

TOWN & COMMUNITY COUNCIL FORUM - MONDAY, 29 JULY 2024

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TOWN & COMMUNITY COUNCIL FORUM HELD REMOTELY - VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON MONDAY, 29 JULY 2024 AT 16:00

Present

Councillor JC Spanswick – Chairperson

Beedle
P Edwards
S Parker
E D Winstanley

H T Bennett
RM Granville
J Perren
T Wood

S J Bletsoe
P W Jenkins
I M Spiller

C Davies
M Jones
MJ Williams

N Gwilym
M Thomas
Y Walton-Davies

Apologies for Absence

M J Evans

Officers:

Oscar Roberts
Zak Shell
Janine Nightingale
Carys Lord
Alex Rawlin
Colin Hill
Mark Shephard
Nimi Chandrasena

Business Administrative Apprentice - Democratic Services
Head of Neighbourhood Services
Corporate Director – Communities
Chief Officer - Finance, Housing & Change
Corporate Policy & Performance Manager
Street Lighting Manager
Chief Executive
Democratic Services Officer

This document is available in Welsh / Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg

Declarations of Interest

Cllr S Bletsoe declared an interest as Councillor for BCBC and Community Council.
Cllr M Williams declared an interest as Councillor for BCBC and Community Council

31. Approval of Minutes

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED</u> : That the minutes of the 11/03/2024 be approved as a true and accurate record.
Date Decision Made	29 July 2024

32. Budget Update

Decision Made	<p>The Chief Officer Finance, Housing and Change presented a report which updated the Forum on the Council's budget, specifically the revenue budget outturn for 2023-24, the approved budget for 2024-25 and future budget projections, budget pressures and anticipated timescales.</p> <p>She highlighted the key areas of last years position, the projections leading into this year and the MTFS leading into 2027-28, These were set out in detail at section 3 of the report.</p> <p>The Leader stated that there would be a summit of all Town & Community Councils in September of this year to discuss how the Council and Town & Community Councils can support each other.</p> <p>A Member asked how a balance could be struck to ensure a fair process regarding the Shopmobility scheme and how this was administered, as there would be people who almost exclusively use the service that don't live in Bridgend Town, but people who pay for the service that do live in Bridgend town. The Leader stated that the MTFS decision was to place a hold on the work undertaken for Shopmobility due to the drastic reduction in use from the time it was first introduced. Town Council's were offered the chance to take on this service and equipment and BCBC would look forward to work with any Town Council who wished to do this.</p>
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	<p>Further discussions were had around the working relationship with Town & Community Councils and best practice on how to further these relationships. The Chief Executive added that these discussions would be beneficial to be had at the summit in September.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> the Town and Community Council Forum notes the update on the Council's budget position.</p> <p>The Forum discussed how the Council could work with Town & Community Councils and sought to engage in further discussions at the summit in September.</p>
Date Decision Made	29 July 2024

33. Street Lighting Columns

Decision Made	<p>The Corporate Director Communities presented a report which outlined the two common types of street lighting columns is use within the county borough to the Town & Community Council Forum.</p> <p>She explained that there were two types of columns used in the Borough; Aluminum and Steel. Details of the two types and the reasons for their uses were highlighted in the background at section 2 of the report.</p> <p>Due to the higher cost of aluminum columns, BCBC were proposing to change all aluminum columns throughout the Borough to steel columns, unless legislation prohibits this. However, with aluminum being weaker than steel, any drilling or loading onto these would need to be carefully managed.</p> <p>She advised that if a Town or Community Council wish to enhance their community with additions to street lighting in their locality they will need to contact the BCBC Street Lighting Section to ensure to ensure the loading and attachment method is not going to compromise the safety of a column.</p> <p>A Member asked how much difference the cost of Aluminum was compared with steel. The Corporate Director stated that it was double the cost.</p> <p>She elaborated saying that there were around 16,000 lighting columns throughout the Borough, and BCBC's aim was to replace, where possible, all aluminum columns will be replaced with steel. The Head</p>
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	<p>Of Operations – Community Services added that with regards to developers of new housing estates, it will be placed upon those developers to place majoritively aluminum columns due to the benefit of life span and the no extra cost to taxpayers.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> Town and Community Council Forum discussed various topics relating to the streetlighting column choices throughout the Borough and noted the report and its contents.</p>
Date Decision Made	29 July 2024

34. Self Assessment 2023/24

Decision Made	<p>The Corporate Policy and Performance Manager presented a report which sought views from the Town and Community Council Forum's on the draft self-assessment for 2023/24.</p> <p>She explained that this was the third self assessment and the first to include a review of performance against the Council's new Corporate Plan 2023-28.</p> <p>The Council's proposed self-assessment judgements for 2023/24 were highlighted at section 3 of the report. The draft self assessment was attached at appendix 1. Following its consideration at the Town and Community Council Forum, the Council will discuss the draft document with partners / other local authorities at the Public Services Board (PSB)</p> <p>The Leader commented on 3.3 where many of the points were listed as good. It was pleasing to see that this was the main takeaway from previous years, but it shows that there are still areas of improvement with 2 out of the 7 points listed as adequate.</p> <p>A Member reiterated the need for improved communications with BCBC and Town and Community Councils. He believed that this may improve some of the points in future assessments.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> The Town and Community Council made comments of the judgements for 2023/24 and noted the contents of the report.</p>
Date Decision Made	29 July 2024

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35. Urgent Items

Decision Made	None
Date Decision Made	29 July 2024

To observe further debate that took place on the above items, please click this [link](#)

The meeting closed at 17:04.