

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD HYBRID IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND, CF31 4WB ON WEDNESDAY, 17 MAY 2023 AT 16:00**

**Present**

Councillor M Jones – Chairperson

S Aspey	H T Bennett	A R Berrow	F D Bletsoe
S J Bletsoe	JPD Blundell	E L P Caparros	N Clarke
RJ Collins	HJ David	C Davies	C L C Davies
P Davies	S Easterbrook	M J Evans	N Farr
P Ford	J Gebbie	W R Goode	RM Granville
H Griffiths	S J Griffiths	D T Harrison	M L Hughes
D M Hughes	P W Jenkins	M R John	MJ Kearns
W J Kendall	M Lewis	J Llewellyn-Hopkins	RL Penhale-Thomas
J E Pratt	E Richards	R J Smith	JC Spanswick
I M Spiller	T Thomas	JH Tildesley MBE	G Walter
A Wathan	A Williams	AJ Williams	HM Williams
I Williams	MJ Williams	R Williams	E D Winstanley
T Wood			

**Apologies for Absence**

RM James

**Officers:**

Mark Galvin	Senior Democratic Services Officer - Committees
Laura Griffiths	Principal Solicitor
Lindsay Harvey	Corporate Director Education and Family Support
Rachel Keepins	Democratic Services Manager
Carys Lord	Chief Officer - Finance, Performance & Change
Claire Marchant	Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing
Janine Nightingale	Corporate Director - Communities
Michael Pitman	Technical Support Officer – Democratic Services
Alex Rawlin	Corporate Policy & Public Affairs Manager
Mark Shephard	Chief Executive
Kelly Watson	Chief Officer Legal, HR and Regulatory Services

126. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

127. **TO RECEIVE ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR COUNCILLOR M JONES**

The Mayor gave the following outgoing speech.

'It has certainly been a privilege and honour to fulfil the role of Mayor of the County Borough of Bridgend

Before I summarise this remarkable journey, I would like to tell you of an incredible event that was held here in the Council Chamber.

On the 14 April we held an adoptions ceremony in the Civic Offices. An event that ended an adoption process for special young people.

We can all recognise that the Councils Social Services Directorate has been under the spotlight recently, perhaps for some wrong reasons, but this event just illustrates the ongoing incredible work that is undertaken to support young children who perhaps have not had the best start in life.

Seven individual families visited the Council Chamber. Proud extended families who it was a pleasure to meet. The love and adoration shown to the children was palpable and watching them run around the Chamber, some of which sat in the Mayor's chair wearing the Mayoral chain with pride and making good use of this wooden gravel hammer was a joy to watch.

I have no hesitation in admitting that on some occasions whilst conducting the official business of the event I had difficulty in managing my own emotions.

Could I thank all those who were involved in this incredible event, especially our Director Clare Marchant and Cabinet Member / Deputy Leader Councillor Jane Gebbie, you have certainly made a difference, so congratulations to all.

It has been an incredible year. Being able to attend so many events both within the County Borough and beyond has been wonderful. Can I thank all those for inviting me to your special occasions?

From community events to schools and colleges, charitable events, to evening concerts and many award ceremonies. I was always greeted with politeness and appreciation.

If there is one message, I can convey to others is that this County Borough is enriched with incredible people who are both Proud and Positive. All too often the news / media concentrate on the negative aspects of modern life.

Perhaps, just perhaps, they could get out into communities and meet these incredible people who make a positive contribution to society. People who do not seek reward or recognition but get on with daily life to support others.

Our Annual Mayoral Awards process clearly identifies this positivity.

So, members continue to make those nominations, every ward, every town has that community champion.

The passing of Queen Elizabeth II was sudden and unexpected. A sad and solemn period for us all.

Bridgend County Borough like all other areas across the Commonwealth was in a state of mourning. I attended many church and cathedral services and witnessed at first hand the community respect that was shown to the late sovereign.

To read the proclamation to announce the passing of the longest reigning Monarch and to commence the beginning of the reign of a new King, King Charles III was an honour.

Representation from Town and Community Councils outside Civic Offices for the proclamation ceremony just illustrated the unique partnership and togetherness that exists within this fine County Borough.

Can I take this opportunity to thank Councillor Andrew James the Town Mayor of Maesteg for his friendship and invitation to many events in the Llynfi Valley

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Likewise, to Councillor Leanne Lewis at Pencoed Town Council and Councillor Mark Chegwen at Porthcawl Town Council. Finally, also to Councillor Tim Wood Mayor of Bridgend Town Council and his consort Clare.

Councillor Wood and I, were able to attend many events together where we both had a shared desire to not only promote Bridgend Town but the whole of the County Borough. It was clear to me that Councillor Wood had great pride in the Town and Borough. Although I shudder with despair any video footage that may be available of our attempts to Folk Dance wearing our respective Chains of Office.

I deliberately set out to not proactively promote the Mayor's Charity this year. With an ever- increasing cost of living crisis with some families struggling to put food on the table it did not feel right to do so. I purposely set out to attend as many local charitable functions as I could to help promote Charities who support those most vulnerable.

However, we did raise the sum of over £2,500.00 which will be allocated to a Ukrainian based charity.

A big thank you to all those who donated, including to the Council Dragon where £130 was collected for charity following the guessing of its name, which was 'Dewi', as correctly selected by Councillor H Griffiths.

Also, many thanks to all the team who supported me during the previous year.

Rachel, Ruth, Nimi and the Benjamin Button of the Authority Mark Galvin. Apologies if I have missed anyone out.

There is one member of the team who is that vital cog in the support machine for myself

Roger Harrison who is not only the Mayoral Chauffeur but Personal Assistant, Organiser, Speech advisor and the person you need at your side whatever the event.

Mr Harrison is an asset to this Authority, his professionalism and attention to detail is recognised well beyond the boundary of the County Borough.

To all members in the Chamber whether virtual or otherwise who supported and allowed me to be your Mayor. I hope that I have been able to represent you with integrity, pride, and passion.

The Office of Mayor has many functions apart from Civic responsibilities, for me the necessity to maintain the integrity of this chamber is paramount, to ensure that all members can represent their wards whatever their political position and to contribute to a debate.

The whole purpose of this chamber surely is to work together, to provide public representation and put the citizen first when we try to do the very best for the County Borough.

I trust I have been able to facilitate this during my term of office. So once again thank you. It has been an absolute pleasure and privilege to be your Mayor for 2022/2023.

128. TO ELECT THE MAYOR FOR THE PERIOD TO MAY 2024 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 23(1) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

RESOLVED: That Councillor William Kendall be elected as Mayor for the ensuing year, to May 2024.

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- Councillor Kendall confirmed that his Consort would be his wife June Kendall.
129. TO ELECT THE DEPUTY MAYOR FOR THE PERIOD TO MAY 2024 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 24(1) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

RESOLVED: That Councillor Heather Griffiths be elected as Deputy Mayor for the ensuing year, to May 2024.

- Councillor Griffiths confirmed that her Consort would be her husband David Griffiths.
130. TO ELECT THE LEADER OF BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Councillor HJ David was nominated unopposed for Leader of the Council for the ensuing year.

RESOLVED: That Councillor HJ David be elected as Leader of Bridgend County Borough Council for the ensuing year, to May 2024.

- The Leader thanked Members for the confidence that had been placed in him once more as Leader of the Authority and he assured Members, that he would continue to take this prestigious role very seriously as he had always done so in the past, so as to do the best he could for the BCB and the constituents who reside within its communities.
131. THE LEADER TO INFORM COUNCIL OF THE MEMBERS TO BE APPOINTED TO THE CABINET INCLUDING THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIOS.

The Leader was pleased to confirm that the Bridgend County Borough Council Cabinet would comprise of the following Members:-

Councillor HJ David - Leader

Councillor J Gebbie – Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Health

Councillor HM Williams – Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources

Councillor N Farr – Community Safeguarding and Wellbeing

Councillor JP Blundell – Cabinet Member for Education

Councillor JC Spanswick – Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment

Councillor R Goode – Cabinet Member for Housing, Planning and Regeneration

132. PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF ORDINARY 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 May 2023 - April 2024 for approval (Appendix 1 to the report) and to note the proposed programme of meetings for the municipal year May 2024 – April 2025 (at Appendix 2).

She advised that the approval of the programme of ordinary meetings of Council and Council Committees is required in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

The Monitoring Officer confirmed, that in order to assist with future planning, a draft programme of meetings for the 2024/25 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 at next year's Annual Meeting of Council.

A Member noted that there was a typographical error at Appendix 2 to the report, where the July Council meeting was showing as commencing at 15:00 hours, where it should be 16:00. The Monitoring Officer confirmed that this would be amended.



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- (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
- (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, from its Lay Members:

Two nominations were received for the appointment of Chairperson of the Appeals Panel, that were both duly moved and seconded, namely Councillor H Bennett and Councillor N Clarke.

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

Councillor Bennett – 29 votes  
Councillor Clarke – 18 votes  
There were no abstentions

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor H Bennett be appointed as Chairperson of the Appeals Panel for the ensuing year, to May 2024.

The following further nominations were received:

Appeals Panel – Vice-Chairperson – Councillor E Caparros (unopposed)  
Appointments Committee – Chairperson - Councillor HJ David and Vice-Chairperson – Councillor J Gebbie – (both unopposed)  
Democratic Services Committee - Chairperson – Councillor T Thomas (unopposed)  
Development Control Committee - Chairperson (**contested**) and Vice-Chairperson – Councillor S Griffiths (unopposed)  
Licensing Committee and Licensing Act 2003 Committee – Chairperson – Councillor M Lewis and Vice-Chairperson Councillor R Williams (both unopposed)  
Town and Community Council Forum – Chairperson – Councillor HJ David and Vice-Chairperson Councillor J Gebbie (both unopposed).

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Two nominations were received for the appointment of Chairperson of the Development Control Committee, that were both duly moved and seconded, namely Councillor RM Granville and Councillor D Hughes.

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

Councillor RM Granville – 29 votes

Councillor D Hughes – 21 votes

There were no abstentions

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor RM Granville be appointed of the Development Control Committee for the ensuing year, to May 2024.

(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, as follows:

- Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 – Councillor Alex Williams (unopposed)
- Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 – Councillor F Bletsoe (unopposed)
- Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 – Councillor P Davies (unopposed).

134. **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, to May 2024.

The following nominations, both moved and duly seconded, for the appointment of a member to the Cardiff City Deal Joint Scrutiny Committee were received:

Councillor P Davies and Councillor I Williams.

A vote was therefore conducted on this appointment, the result of which was as follows:

Councillor P Davies - 28 votes

Councillor I Williams - 22 votes

There were no abstentions

The following nominations, both moved and duly seconded, for the appointment of a Deputy member to the Cardiff City Deal Joint Scrutiny Committee were received:

Councillor S Griffiths and Councillor T Thomas.

A vote was therefore conducted on this appointment, the result of which was as follows:

Councillor S Griffiths - 27 votes

Councillor T Thomas - 23 votes

There were no abstentions

**RESOLVED:** (1) That Councillor P Davies be appointed as a member of the Cardiff City Deal Joint Scrutiny Committee and Councillor S Griffiths be appointed as the Deputy Member.

(2) That Councillor J Llewellyn-Hopkins be appointed as a member of the South Wales Police and Crime Panel.

(3) That the Chairperson of the Development Control Committee (Councillor RM Granville) be appointed as a member of the South East Wales Strategic Planning.

135. **TO INVEST THE MAYOR OF BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL FOR 2023/2024**

Following Council having approved the nomination of Councillor W Kendall as Mayor of Bridgend County Borough for the year 2023/2024, Councillor Kendall was invited by the outgoing Mayor, to formally accept the Office of Mayor. Councillor Kendall verbally accepted the office of Mayor and recited the following oath:–

“I William Kendall do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty the King, Charles the Third.”

Councillor M Jones extended his congratulations to the incoming Mayor.

The newly elected Mayor then gave the following speech.

‘I stand before you today with a profound sense of gratitude and as I accept the tremendous honour of being appointed Mayor of our County Borough. I appreciate the trust and confidence you have placed in me, and I promise to carry out my duties with dedication and integrity.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the outgoing Mayor not just as tribute to his outstanding service as Mayor but also my personal gratitude for the mentoring he has given me in my role as Deputy Mayor.

I would like to take this opportunity to offer my gratitude to Roger Harrison who has provided faultless guidance on every occasion that it has been required.

I would also like to Thank the Democratic Services Team for their advice and counselling during my tenure as Deputy Mayor.

It is my privilege to announce the new Youth Mayor Ellie O’Connell and Deputy Youth Mayor Daisy Davies – congratulations to Ellie and Daisy in their roles.

I would like to take this opportunity to announce my nominated charity as Wales Air Ambulance

To the citizens of our County Borough, I am profoundly honoured to be entrusted with the responsibility of serving as your mayor. I want to assure you that my tenure will be marked by transparency, inclusivity, and a steadfast commitment to serving the best interests of each and every one of you

I appreciate as elected Members we are all champions for Bridgend, county borough council all have responsibilities to voice residents' concerns and to help them realise their aspirations. As Mayor I will keep this at the forefront of every decision we take.

Thank you, and may we together make our County Borough an even better place to call home.

So to all, I say ‘onwards with confidence’.

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

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The outgoing Mayor Councillor M Jones announced that it was his pleasure to confirm June Kendall as the incoming Mayor's Consort.

137. TO INVEST THE DEPUTY MAYOR OF BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL FOR 2023/2024

The outgoing Mayor Councillor M Jones confirmed that earlier Council had approved the nomination of Councillor H Griffiths as Deputy Mayor of Bridgend County Borough Council for the year 2023-24. He therefore invited Councillor Griffiths to accept this offer in office.

Councillor Griffiths duly accepted the offer of Deputy Mayor with great pleasure, adding that she looked forward to supporting the newly elected Mayor, Councillor W Kendall as part of this honourable position she had been given.

138. TO INVEST THE DEPUTY MAYOR'S CONSORT

The outgoing Mayor Councillor M Jones announced that it was his further pleasure to confirm David Griffiths as the incoming Deputy Mayor's Consort.

The meeting closed at 17:16