

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD IN REMOTELY - VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON WEDNESDAY, 19 MAY 2021 AT 15:00

Present

Councillor KJ Watts – Chairperson

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

Apologies for Absence

M Hughes

Officers:

525. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

526. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR COUNCILLOR KEN WATTS

The Mayor's announcement was as follows:

"This has been a year like no other! It has tested our resolve and commitment and rightly we acknowledge the work of the NHS and care home staff in particular.

But I should also like to thank the officers and staff of BCBC who have carried on regardless and kept services going during what has been a unique and demanding time. On behalf of this Council and the people of Bridgend I thank you all.

The year has also been personally devastating for some and we honour, remember and mourn the loved ones lost. It has also been disastrous for many with livelihoods lost and way of life changed, possibly for ever. And now it may well be socially divisive with the likely introduction of Covid Passports. Undoubtedly the way we live work and play has changed. The world has changed.

My Mayoral year, or should I say 8 months, has been somewhat different too. I have neither sat in the Mayor's Parlour, (except for a photo this week) nor in the Council Chamber. Even my inauguration was carried out by the Leader and Chief Executive in the back garden and in the rain! Every meeting and function has been carried out virtually – an experience in itself as many of us know to our embarrassment!

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Clearly the way Council will operate in the future is unsure at the moment but I have every confidence that members and officers will have the wellbeing of the residents of Bridgend County foremost in their minds as changes occur.

There was some return to normality last week with me attending the count with Cllr. Julia Williams and again the opening of Porthcawl Library and a new business in Dunraven Business Park. A fraction of what a Mayor would normally do in a busy year.

I would like to thank the Democratic Services Team for their support and guidance throughout my term and of course will not forget the impact Kevin's passing has on us all.

I would also like to give a special thanks to my Consort Councillor Julia Williams, who, although functions were few has supported me throughout in what has been a difficult time for her personally. I know you all wish her well.

I wish my successor, Councillor Spanswick and his consort Susan every success in their term of office and I am confident they will do a first class job hopefully as life returns to whatever the future holds for us all.

Thank you."

527. TO ELECT THE MAYOR FOR THE PERIOD TO MAY 2022 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 23(1) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972.

RESOLVED: That Councillor J Spanswick be elected as Mayor for the ensuing year, to May 2022.

528. TO ANNOUNCE THE MAYOR'S CONSORT

Councillor J Spanswick announced that his consort would be his wife, Susan Spanswick.

529. TO ELECT THE DEPUTY MAYOR FOR THE PERIOD TO MAY 2022 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 24(1) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972.

RESOLVED: That Councillor M Jones be elected as Deputy Mayor for the ensuing year, to May 2022.

530. TO ANNOUNCE THE DEPUTY MAYOR'S CONSORT

Councillor M Jones announced that he would not have a consort for the forthcoming year, but that he would be inviting Members in turn, to accompany him at Mayoral events and engagements.

531. TO ELECT THE LEADER OF BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

RESOLVED: That Cllr HJ David be elected as Leader of Bridgend County Borough Council for the ensuring year, to May 2022.

532. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE LEADER

The Leaders report was as follows:

"I would like to begin by thanking you for returning me as Leader of Bridgend County Borough Council.

It is an incredible honour and a privilege, and I would like to offer members my sincere thanks and respect.

I will, of course, continue to devote my full attention and focus to the role, and to do my very best for the people that we all serve.

Thank you for your service Councillor Watts, I expected you to serve the community with distinction and you did. You very skilfully chaired council meetings virtually, without doubt the most difficult meeting to chair. You make a wonderful team with Julia.

Congratulations are also due to councillors Giffard and Hussein for their success on becoming regional members of the Senedd. I am sure they will champion local government and Bridgend County Borough Council in their new roles.

I would like to place on record my deep respect for councillors Cheryl Green and Norah Clarke. Councillor Green is stepping down as chair of Scrutiny, and Councillor Clarke as leader of the opposition.

Both have held leadership roles during their time as elected representatives, and they have always been nothing less than constructive and respectful towards their fellow members when undertaking their duties.

They have always placed the interests of local residents at the heart of what they do, and I want to publically thank them for their contributions and their service.

Normally, this would be an opportunity for me to talk about the highlights of the council over the last twelve months, and to look towards what we will seek to achieve in the coming year.

However, the last year has been anything but normal.

It is now fourteen months since the coronavirus pandemic took hold, and forced us all to avoid contact and work from home.

Compared to how it was back then, the outlook is now thankfully far brighter, with infection rates falling, vaccinations increasing and lockdown restrictions continuing to ease. Nevertheless, Covid-19 has not gone away, and it would be foolish to act as if it had.

As such, Welsh Government advice to work from home wherever possible remains in place, and is likely to do so for some time yet. I thought about this recently when considering what to speak about here today, and I was reminded of two things.

The first is just how challenging the last year has proven to be, but how, when the stakes were high, people came together to provide a unified response.

Back at the start of the pandemic, the council formed a coronavirus planning and co-ordination steering group, a move which proved to be crucial for ensuring that we could meet the challenges posed by the pandemic quickly and effectively.

The long working days and short nights soon rolled into one another, and severely tested us both as individuals and as an organisation.

We persevered and met these challenges by joining with other groups, public bodies and organisations to act as one in seeking to protect our communities.

Over the course of the crisis, partnerships were formed, and in many cases resurrected.

Organisations ranging from Bridgend, Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf councils to Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board, South Wales Police and Public Health Wales came together to share both information and resources for maximum effect.

This joint approach is continuing, and I suspect that it has laid down the groundwork for further close collaboration even after the pandemic is over.

The second thing I was reminded of when considering what I would say here today was the remarkable response from the council's workforce in the face of Covid-19.

Our staff adapted, innovated and persevered under the most difficult of circumstances, working long hours without any additional reward and in some cases risking potential exposure to the coronavirus as they set about ensuring that the authority was able to continue to deliver essential services.

You may recall how we quickly consulted with trade unions and established how staff, resources and services might be redeployed and reprioritised in order to deal with the crisis.

One of the biggest concerns during the initial phase was, of course, the availability of sanitiser and suitable PPE equipment to help keep our workers safe and well enough to be able to continue to support people.

Staff worked wonders in ensuring that we could secure sufficient stocks, and even teachers from local schools pitched in to fashion protective visors and more using 3D printers and other workshop equipment.

I don't know if you can remember where you were when the lockdown was finally announced and our streets and town centres suddenly emptied of people, but I was at the Civic Offices in Angel Street.

I remember thinking how unusual it was to walk the length of the building's open-plan offices, and to not see or hear another member of staff.

Thankfully, the council's ICT team pulled off a small miracle in the period leading up to the lockdown, and within a matter of weeks, they had equipped the council's entire workforce to be able to work from home.

A huge effort was made to encourage residents to carry out their council business online or by telephone, and an entire range of advice and support for individuals, businesses and organisations of all types and sizes had to be hurriedly prepared.

With the announcement that the country was officially entering pandemic lockdown and that people were to remain at home, we quickly closed down schools and facilities such as Coychurch Crematorium, and instigated strict new rules at care homes to protect elderly residents from exposure.

Our social care staff ensured that no vulnerable person had to face the pandemic alone, and went to extra lengths to make sure that they were safe and secure.

Our school-based staff established online learning sessions, and distributed IT equipment and in some cases even broadband connections to ensure that no child would miss out on their lessons.

Alongside the wide range of organisations and agencies who came together to work in partnership and protect our local communities, a great deal was established in the early weeks and months of the pandemic.

This included the setting up of six emergency childcare hubs practically overnight to ensure that essential key workers could still attend work and keep the system running smoothly.

We developed a food parcel delivery system which ensured that more than 5,000 children who were entitled to free school meals did not go hungry, and which also enabled us to look after their welfare by maintaining safeguarding checks and direct contact.

Council depots were rapidly converted into temporary ambulance stations, Abergarw Manor was reopened as a temporary step-down facility for people leaving hospital, and an information sharing group was set up with all commissioned care providers.

We made sure that all care homes, private or otherwise, received latest guidance to help protect staff and residents, and carried out a range of work to get homeless people off the streets.

We supported the establishment of coronavirus testing centres, sourcing suitable locations and ensuring that they could move around the county borough and target communities where they could be of most help.

We worked alongside the brilliant BAVO and amazing community groups to support thousands of vulnerable people who were shielding, and set up a viable, locally-managed test, trace and protect system within just two weeks.

To support local businesses, our staff worked tirelessly and gave up their weekends to process thousands of funding applications which resulted in the provision of millions of pounds of financial assistance.

We also provided businesses with practical advice and guidance along with materials such as sneeze-guards, pavement livery, posters, signage and more, all of which was designed to keep staff and customers safe from exposure.

In addition, we froze rents for small and medium sized enterprises, including the stalls at Bridgend and Maesteg markets, and instigated periods of free car parking in areas such as Bridgend and Porthcawl.

From the very start of the crisis, key messages and official advice was monitored, shared and built into our own communications, and we undertook an unprecedented amount of internal work that sought to look after the health and well-being of council staff, and ensure they remained fit and well to provide vital services.

By the end of the first year, we'd issued more than a thousand media releases, and developed a comprehensive daily update that served to keep our key audiences informed throughout the height of the crisis.

We also had to plan for scenarios where waste and recycling might go uncollected and pile up in the event of mass exposure amongst the Kier workers – something which thankfully did not come to pass, and which Kier were particular active in avoiding.

Of course, it is easy to forget the uncertainty that we were dealing with back then. At the start, nobody knew for sure the potential impact that the pandemic could have, and there

were many things that we had to plan for which thankfully did not have to be implemented.

I will never forget charring meetings where we planned for the cold storage for bodies and even the possibility of carrying out mass burials as we experienced the initial surge in cases and hospitals were full of patients.

Nevertheless, this was a possibility which we had to be ready for, and the council and its partners put in place the plans, hoping all the while that they would ultimately be unnecessary.

While this thankfully proved to be the case, the virus still took its terrible toll.

We all know someone who passed away as a result of contracting Covid-19, and once the roll-out of coronavirus vaccines began in earnest, the council again undertook a critical role and worked alongside our partners in health to establish local vaccination centres.

Having visited the one at Ravens Court for my own job, I can honestly say that it was a tight, efficient and extremely reassuring process. Now, and with recent confirmation from Public Health Wales that more than two million vaccinations have now been issued across Wales, I sincerely hope that the worst of the pandemic is behind us.

Unfortunately, the pandemic followed the likes of Brexit and several events which continue to have huge implications for the county borough.

Following the loss of the Bridgend Ford Engine Plant, we had the decision by Ineos to relocate their car manufacturing business to Europe, and the announcement from the Ciner Group that they were basing their bottle plant in Ebbw Vale.

Several times, I have repeated my call for the UK Government to work alongside Welsh Government and make renewed efforts to attract fresh investment into the area.

I do not intend to let this become forgotten about - urgent investment and rapid action still remains vital to protect the county borough's communities and local economy.

Welsh Government are making efforts to support us, so I again call upon the UK Government to join them, and to not forget about Bridgend County Borough.

We need them both to work with us to bring in new investment, businesses and jobs, to support existing employers, and to ensure that opportunities remain available for our future generations.

As disappointing those decisions may have been, however, they have not swayed our ambition or desire to deliver positive change for the people of the county borough.

As restrictions continue to ease, our thoughts have turned increasingly towards recovery, and what the future might hold.

Despite the disruption caused by the pandemic and the reprioritisation of our plans and services that it forced upon us, we were still able to continue to deliver a wide range of projects and make fresh investment into communities all cross the county borough.

In Bridgend, swift progress is being made on the £23 million Sunnyside wellness village in partnership with Linc Cymru Housing Association and Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board.

This will be a landmark development which will deliver almost 60 affordable homes, a modern new healthcare centre with consultation and treatment rooms, a GP practice, a specialist dental unit, a pharmacy and much more.

At Maesteg, the £7.9 million restoration and extension of Maesteg Town Hall is continuing, and when complete will deliver all-new facilities including a new glass atrium, studio theatre and cinema space, café and mezzanine bar, heritage centre, modern library and more.

In Porthcawl, contractors are about to start work on a new £6.4m flood defence scheme focusing on the Western Breakwater, Eastern Promenade and Coney Beach / Sandy Bay areas, and our ongoing regeneration scheme is making great progress at Salt Lake.

Furthermore, plans for investing in new community facilities at Cosy Corner in Porthcawl have moved a step closer after we agreed to match Welsh Government funding of £1m with an additional investment of almost £385,000.

The council also continues to be one of the leading authorities in Wales when it comes to areas such as recycling waste and diverting it away from landfill.

At Pyle, we are preparing to start work on improving the junction with Village Farm Industrial Estate in anticipation of the opening of the new community recycling centre later this summer.

The new recycling centre is going to be bigger and capable of dealing with more vehicles, and the junction improvements will make it far easier to enter and leave the estate. We are also completing construction of the new enterprise hub for small and micro businesses.

Elsewhere, our work with town and community councils is helping to develop facilities which would otherwise be under threat due to budget pressures.

We have been supporting various funding bids to undertake things such as community centre improvements, new play areas, playing field enhancements, footpath resurfacing and more.

Likewise, our community asset transfer process is continuing to deliver results, and we currently have around 55 applications at different levels of completion.

Our ongoing school modernisation programme has revealed plans for providing the biggest investment into Welsh medium and English medium provision in the Cornelly for more than 40 years, plans for a state of the art new primary school in Kenfig Hill and we are developing four new childcare hubs in Blackmill, Bettws, Bridgend and Porthcawl as part of a £2.6m investment into Welsh-medium education.

Together with our health board partners, we are investing at Trem y Mor in Bettws to support the work of the county borough's integrated health and social care team.

This will deliver new facilities to support the training of new staff working in areas such as reablement, physiotherapy, nursing, social work and occupational therapy, and will provide ample testing and demonstration space for telecare equipment designed to help people with sensory and physical disabilities.

Our programme to bring empty properties back into use is also a growing success, with eight properties already approved and at various stages of work and a further 23 applications already making their way through the system.

We have established specialist litter hubs and are working alongside community groups to tackle rubbish, and have launched a new enforcement team to help fight fly tipping and other waste issues across the county borough.

Our multi-million pound programme of highways investment took advantage of quieter roads during the pandemic to make extra headway, and we are already embarking upon the next round of improvements.

One issue that really developed during the lockdown was the way in which people took up walking and cycling as part of their daily exercise, so we are capitalising upon this by investing millions into developing new active travel routes.

We are exploring options for providing more charging points for electric vehicles as part of the Cardiff Capital Region Ultra Low Emission Vehicle strategy, and are promoting a 'try before you buy' scheme to encourage more taxi drivers to transition over to wheelchair-accessible electric vehicles.

Work on a taxi charging point at Hillsboro Place Car Park in Porthcawl is already being planned, and funding is also being sought for charging points at Brynmenyn Industrial Estate, Bridgend Life Centre, Porthcawl, Maesteg Car Park, Bridgend town centre, Bryncethin Depot and the Civic Offices car park.

We have also made progress on our commitment towards the Bridgend 2030 decarbonisation strategy, the Bridgend Town Heat Network and the Caerau Heat Scheme plus a multi-million pound investment in energy efficiency improvements to our buildings.

As part of our efforts to support decarbonisation and reduce carbon dioxide emissions, we have plans in place for planting almost 3,000 new trees in areas such as Newbridge Fields, Sker Farm, the new community garden in Nantymoel, the Sunnyside Wellness Village development and more.

We are entering the final stages of the long-in-progress Local Development Plan which, when finally approved, will determine what developments will take place in the county borough over the next 15 years.

As part of this, the derelict Ewenny Road Industrial Estate site in Maesteg could soon undergo transformation worth £3.5 million thanks to support from the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal grant.

This will in turn unlock the site for further development and regeneration, and is just one of several such schemes we have in place.

We want the Local Development Plan to reflect our ambitions for the county borough, and to support the development of 7,500 new jobs as well as 9,200 homes required for accommodating the growing local population over the next decade and a half.

We also have extensive plans for developing and enhancing local transportation links, such as park and ride facilities for Porthcawl and the proposed Brackla railway station, extended / new park and ride facilities at Maesteg Ewenny Road and Pencoed, and a new replacement road bridge over the railway at Pencoed.

With a new passing loop and half-hour rail services to Maesteg and new bus corridor improvements, work is also progressing on the delivery of a new £5m extension at Pyle railway station and development of a new park and ride facility.

Anyone seeking a further example of this council's ambition could also look towards our Bridgend Town Centre Masterplan – a regeneration strategy which has the potential for changing how we use the town centre area forever.

It is through projects such as these that this council is continuing to invest in new infrastructure for the county borough.

We are committed towards capitalising upon future developments throughout the region, working alongside partners including the Welsh Government and UK Government to maximise benefits, and to delivering high-quality services and facilities for the people we serve.

I am looking forward to seeing how these ambitions develop further in the year ahead, and I know that all members are too.

In my role as Leader, I am ably backed by the unwavering support of my Cabinet colleagues.

I would like to acknowledge their ongoing dedication and commitment, and to also confirm that for the year ahead, there will be some changes to the Cabinet structure.

Councillor Richard Young is stepping down as Cabinet Member for Communities, and Councillor Stuart Baldwin will take on the role.

Councillor Young is the only current member of Bridgend County Borough Council who also served on the former Mid Glamorgan County Council. Over 30 years of representing his town and the county borough is an exceptional achievement and record of dedication by anyone's standard.

His passion and belief green energy revolution is quickly clear to anyone who listen and his leadership and championing of that agenda has undoubtedly led to progress on district heat networks and zero carbon homes, a legacy that he can be rightly very proud of.

As well as being a political veteran, Richard is a military veteran who served our nation in the Royal Navy for over 8 years so he has always been committed to honouring our covenant as our Armed Forces Champion so I have asked him to continue in that role.

Councillor Young's experience, wisdom and cool head has an invaluable asset, I have been able to count on him as both a respected colleague, and a friend.

Councillor Baldwin has demonstrated extraordinary energy and commitment, and I know that he relishes the challenge of this important role.

Together with my Cabinet colleagues, I would like to extend a warm welcome to him.

We also want to offer our sincere thanks to Councillor Young for the valuable contribution that he has made.

I am not proposing to make further changes to the current Cabinet portfolios, but would like to conclude my report by taking this opportunity to express my thanks to councillors Patel, Smith, Burnett and Williams for their ongoing and much-valued support. It is, as always, greatly valued.

Thank you. “

532a. The Leader to appoint Members of the Cabinet

RESOLVED: That the Leader officially appointed the follow Members to the Cabinet:

Councillor HM Williams.
Councillor D Patel
Councillor N Burnett
Councillor CE Smith
Councillor S Baldwin

- 532b. The Leader may announce the Deputy Leader of Bridgend County Borough Council from those Members appointed to the Cabinet and may announce the appointment of Cabinet Members to portfolios

RESOLVED: The Leader announced that the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member responsible for Resources for 2021/2022, would be Councillor HM Williams.

He added that the following Cabinet Members would be responsible for the undermentioned portfolios:-

Councillor D Patel – Wellbeing and Future Generations
Councillor N Burnett – Social Services and Early Help
Councillor CE Smith – Education and Regeneration
Councillor S Baldwin – Communities

533. **PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL AND COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

The Monitoring Officer presented a report, the purpose of which, was to propose a programme of ordinary meetings of the Council and Council Committees for the municipal year May 2021 – April 2022 for approval and to note the programme of meetings for the municipal year May 2022 – April 2023.

The proposed programme of ordinary meetings of Council for May 2021 - April 2022 was set out in paragraph 4.1 of the report. She confirmed that, Members would note that only regulatory committee meetings are scheduled in April 2022 during the pre-election period.

The Monitoring Officer added, that in order to assist with future planning, a draft programme of meetings for the 2022/23 Municipal Year, was attached at Appendix 2 of the report for noting. This programme may be subject to some further amendments, prior to it being approved by next year's Annual Meeting of Council, following the County Borough Elections.

Council was also asked to note the meeting dates for Cabinet, Cabinet Committees, and the Coychurch Crematorium Joint Committee which were included in Appendix 1, for completeness.

A Member asked, if any consideration had been given moving forward out of the pandemic for the holding of Hybrid Committee meetings, as well as remote meetings as of now, when regulations and guidance allows as the pandemic subsides.

The Monitoring Officer confirmed there will be changes to the Constitution, some of which are included in the next agenda item and others in the Local Government and Elections Act, which will permit not only remote working but Hybrid meetings also. The

The current remit and functions of Committees and other bodies of the Council it was proposed, remained unchanged as detailed in Part 3 of the Constitution – Responsibility for Council Functions which was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

Political balance is essential to determine the allocation of seats on Committees. The current political balance of Committees and other bodies was shown at Appendix 2 of the report. This also accounted for a new Independent Member being elected in the ward of Nantymoel where there had been a vacancy and for Councillor K Watts joining the Independent/Alliance group, following him previously being a stand-alone Independent Member.

The current committee structure was shown at Appendix 3 of the report, while the existing membership of committees which will form the basis of any changes to the membership of the committees being attached at Appendix 4.

Paragraph 4.12 of the report, outlined some other required changes that were needed to be made to the Constitution. It was therefore proposed, that the Constitution be amended accordingly in relation to County Borough Debates and Voting as outlined at Appendix 5 to the report, via tracked changes.

RESOLVED: That Council :-

- (1) Appointed the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and such other Committees as the Council considered appropriate to deal with matters which are neither reserved to the Council nor are executive functions;
- (2) Determined the size and terms of reference for those Committees as set out in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (3) Determined the allocation of seats to political groups in accordance with the political balance rules as set out in Appendix 2 of the report;
- (4) Determined which political groups represented at Council are entitled to make which appointments of Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairpersons;
- (5) Received nominations and appointed Councillors to serve on each of the Committees, Panels and other bodies (as indicated), as attached as an Appendix to these minutes:-
 - Appeals Panel
 - Appointments Committee
 - Governance and Audit Committee
 - Democratic Services Committee
 - Development Control Committee
 - Licensing Committee
 - Licensing Act 2003 Committee
 - Town and Community Council Forum
 - Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1
 - Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2
 - Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3
 - Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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(6) Received nominations and appointed the Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the following Committees, Panels and other bodies (as indicated), with it being noted that the Governance and Audit Committee at its first scheduled meeting will appoint a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson:

- Appeals Panel - Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson
- Democratic Services Committee - Chairperson
- Development Control Committee - Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson
- Licensing Committee & Licensing Act 2003 Committee - Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson
- Town and Community Council Forum - Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

(7) Received nominations and appointed the Chairpersons of the following Overview and Scrutiny Committees in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 4.3 of the report:

- Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1
- Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2
- Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3

(8) Approved the amendments to the Constitution as set out in paragraph 4.2.3 and Appendix 5 to the report.

- Appeals Panel

There were two nominations for the appointment of Chairperson to the Appeals Panel for the ensuing year, as follows:-

Councillor PA Davies
Councillor R Penhale-Thomas

A vote was therefore conducted, the result of which was as follows:-

Councillor PA Davies

26 votes

Councillor R Penhale-Thomas

24 votes

Councillor PA Davies was therefore appointed Chairperson of the Appeals Panel

Vice-Chairperson – Councillor J McCarthy – (unopposed)

- Democratic Services Committee - Chairperson E Venables (unopposed)
- Development Control Committee

There were two nominations for the appointment of Chairperson of the Development Control Committee for the ensuing year, as follows:-

Councillor G Thomas
Councillor S Dendy

A vote was therefore conducted, the result of which was as follows:-

Councillor G Thomas

29 votes

Councillor S Dendy

21 votes

Councillor G Thomas was therefore appointed Chairperson of the Development Control Committee

There were two nominations for the appointment of Vice-Chairperson of the Development Control Committee for the ensuing year, as follows:-

Councillor RM Granville
Councillor S Dendy

A vote was therefore conducted, the result of which was as follows:-

Councillor RM Granville

Councillor S Dendy

27 votes

23 votes

Councillor RM Granville was therefore appointed Vice-Chairperson of the Development Control Committee.

- Licensing Committee & Licensing Act 2003 Committee – Chairperson - Councillor D Lewis (unopposed)
Vice-Chairperson – Councillor PA Davies (unopposed)
 - Town and Community Council Forum – Chairperson – Councillor HJ David (unopposed)
Vice-Chairperson – Councillor CE Smith (unopposed)
- (8) Received nominations and appointed the Chairpersons of the following Overview and Scrutiny Committees in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 4.3 of the report:
- Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 – Councillor K Rowlands (unopposed)
 - Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 – Councillor Amanda Williams (unopposed)
 - Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 – Councillor JP Blundell (unopposed)

535. REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND OTHER COMMITTEES

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report, the purpose of which, was to seek Council's approval for the appointment of Members to the South Wales Police and Crime Panel, Cardiff Capital Region City Deal Joint Scrutiny Committee and the South East Wales Strategic Planning Group as set out in the report at Appendix 1, for the ensuing year ie to May 2022.

Following unopposed nominations for the above appointments, it was

- RESOLVED:**
- (1) That Councillor JP Blundell be appointed to the Cardiff City Deal Joint Scrutiny Committee and that Councillor Tim Thomas be appointed the Reserve Member.
 - (2) That Councillor RE Young be appointed to the South Wales Police and Crime Panel.

(3) That the Chairperson of the Development Control Committee be appointed to the South East Wales Strategic Planning.

536. **TO INVEST THE MAYOR OF BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL FOR 2021/22**

Following Council having approved the nomination of Councillor JC Spanswick as Mayor of Bridgend County Borough for the year 2021/2022, Councillor Spanswick was invited by the outgoing Mayor to formally accept the Office of Mayor. Councillor Spanswick verbally accepted the office of Mayor and recited the following oath :-

“I John Charles Spanswick, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second.”

Councillor KJ Watts extended his congratulations to the incoming Mayor

537. **TO INVEST THE MAYOR'S CONSORT**

Susan Spanswick, having been named as Mayor's consort for the year 2020/21, was invited by the outgoing Mayor, to formally accept the position of consort.

Mrs. Spanswick verbally accepted the position of Mayor's Consort, as follows:-

“It gives me great pleasure in accepting the position of Mayor's Consort.”

Councillor KJ Watts extended his congratulations to the incoming Mayor's Consort.

538. **TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE NEWLY ELECTED MAYOR**

The incoming Mayor for 2021-22, Councillor Spanswick, gave the following announcement.

‘Firstly Mr. Mayor I would like to welcome all Councillors, guests and family who, thanks to the new ways of working with virtual meetings, can all be present here with us today.

I am honoured and thankful to have been elected to the office of Mayor for the County Borough of Bridgend for the year 2021 – 2022. Over the years it has not been something I truly expected to happen or aspired to, but I suppose after now entering my 23rd. year as a County Borough Councillor and nearly 30 years as a Community Councillor, it was about time I took on the role.

Nevertheless I will not be undertaking this role on my own and I am proud to inform you that my consort for the year will be my wife, Susan Spanswick, who I am sure will keep me in check and let me know if I step out of line. Susan has supported me over all the years with my work in the community, while I have been out and about attending meetings, etc. she has been working both part time as a Homecare worker and getting on with family life bringing up our 3 children and more lately helping with our 4 grandchildren (and soon to be another one in July), but for one year only Susan will now be stepping forward with me to help represent the County Borough of Bridgend.

Going back to what this honour means to me I thought it would be appropriate to give you a little insight into where I have come from. Not far in fact, as I was brought up in Nantymoel in the lovely Ogmore Valley and while I no longer live there, I still love driving up through the valley towards the Bwlch mountain. While growing up I may not have noticed people in public life and Councillors of the day, but there is one in particular I did

notice as I became a teenager in the late 1970's and that was Councillor Muriel Williams from Ogwr Borough Council, more commonly known as Muw from the Rhiw as the council offices at the time were situated across the river from where they are today, alongside the Rhiw shopping centre. Muriel became the Mayor of Ogwr Borough Council and I am extremely proud to be the Mayor of this County Borough with Nantymoel heritage.

During 1980 I was fortunate to become an Apprentice Groundsman with Ogwr Borough Council based at Griffin Park in Porthcawl and had to travel each day from Nantymoel on my 50cc. moped. Not a great experience on a wet and windy day. It was those early years of the 1980's that got me interested in politics and the local community and the rest as they say, is history. I will be forever grateful to Ogwr Borough Council for starting me off on my career path in parks and green spaces which ended up with me spending 39 years in local government and finally achieving the post of Parks & Countryside Manager at neighbouring Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council in 2016.

On the subject of green spaces and our outdoor environment, this is an area I will be looking to champion over the coming year and in particular the planting and maintenance of trees, together with safeguarding our green spaces. What better legacy can we leave for our children, than to plant as many trees as possible (of the correct species and in the correct location) and to protect green spaces for future generations. Some initial work has already commenced in respect of the planting of trees with a project being led by Bridgend College to plant 60,000 trees by 2025. I have already attended a working group consisting of officers from this authority, Bridgend College, V2C, Fire Authority, Groundwork and others to look at working together on this and we will be meeting again in early June. While it is a big ask, I am hoping that the target of 60,000 trees can be increased to around 145,000 which would roughly equate to one tree for each member of the population of the County Borough.

The timing of this could not be better as the Queen's Green Canopy scheme has been launched this week to encourage people to plant trees from the start of the tree-planting season in October 2021 through to the end of 2022, to mark her 70 years on the throne. People across the UK are to be invited to plant 'healthy native trees' next year for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Prince Charles has described planting a tree as a "statement of hope and faith in the future". He has even called it a tree-bilee. More news in the future on that and by the end of my year in office you may be a little tired of me going on about trees and green spaces.

I shall endeavour to fulfil and promote the role and office of Mayor to the best of my ability by supporting community events wherever and whenever possible whilst at all times keeping in mind the need for us all to stay safe as we emerge from the pandemic. I do sincerely hope to return to Nantymoel during my forthcoming year in office and help promote the Ogmore Valley along with all the other wonderful areas we have within the County Borough of Bridgend.

Now onto my chosen charities for the year and as we all will be aware it has been a difficult time for fundraising, but I do hope you will be able to support me with this task. Not sure how many of you will have heard of Lads & Dads, but this was a local support group set up in Brackla in October 2019 to help men, young and old, with their mental wellbeing following concerns with the increasing number of young men ending their own lives. Its strapline is Talking, Walking, Thinking, Supporting. I helped the founder (Rob Lester) set up the first few meetings at Brackla Community Centre to give people the opportunity to come and chat in a confidential setting. The group now has over 400 members from the local area and further afield, and some great work is taking place with more and more men talking confidentially about matters of concern to them. While I am currently the Secretary of the group I will be stepping down from this in the weeks ahead to give somebody the chance to take the group forward with the other trustees. The

other local charity I will be supporting is Bridgend Carers Centre who undertake an essential role in supporting unpaid carers throughout the County Borough and they have faced many challenges during the pandemic and continue to do so as we try to return to the new normal, whatever this may be.

Lastly, I wish to say well done to the outgoing Mayor Councillor KJ Watts and his consort Councillor J Williams. I appreciate it has perhaps not quite been as you would have expected, with limited events, and meetings being held virtually, but it's been a privilege to have been your deputy and to have worked with you over the past 8 months.

Finally, I do hope that it is only a matter of time before we return to some sort of normality with meetings in the Council Chamber and in that respect I am sure you will all be ready to test out my patience as Chair of the meeting. Look out though, it may be a rough ride ahead!

539. **TO INVEST THE DEPUTY MAYOR OF BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL FOR 2021/22**

The outgoing Mayor Councillor KJ Watts confirmed that earlier Council had approved the nomination of Councillor M Jones as Deputy Mayor of Bridgend County Borough Council for the year 2020-21. He therefore invited Councillor Jones to accept this offer in office.

Councillor Jones duly accepted the offer of Deputy Mayor and said that he looked forward to supporting the newly elected Mayor, Councillor Spanswick together with his Consort and to support the citizens of the County Borough in this prestigious role. It was an honour and a privilege to do so he added, as it had been supporting his constituents in the Ward of Bettws. Councillor Jones further added, that he was looking forward to the forthcoming year with both enthusiasm and ambition.

540. **TO INVEST THE DEPUTY MAYOR'S CONSORT**

The Deputy Mayor as announced earlier in proceedings, did not have a Consort for the ensuing year.