all the best for a long and happy retirement.

The Mayor congratulated Ms Kathleen Mary Evans and Mrs Aileen Christine Jones, and informed Members that these two remarkable ladies were recently recognised for their good works in the Queen's 90th Birthday Honours. Ms Evans was awarded the British Empire Medal for services to nursing in Bridgend and Mrs Jones received an MBE in recognition of her years of bravery with the RNLI Porthcawl.

And finally the Mayor was very pleased to announce that his charities for next year had been finalised and were: Kidney Wales Cymru Foundation, Crossroads Care, Bridgend and Heronsbridge School – "Summer School". He hoped that over the coming year members would join the fundraising efforts for the well deserving organisations.

Deputy Leader

The Deputy Leader was pleased to inform Members that a recent Estyn "Best Practice" report on raising the attainment, achievement and aspiration levels of looked after children had singled out Brynteg Comprehensive as a case study, specifically the way the school uses a tracking system that enabled teachers to identify and support pupils who require additional help. He added that the report highlighted a number of types of support available at the school, such as the "Helping Hands" initiative which uses peer mentors to help children adjust, form tutor mentoring, infinity mentoring for year eleven pupils, a cluster learning support officer who works with vulnerable groups, dedicated learning coaches and more. He added that all of this had delivered a number of positive results for looked after children at the school, including strong performance in key stages

three and four, at least three essential skill qualifications each for pupils at level two, an overall attendance rate of 95 percent and a rate of 88 per cent for pupils who achieved their projected progress targets or did better than expected. He added that it was great to see that one of the Authority's local schools was delivering such positive changes for local children and was sure that Members would agree that Brynteg deserved to be congratulated for being singled out by Estyn as an example of best practice.

The Deputy Leader advised that plans to provide a brand new school building for pupils at Brynmenyn Primary had taken a major step forward following the appointment of BAM Construction Ltd to undertake the initial design work. The proposal is to relocate the school less than a mile away next to Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen in Ynysawdre. He added that the Authority were submitting a full business case to Welsh Government and if the plans were approved, construction work could begin by January 2017 with a proposed school opening one year later. He advised that public meetings where discussions of the plans had already been held with members of the public and parents. The Deputy Leader announced that he was delighted that this milestone had been reached and hoped that the Authority would soon be able to deliver a bigger school with more modern facilities less, one which would help cope with a rising demand for school places in the Valleys Gateway area for years to come.

The Deputy Leader advised Members that students at Pencoed Comprehensive School recently heard the testimony of Holocaust survivor Janine Webber during a visit organised by the Holocaust Educational Trust. He advised that Janine had spoken to pupils about her experiences in the Second World War during the Nazi regime's infamous persecution of Jews across Europe, and encouraged the students to ask her questions. He added that educating children and young people about events such as the Holocaust ensures that the experiences and words of its victims and survivors alike can continue to inform their lives and become a meaningful part of their future.

The Deputy Leader informed Members that parents had gone back to school at Pencoed Primary to help pass on their unique talents to pupils as part of a Community Skills Day – the first to held at the school. Thirty parents hosted masterclasses on subjects that ranged from balloon artistry to making jewellery, mosaics and weaving. More than 250 pupils enjoyed the experience and explored new skills at the event, which received fantastic support from parents and the community in general.

Cabinet Member Adult Social Care and Health and Wellbeing

The Cabinet Member Adult Social Care and Health and Wellbeing advised Members that a landmark new website service had been launched to help people find the information and advice they need to improve their well-being and access local support services in Wales. The Dewis Cymru website was an important first for Wales. It offers a single, clear and reliable point of access that could be used by members of the public as well as care service professionals to help support people achieve their wellbeing goals. He added that the new website formed part of the ongoing delivery of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act which highlighted how the provision of high quality information plays a central role in helping people remain independent, manage their wellbeing and shape the care services they receive. More than 800 organisations have been involved in the development of the website, and with over 30,000 hits per month it was already making a difference. The Cabinet Member Adult Social Care and Health and Wellbeing added that further work was ongoing so that the Dewis Cymru website could evolve further, but that this was a great development not only for the constant improvement of care, but for helping future service delivery to be based directly on public needs and levels of demand as well. He concluded that the Social Services conference at Llandudno last week saw the launch of Dewis Cymru website

Cabinet Member Childrens Social Services and Equalities

The Cabinet Member Childrens Social Services and Equalities announced that she was shocked and saddened at some of the post-referendum incidents that had been covered by national news recently. She added that it seemed the result had been viewed by some as justification for behaviour which she believed was truly sickening. Thankfully, she added that the worst of the incidents had taken place in areas other than Bridgend County Borough, however added that she had been informed of an incident whereby a pupil was verbally attacked whilst on his way to school in the Bridgend area. She advised that she had already spoken with several other Members who felt the same way as she did so she wished to state to all Members that there was no place for hate crime, racism, homophobia, religious intolerance or any other kind of discrimination in Bridgend County Borough and stated that Bridgend County Borough Council would not tolerate such behaviour. She added that together with their partners, the Authority embraces tolerance and understanding as a progressive community and would fight against hate crime in all of its many forms. She added that the Council had a strong track record of promoting acceptance and combating hate crime through events such as "Show Racism the Red Card" and "Stop the Hate" campaign.

The Cabinet Member Childrens Social Services and Equalities stated to Members that Holocaust survivor Janine Webber met with pupils at Pencoed Comprehensive School recently to discuss her wartime experiences and the subsequent life that she made here in the UK, and the Council joined with other organisations at this years' annual Holocaust memorial event to vow that we "will not stand by". She added that this was as true now as it was before the recent referendum, and was sure that member would agree when she stated that the Authority would not stand by or turn a blind eye to hate crime and discrimination, but the Authority would take whatever action was required to fight it. She advised that she had left hate crime reporting leaflets for all Members.

Cabinet Member Resources

The Cabinet Member Resources advised that Members would have received their annual report template for the municipal year 2015-16 as well as a link to the website where they were able to access their attendance figures for formal meetings. He advised that it was the intention to publish Members' annual reports on the Council website by 2 September 2016, Democratic Services would be grateful if Members could return their reports as soon as possible as it would have to be sent away for translation.

The Cabinet Member Resources advised that the Elected Members ICT Forum is due to meet on 13 July 2016. He asked if any Members had experienced issues with their ICT provision or who have positive feedback on the services provided by the ICT team to provide feedback to their group representative as soon as possible. He asked Members to include the service desk ticket number along with their views to help identify specific examples.

The Cabinet Member Resources stated that Members may have noticed the recent introduction of "Q-R codes" on agendas. He advised Members that the Democratic Services team had included these so that Members who used smart phones could use them to link to public reports and minutes.

Finally the Cabinet Member Resources advised that the Member Development programme was currently being revised, and that a full update would be provided at the next meeting of Council.

Cabinet Member Regeneration and Economic Development

The Cabinet Member Regeneration and Economic Development was pleased to announce that the Authority had agreed to support a forthcoming event on 29 July organised by Bridgend Business Forum called “Bridgend County Businesses – fit for Local and Global futures. He stated that it was designed to ensure that local businesses are prepared and can meet the demands of future markets. He also stated to Members that a skilled workforce, strong supply chains and market opportunities were important at both a local and global level, and the 3,500 enterprises registered in the county borough grew at a rate of 10 per cent between 2010 and 2015. He informed Members that research had been carried out with local businesses to identify future challenges and opportunities, and the event would enable them to discuss and agree future actions. He added that during such uncertain times, it was important for the business community to come together and form a united front in order to help safeguard the future of the county borough, and this event would also reaffirm the Council’s commitment towards the business community. He informed Members that more information on the event would be available shortly.

Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing (on behalf of Chief Executive)

The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing announced that the Chief Executive was unable to attend today’s Council meeting as he was speaking to the Local Government Association about how the Authority’s work on Health and Social Care integration was progressing at a pace and how English councils and health bodies might learn from Western Bay and other parts of Wales. She advised that this followed a recent visit to Bridgend by Welsh Government officials who saw some of the work that the Authority was doing with ABMU. As a result of his attendance at the Local Government Conference the Chief Executive had asked her to provide Members with an update on City Deal.

The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing advised that the City Deal was still working towards creating an investment fund of £1.2 billion. The Authority is working towards a deadline of 31 March 2017 to get the deal finalised and to ensure that the investment was directed towards projects and schemes that make a lasting and long term difference to our economy. She added that one significant element of the deal was its relationship with the Metro scheme. The bulk of the Welsh Government’s contribution was being directed towards the project, but there had also been uncertainty expressed about the current EU contribution to the scheme and whether this would still be forthcoming now that the referendum result had decided that the UK was to leave the EU. She added that it was uncertain at this point in time, but the Welsh Government was continuing to press ahead with the national rail procurement exercise so the City Deal was continuing to work alongside them to seek to influence this.

The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing stated to Members that the Commission would analyse and evaluate the expert argument that would be devised by both Cardiff University and the Centre for Cities, and then make its independent recommendations for the future economic strategy for the region. She advised Members that they would be visiting Bridgend County Borough as part of their work, and we would be ensuring that our evidence and information and that of the local business community is heard. She added that City Deal had now appointed a full time programme manager and project officer to take a lot of the work forward between now and the end of March. The posts had been established using the joint fund supported by all ten councils and was being hosted by Bridgend Council and that it had been established in the Civic Offices. A further report on the City Deal was tabled at Cabinet yesterday, and there would be further updates to Members as the deal continued to develop.

645. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE LEADER

The Leader announced that Members may like to inform their constituents and to help spread the word about how the Council is marking Scam Awareness Month throughout July. He advised that across the UK, local authorities were working together to help make people aware and alert some of the most popular methods that scammers employ. He explained that this week was focussing on telephone scams, whilst next week would look at how internet scams work. The last two weeks of July would feature postal scams and doorstep crime. Scammers often target people who are rendered vulnerable because of the lack of knowledge, so this campaign helps to redress that balance. He advised Members to look out for the “scam aware” tag on social media or visit the Council website for more information.

The Leader reminded Members that the deadline for submitting entries to 2016 Bridgend Business Forum Awards would expire on Friday 8 July. He stated that the awards feature a range of categories and there were opportunities for a wide variety of local businesses and entrepreneurs to gain some well-deserved recognition. He added that winners would be announced at the awards ceremony in September and application forms and further details were available at www.bridgendbusinessforum.co.uk

The Leader wished to congratulate the Corporate Director Education and Family Support on being elected Chair of the Association of Directors of Education in Wales. This was a prestigious position which required her to represent the directors of all 22 local authorities. He advised that the Corporate Director Education and Family Support had also been reappointed as the Lead Director of the Central South Consortium Joint Committee, whilst the Deputy Leader had been elected as the Consortium’s new Chairperson. He stated that this reflected well on Bridgend and asked all Members to join him in wishing them both well done.

646. IMPLICATIONS OF THE REFERENDUM VOTE TO LEAVE THE EUROPEAN UNION

The Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer provided a report to Council to inform them of the initial implications for the Authority of the recent referendum vote to leave the European Union. He stated that the decision to leave the European Union would affect many areas of Council activity and therefore would inevitably impact upon delivery of the Corporate Plan. He added that in the aftermath of the result, there was significant uncertainty over even the timeline for triggering the process and at the time of this report being submitted to Council, the president of the European parliament, Martin Shulz had suggested that negotiations should begin as early as 28 June 2016.

The Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer advised that Wales receives significant levels of EU Funding, in particular for both Regional Development (European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and Regional Development Fund Programme and Social Programmes (European Social Fund (ESF) as well as subsidies such as primary school milk. The current programmes run to financial year 2020/21, with expectations prior to the referendum of an extension beyond this. He advised that at least in the medium term, current approved grant schemes will be continued, though it was likely those which were closest to approval will be at least delayed, or put on hold, until the situation becomes clearer. With specific reference to the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal, it was expected that specific funding measures would need to be urgently put in place to guarantee funding for the Metro Scheme.

The Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer advised Members that all of the Council’s investments were held in pounds, with no foreign currency exposure. The Council operates a deposit account with a UK subsidiary of a Swedish Bank, Sveska

Handelsbanken, whose branch is in Pencoed. He informed Members that it was not considered that this posed any immediate risk, however the situation would be monitored. The uncertainty of the future trade, political and legislative arrangements have caused significant volatility in both UK and World financial markets and it would likely take some time for the situation to stabilise. He added that the Council's Local Government Pension Scheme would have seen the value of its investments fall in recent days due to its volatility. However, Members should note that pension fund holdings represent long term investments to meet the long term liabilities, and therefore the immediate fluctuations were less important than the longer term economic impact of the referendum.

Members thanked the Officer for the report and stated that it was important that Members were kept informed of any potential loss of income as a result of the referendum vote to leave the EU.

The Leader stated that funding for the City Deal was a concern of Cabinet and as a result they had sent a letter to the UK and Welsh Government demanding that funding for it was not jeopardised and was hopeful that the media would also recognise this.

The Deputy Leader stated that the Local Government Pension Scheme was a significant financial obligation for the Authority. He added that there was a risk that the forthcoming valuation in the pension scheme might show that the value had plummeted and as a consequence the Authority may have to contribute more to the scheme to offset the loss. He also added that this was just one consequence that was apparent so far.

A Member stated that he had recently attended a Pensions Communication Forum but the position was not clear as the valuation was still underway. He added that by September/ October time the value should be known and the situation will be clearer.

The Cabinet Member Regeneration and Economic Development referred Members to the table in the report that showed the County of Bridgend currently has approved EU funding of £4.926million. He added that the RDP funding would be honoured until 2020. He stated that in the short term the Council should be concerned about the manufacturing and steel industry as the EU was the largest market for the industry.

RESOLVED: That Council noted the contents of the report.

647. **SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME: UPDATE ON REPLACEMENT MYNYDD CYNFFIG PRIMARY SCHOOL AND REVISED CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

The Corporate Director Education and Family Support sought approval from Council for a revision to the capital programme 2016-17 to 2025-26. She stated that Cabinet in December 2006 approved the 3 phase School Modernisation Programme and that one of the three elements of phase 2 of the programme is 3 – 18 learning provision in the Cefn Cribwr, Cornelly, Kenfig Hill and Pyle area. Cabinet in October 2007 approved an options appraisal to determine how 3 – 18 learning education provision might best be organised to meet the future needs of learners in this area. The options appraisal outlined a number of recommendations for the appropriate number of primary schools and their location with the main recommendation being the establishment of a programme of work for the area. Cabinet in April 2009 approved a number of individual projects, one of which was 3 – 11 provision in the Kenfig Hill area and the development of a primary school to provide sufficient new or modernised accommodation to cater for a proposed amalgamation of the then Mynydd Cynffig Infant School and Mynydd Cynffig Junior School. During the consultation, it was requested Cynffig Comprehensive School be further investigated as a potential site for 3 – 11 provision. The Mynydd Cynffig

Primary School project was put forward to the Welsh Government in Band A of the 21st Century Schools Funding Programme and a feasibility study undertaken to determine the preferred site, which was that of the Junior School. Consultation subsequently took place to close Mynydd Cynffig Infants School and to make a regulated alteration to Mynydd Cynffig Junior School by extending the age range from 7 - 11 to 3 – 11 with effect from 1 September 2015 operating on a split site.

The Corporate Director Education and Family Support reported that the junior site was experiencing overcrowding and by contrast, Cynffig Comprehensive School has 416 surplus spaces. She stated that a feasibility study had been conducted to examine two options for utilising accommodation at the Cynffig site for primary provision. Evaluation workshops were held to determine the preferred option and to consider the advantages and disadvantages of the Cynffig Comprehensive School site or the junior site for replacement primary provision. The Corporate Education and Family Support informed Council that the study showed that Cynffig Comprehensive presents the most appropriate and beneficial location for the development of the primary school, allowing a 2 form entry school of projected growth in the area was realised and removing surplus spaces at the comprehensive school. She stated that in comparison, the junior site presented serious obstacles for the development of a suitable scheme.

The Corporate Director Education and Family Support reported that site access issues at the Cynffig Comprehensive site had been revisited and appropriate measures to ensure the safety of pedestrian, cycle and vehicular traffic through the industrial estate and Heol Mostyn have been identified. She stated that Highway and Transportation Officers have confirmed that they would be satisfied for the Primary School to be located on the Comprehensive School site providing the mitigation works are undertaken.

The Corporate Director Education and Family Support informed Council that the cost of the proposed scheme at the Cynffig site is estimated to be £7.05 million, an increase of £2.55 million on the original approved scheme by the Welsh Government. She stated that there was currently an allocation in the capital programme of £4.9 million for the new school and it was proposed to vire £150,000 from the School Modernisation Retentions budget, leaving a shortfall of £2 million. The Strategic Outline Plan submitted to the Welsh Government has received approval in principle for additional match funding of £1 million, with the Council providing the remaining £1 million. Council was requested to make a change to the capital programme to reflect the new proposed costs £7.05 million. The Corporate Director Education and Family Support informed Cabinet that relocating the Primary school allowed for the disposal of both Mynydd Cynffig Primary School sites and that there may be revenue savings arising from the transfer of the split site school onto the single site at Cynffig Comprehensive School.

Members were pleased to hear of the progress being made at the site and stated that the school deserved the Authority's best attentions. Members stated that they were concerned about the transportation arrangements and potential increase of traffic in the area which could impact on the safety of residents and children walking to the site. The Corporate Director Education and Family Support advised that safety was paramount in the area and she had been informed that by September they will have models of the new school which will also have detail of the routes into the site. She added that they would be consulting with Highways experts to ensure the safe routes are made available for all those that would be travelling to the site.

RESOLVED: That Council approved the revised capital programme 2016-17 to 2025-26.

648. TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING NOTICE OF MOTION (PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR PJ WHITE)

The Mayor asked the Cabinet Member Adult Social Care, Councillor PJ White to propose a Notice of Motion.

The Cabinet Member Adult Social Care proposed that this Council resolves to lend its support to the UK Miners Pension Association Justice & Fair Play Campaign. The Association was formed with the objective of securing justice and fair play for every person that paid into the "Minors Pension Scheme". Their aim is to recover funds from the government and ensure no further reductions are made upon the fund.

He proposed that this Council acknowledges, that working in the Mining industry in this country was a hazardous occupation and that Miners working across Wales and UK were exposed to dangerous risks every day of their working life. On this basis 50/50 sharing of surplus is wrong and more realistic percentage which reflects the guarantors' risk, and recover all monies that rightly belong to the mineworkers of the UK should be renegotiated.

The Cabinet Member Adult Social Care proposed that this Council therefore write to the UK Government Minister outlining our objections to the continued injustice to a scheme which was intended to offer security for Miners later in life. He added that this Council should seek to engage the support of local Members of Parliament to highlight this injustice and support this campaign at a parliamentary level.

A Member thanked the Cabinet Member Adult Social Care for bringing the Notice of Motion to Council which she felt was long overdue. She stated that she fully supported the motion and hoped for a successful conclusion.

Several Members echoed the support for the motion and felt that many families are suffering from the loss of income from the reduced pension fund and should be entitled to what is rightfully theirs.

RESOLVED: That Members unanimously supported the Notice of Motion and agreed to write to the UK Government Minister outlining their objections to the continued injustice to a scheme which was intended to offer security for Miners later in life.

649. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

650. 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 12 of Part 4 and Paragraph 21 of Part 5 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007.

Following the application of the public interest test it was resolved that pursuant to the Act referred to above, to consider the under-mentioned item in private with the public

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being excluded from the meeting as it would involve the disclosure of exempt information as stated above

651. APPROVAL OF EXEMPT MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the exempt minutes of the meeting of Council of 8 June 2016 be approved as a true and accurate record.

The meeting closed at 4.25 pm