

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES ANGEL STREET BRIDGEND CF31 4WB ON WEDNESDAY, 17 APRIL 2019 AT 15:00

Present

Councillor JR McCarthy – Chairperson

S Aspey	SE Baldwin	TH Beedle	JPD Blundell
NA Burnett	MC Clarke	N Clarke	RJ Collins
HJ David	P Davies	PA Davies	DK Edwards
J Gebbie	T Giffard	RM Granville	CA Green
DG Howells	RM James	B Jones	M Jones
MJ Kearns	DRW Lewis	DG Owen	D Patel
RL Penhale-Thomas	AA Pucella	JC Radcliffe	KL Rowlands
RMI Shaw	CE Smith	SG Smith	JC Spanswick
RME Stirman	G Thomas	T Thomas	JH Tildesley MBE
LM Walters	KJ Watts	CA Webster	DBF White
PJ White	A Williams	AJ Williams	HM Williams
JE Williams	RE Young		

Apologies for Absence

SK Dendy, A Hussain, JE Lewis, B Sedgebeer, E Venables, SR Vidal and MC Voisey

Officers:

Susan Cooper	Corporate Director - Social Services & Wellbeing
Lindsay Harvey	Corporate Director Education and Family Support
Gill Lewis	Interim Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer
Andrew Rees	Democratic Services Manager
Mark Shephard	Chief Executive
Kevin Stephens	Democratic Services Assistant
Kelly Watson	Head of Legal & Regulatory Services

298. FORMER COUNCILLOR LC MORGAN

The Mayor announced with sadness the passing of former Councillor and Cabinet Member LC Morgan, all stood in silence as a mark of respect.

The Leader paid tribute to former Councillor Morgan whom he regarded as a friend as well as a colleague. He also paid tribute to his lengthy service to the community of Ynysawdre which he represented for 30 years, sitting on the former Mid Glamorgan County Council. He stated that his lasting legacy was the part he had played in Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen, Ynysawdre swimming pool, the new Brynmenyn primary School and latterly Ty Ynysawdre coming to fruition. The Cabinet Communities was saddened at the passing of former Cllr Morgan who served this authority as one of its founder Members and former County Council with distinction and whom he regarded as a confidant.

The Cabinet Member Education and Regeneration paid tribute to former Councillor Morgan who made him feel welcome as a Cabinet Member and both shared a passion for adult social care services and travelling in Spain. The Cabinet Member Social Services and Early Help in paying tribute to former Councillor Morgan stated that he had learnt a great deal from him and both had worked in the mining industry. Former

Councillor Morgan working in mines rescue and health and safety. He stated that he would be sorely missed and his thoughts were with his family.

Councillor Watts in paying tribute to former Councillor Morgan stated that despite their political differences they had become friends and would be sorely missed. Councillor T Thomas paid tribute to former Councillor Morgan who was warmly regarded by the community of Ynysawdre which he represented. Councillor Green stated that she was deeply saddened at the news of former Councillor Morgan's passing and had all good memories of him.

299. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Declaration of Interest was made:

Councillor DBF White declared a Prejudicial Interest in Agenda item 11 – Redundancy and Early Retirement Costs in Excess of £100,000 as the employee is his wife's line manager. Councillor White withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this item.

300. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of Council of 20 March 2019 be approved as a true and accurate record.

301. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM:

Mayor

The Mayor informed Council of the engagements which he and his Consort had attended in the past month which included the Citizenship Awards for which he thanked officers for their efforts in making the day a success. The Mayor and Consort had opened the new Pencoed Primary School and attended the opening of Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Calon y Cymoedd in Bettws. Additionally, the Mayor and Consort had attended the Rockwool 40th Celebration dinner, the Muslim Council of Wales interfaith Dinner, opening of the Vernon Hartshorn Exhibition, Rotary Club President Dinner, BEM Presentation to Alan Humphreys and the Cor Merched Llynfi's annual Concert. He also opened the new disabled toilet and changing area at Halo Bridgend, the prize giving of the Bridgend Rotary Club Charity Cycle ride, the Porthcawl Mayor's charity ball, the Palm Sunday service at Margam Crematorium and the 60th Wedding anniversary Mr & Mrs G Evans of Maesteg.

Deputy Leader

The Deputy Leader informed Members of the recent opening of two new primary schools at Pencoed Primary and Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Calon Y Cymoedd, Bettws serving the Garw and Ogmere valleys, at which his 3 grandchildren are pupils. He stated that the Council is extremely grateful for the funding received from the Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools and Education Programme, and he commended BAM Construction for their work at Pencoed Primary and Andrew Scott Ltd, who were the constructors for Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Calon Y Cymoedd, who had delivered two extremely impressive schools which enable pupils and teachers to benefit from state-of-the-art learning environments and supporting pupils to excel and fulfil their potential.

The Deputy Leader announced that more than 80 up-and-coming local entrepreneurs have gained the knowledge and tools needed to start their own business after attending a free week-long course with the PopUp Business School. The event was held at Bridgend Life Centre, supported by the Council's Employability Bridgend team, funded

through the European Social Fund and Welsh Government. Local entrepreneurs will continue to be supported and details are available on the Council's website.

Cabinet Member Communities

The Cabinet Member Communities announced that the Council will be participating in the Welsh Government's latest domestic energy efficiency programme which is being created to tackle fuel poverty across Wales.

Hundreds of local homes will be eligible to receive new funding later this year to carry out energy efficiency improvements, aimed at reducing fuel bills. Energy saving measures that could be funded through the programme include; draught proofing, low energy light bulbs, loft insulation, cavity wall insulation, external wall insulation, thermostatic radiator valves, central heating systems, radiators, and renewable technologies such as heat pumps and solar panels. He stated that the Council will be working in partnership with Arbed am Byth and the Welsh Government to decide where the programme will be offered locally to maximise its impact.

The Cabinet Member Communities also informed Council of the recent launch of the "Love It Don't Trash IT" campaign which had been attended by participating schools.

Cabinet Member Social Care and Early Help

The Cabinet Member Social Services and Early Help announced that the first ever inter-generational mini-OlympAge Games event was held at Halo's Ogmere Valley Life Centre recently. Children and older people from the local community teamed up to compete in activities designed to improve mobility, fitness and social interaction, and offered a fun way of encouraging people of all ages to stay active. He looked forward to seeing more mini-OlympAge Games taking place in the future.

He also informed Members that responsibility for health care services in Bridgend County Borough has now moved from ABMU Health Board to the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board. He asked Members may wish to remind constituents that the boundary change would not affect how services are delivered to patients, who will continue to access and receive their care in the same way and from the same locations as they currently do. He stated that the boundary change will see more of collaborations shift to the east and the Cardiff Capital Region, and while there has been a significant amount of work behind the scenes, a seamless transition has been achieved, thanks to the efforts of officers and particularly the Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing.

Cabinet Member Wellbeing and Future Generations

The Cabinet Member Wellbeing and Future Generations announced that discussions are underway between the Council, Shared Regulatory Service and Natural Resources Wales on a project to monitor air quality in the vicinity of local schools. The monitoring project will take place over the course of a year and will examine and record levels of nitrogen dioxide, which is a known traffic-derived pollutant, with monitoring equipment being installed at Pencoed Comprehensive, Penybont Primary, Bridgend College, Oldcastle Primary, Cwmfelin Primary, Newton Primary and Bryncethin Primary. Information will be analysed and used to support efforts to change the ways in which children get to and from school, and to raise greater awareness about air quality concerns. The collected data will be included in the Council's local air quality management progress report for 2020. If levels are found that encroach upon or exceed air quality objectives, further action may be required to introduce management areas and draw up strategic measures that will alleviate problems and improve air quality.

The Cabinet Member Wellbeing and Future Generations informed Council that working parents in the County Borough will soon be able to access up to 30 hours of funded childcare for up to 48 weeks of the year for their three and four-year-olds. The scheme will commence on 29 April and will help reduce the strain of childcare issues on working parents, and ensure childcare is not a barrier to people who are looking to return to work. Further details are available on the Council's website.

Cabinet Member Education and Regeneration

The Cabinet Member Education and Regeneration announced that following support from the Council's Dunes 2 Dunes project, Royal Porthcawl has become the first golf club in Wales to obtain the GEO-Certification sustainability award. The scheme has brought together organisations, landowners and farmers in a partnership which seeks to sustainably manage the local coastline. He stated that degenerate gorse has been removed from Royal Porthcawl to reinstate open sandy areas and encourage coastal heather regeneration, ponds have been improved, and habitats have been both created and restored for species like the Great Crested Newt and birds such as linnets, kestrels and yellow hammers. He hoped Members will welcome these efforts which demonstrate a clear commitment towards nature, sustainability, coastal grassland protection and habitat restoration.

He also announced that new funding has been secured to help businesses in Bridgend town centre look more appealing to shoppers and visitors. The Urban Centre Property Enhancement Fund has been established by the Council and Welsh Government to provide financial support towards renovation work on shopfronts, signage, windows and doors, and also internal and external structural improvements. As well as making the town centre more vibrant, the fund aims to help vacant non-residential properties become more appealing for letting, support existing businesses to become more accessible, increase footfall, and create jobs. The commercial improvement scheme will tie in with the county-wide plans to bring empty properties back into use, following on from the success of the Townscape Heritage Initiative which has been making a big impact in town centres for more than a decade. Further details on the scheme are available from the Council's regeneration team.

Interim Chief Executive

The Interim Chief Executive informed Council that he had been reviewing some waste and recycling information recently and gave an overview of how the County Borough has changed and developed since the millennium. In 2000 when the country-wide recycling rate stood at just 6% of all household waste, the Welsh Government set an initial target of 15% by 2004. He stated that the County Borough hit this target on time and also opened new household waste recycling centres. This was ahead of the introduction of a kerbside recycling service for paper and glass waste in 2005.

By 2006, the recycling rate had risen to 26%, after factoring in food, plastics and cans and the introduction of fortnightly refuse collections, it rose again to achieve 48% by 2011. Garden waste recycling was introduced in 2013, and in 2016 the overall recycling rate stood at 59%. This was prior to the Council entering into its current arrangements with new containers, a two-bag limit and fortnightly nappy collections.

He informed Members that by this time next year, all Welsh local authorities will need to hit a new recycling target of 64% to avoid heavy financial penalties as part of the Welsh Government's efforts to make Wales the top recycling nation in the world. He was delighted to confirm that Bridgend County Borough is well on track to surpass the Welsh Government's 64% recycling target for 2020. With the current overall recycling rate of 68.6%, which means that the Council is placed second in Wales for recycling and are

only narrowly behind the Isle of Anglesey. He informed Members that getting to this point had not been an easy task, in that attitudes as well as procedures have had to change and adapt, and this success is ultimately down to the recycling efforts of local residents. He stated that the process is not over yet and further improvements are being looked at in order to reach the next Welsh Government target of 70% by 2025. He reminded Members that the County Borough has progressed from 15% in the year 2000 to 68.6% in 2019.

Monitoring Officer

The Monitoring Officer informed Council that some Members had yet to complete DBS checks and a reminder would be sent to Members requesting that they complete the checks.

302. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE LEADER

The Leader informed Council that the recruitment process for a permanent Chief Executive is continuing, which is being supported by Solace in Business. The closing date for applications was 8 April, with the Appointments Committee meeting tomorrow to undertake the long-listing of applications received. Selected candidates will attend an assessment centre on 30 April followed by interview with the Appointments Committee and a presentation to the Extraordinary meeting of Council on 1 May.

The Leader reported that the first of two brand new Extra Care facilities opened last week. He stated that Ty Ynysawdre is fast becoming a valuable community asset, and represents an entirely new approach towards looking after people who are older and more vulnerable. Together with its sister development in Maesteg, Ty Ynysawdre will offer huge benefits for local people, and forms a major part of ongoing plans for modernising residential care services. He stated that the Council is working in partnership with Linc Cymru to provide these vital community assets which would become a widely-recognised and popular landmark development in the County Borough. He thanked all who had helped make this facility a reality.

The Leader also informed Council that Brexit preparations are continuing, and as part of this support will be made available to help non-UK EU nationals who wish to continue to live and work locally. The Home Office had recently launched its EU Settlement Scheme and as part of this process, officers are investigating whether the Council can offer a 'checking' service for completed applications to ensure that all relevant identity documentation has been included. The service is likely to be made available either through the Customer Services Centre or at Bridgend Register Office, and is designed to speed up the application process and offer reassurance and peace of mind to local residents who may be affected. The service will be free to use and Members will receive further details about this initiative as it takes shape and more details become known.

303. UPDATED FINANCIAL SCHEME FOR SCHOOLS

The Interim Head of Finance sought approval of the revised Financial Scheme for Schools, particularly the updated financial limits for the standing orders for contracts for schools.

The Interim Head of Finance reported that schools have their own Financial Scheme which sets out the financial requirements of governing bodies. A review of the Scheme has taken place due to a number of process and procedural changes required, the main changes being summarised in the report. The draft Scheme has been the subject of consultation, with no comments or amendments proposed by governing bodies. She stated that the revised Scheme brings the limits within the standing orders for contracts

for schools to the same level as those agreed for the Council within its Contract Procedure Rules and where appropriate, schools are advised to seek the support of the Corporate Procurement section.

In a response to a question as to whether governing bodies would be receive training on the revised Scheme, the Interim Head of Finance confirmed such training would take place.

RESOLVED: That Council approved the revised Financial Scheme for Schools for immediate implementation.

304. **TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR A HUSSAIN TO THE CABINET MEMBER COMMUNITIES**

Our current tipping policy is outdated and does not meet the needs of our residents in Borough. Looking around, other neighbouring Authorities have changed their tipping policy with success and are saving tax payers money. When are we revising this policy?

Response by the Cabinet Member Communities

The current permit policy for vans and large trailers was reviewed prior to letting the waste contract in April 2017.

An appropriate efficient system of control and monitoring of the usage of commercial vehicles, at the recycling centres is essential to ensure the sites are used by genuine residential users only. Ensuring the sites are not subject to abuse by trade/commercial enterprises endeavouring to dispose of their waste for free at the expense of the public.

The current system allows genuine residential users with commercial type vehicles to utilise the sites (Not including Brynmenyn due to physical site capacity restraints) via a permit system as long as they book the visit to the site 24 hrs in advance.

Similar permit systems of control exist with neighbouring authorities such as NPT, Swansea & Vale of Glamorgan (VoG charge £15 for the permit). RCT do not operate a permit system but have an onerous challenging process whereby users have to bring a utility bill, letter from the vehicle company on headed paper stating the user is allowed to use the vehicle for personal use, or a hire agreement, full description of the waste and proof that the waste is not commercial.

Prior to the implementation of the current system of control in 2010 the BCBC amenity sites were the subject of significant trade waste abuse, the controls in place currently are vital and successful. With these having been reviewed recently and now being part of the contractual arrangement with Kier, it is not proposed that they are revisited until the next waste contract is procured.

Councillor T Giffard asked a supplementary question as to where residents could receive information on the tipping policy.

The Cabinet Member Communities stated that residents can gain information from the Council's website, together with details of opening hours and how residents can access permits for trailers and trailer sizes.

305. **URGENT ITEMS**

There were no urgent items.

306. 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 items of business as they 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 items in private with the public being excluded from the meeting as it would involve the disclosure of exempt information as stated above.

307. APPROVAL OF EXEMPT MINUTES

308. REDUNDANCY AND EARLY RETIREMENT COSTS IN EXCESS OF £100,000

The meeting closed at 15:47