

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND ON WEDNESDAY, 30 APRIL 2014 AT 3.00PM

Present:

Councillor C J James - Mayor and Chairperson

<u>Councillors</u>	<u>Councillors</u>	<u>Councillors</u>	<u>Councillors</u>
S Aspey	E M Hughes	A D Owen	M Thomas
M W Butcher	P James	D G Owen	R Thomas
N Clarke	R M James	G Phillips	J H Tildesley MBE
H J David	R D Jenkins	D R Pugh	H J Townsend
G Davies	P John	C E Rees	E Venables
G W Davies MBE	B Jones	C Reeves	K J Watts
E Dodd	C L Jones	M Reeves	C Westwood
D K Edwards	R C Jones	D Sage	D B F White
E P Foley	D R W Lewis	C E Smith	H M Williams
C A Green	J E Lewis	J C Spanswick	R Williams
M Gregory	H E Morgan	G Thomas	R E Young
D M Hughes	M E J Nott OBE		

Officers:

D Mepham	-	Chief Executive
M Shephard	-	Corporate Director - Communities
S Cooper	-	Corporate Director - Wellbeing
D McMillan	-	Corporate Director - Children
P A Jolley	-	Assistant Chief Executive - Legal and Regulatory Services
D Llewellyn	-	Group Manager Development
J Lane	-	Senior Planning Officer
M A Galvin	-	Senior Democratic Services Officer - Committees
G P Jones	-	Head of Democratic Services (Electronic Support)

330 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of an ordinary meeting of Council held on the 2 April 2014, be approved as a true and accurate record.

331 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from the following Members for the reasons so stated:

Councillor J McCarthy	-	Other Council Business
Councillor M Jones	-	Holiday
Councillor P White	-	Hospital Appointment
Councillor L C Morgan	-	Unwell
N Young	-	Corporate Director - Resources - Family Commitments

332 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor R M James declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 6(b)(ii) and left the Council Chamber whilst this report was being considered.

333 MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor thanked everyone who helped make the recent Easter Egg appeal for looked-after children a big success. Provided in partnership with Bridge FM, a total of 125 eggs were donated

by local food retailers which helped to put a smile on the faces of the children and young people who are currently being cared for by the Local Authority. The event will soon be followed by Foster Care Fortnight which runs between 12 and 25 May and a host of activities are being arranged to mark the occasion and encourage more people to consider fostering and adoption.

The Mayor was sure that colleagues would join him in wishing Ysgol Bro Ogwr year three pupil Tommy Horne every success as he waits to hear if his inspirational anti-racism T-shirt design has won a national award. Organised by the Charity 'Show Racism the Red Card', the competition encourages people to tackle racism, so Tommy's design is based around the slogan 'Different Skin - Same Within'. He will find out tomorrow if he has won, so good luck and well done to him, the Mayor added.

The Mayor announced that colleagues may also want to let their constituents know about a forthcoming event called 'The Big Lunch' organised to encourage people to get to know one another by holding or taking part in a meal for the community. Set to take place on 1 June, more than 3.65 million people took part in the event last year, including residents in Coity who also organised a street party and pub quiz as part of the fun.

He thought this was an excellent idea to help bring people together in our local communities. More information is available along with free packs featuring invitations, posters, seeds, bunting templates and an inspirational booklet by visiting www.thebiglunch.com

Finally, the Mayor reminded those present that the Mayor's Charity Gala Dinner was due to take place on Saturday 10 May. Some tickets were still available, so he asked Members to please come and show their support.

334 CABINET MEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS

(1) Deputy Leader

The Deputy Leader confirmed that work had been completed relating to installing pay and display parking at Bryngarw Park. Early indications are that the improvements have been well received and a number of regular users have bought season tickets.

In addition, the front car park at Bridgend Recreation Centre has now been fully resurfaced and re-lined and has added significantly to the customer experience.

The Deputy Leader announced that the Council has recently received confirmation of a number of Welsh Government grants in relation to Highways and Transportation.

A sum of £140,000 capital, and revenue funding of £81,000, have been received in 'Road Safety' grants to carry out works to the A4229 South Cornelly to Nottage Road, and the B4265 Ewenny Road.

In addition the revenue grant will support important cycle training for children and our Kerbcraft Road Safety scheme.

The Council had also received grant funding of £14,000 to support the Bridgend Town Centre Active Travel Network, including a direct link to the bus station and links to the existing cycle routes from Bridgend Town Centre to the residential areas of Broadlands, Cefn Glas and Laleston.

(2) Cabinet Member - Resources

The Cabinet Member - Resources confirmed that there would be no Pre-Council Presentations in May. The following Pre-Council Presentation had been scheduled for June:

11 June - Community Transport

This was to brief Members on the use of community transport by the Authority and will include a contribution from OTED our community transport provider and an overview of the volunteer driver service.

Member Development Sessions

The Cabinet Member - Resources advised that there will be a round robin event on Thursday 8 May where Members would be given overviews of four topics: data protection; ward profiles; corporate risk management and the Members' Zone. The event will start at 10.00am and each section will be approximately 30 minutes.

Training for Members has been provisionally arranged for 2 July on the webcasting of meetings, this is subject to Council approving the report on webcasting today.

Further School Performance training has also been scheduled for June and will concentrate specifically on outcomes for learners in Bridgend. The times and dates had been added to Members calendars.

(3) Cabinet Member - Children and Young People

The Cabinet Member - Children and Young People advised that the latest phase of the school modernisation programme to begin on site is a brand new school for Coety Primary at Parc Derwen. The ground breaking ceremony was due to be held in the summer.

He then extended congratulations to the Governors who included Councillor Edith Hughes and Councillor David White at Heronsbridge Special School for earning the Quality Mark Bronze Award for Governing Bodies.

It was now official that Heronsbridge has in place excellent processes and practices that are making a real difference to the leadership and management of the school. The Bronze Award is the new benchmark that many school governing bodies across Wales are aspiring to reach. The dedication and hard work of all staff at the school has also been recognised with the Silver Investors in People Award and to complete their trio of awards the school won a very prestigious Silver Award at the Royal Horticultural Show in Cardiff.

The Cabinet Member - Children and Young People confirmed that paying the school meals was getting a lot easier as several of our schools are piloting a new system that allows parents and carers to pay online for as little as one day at a time, or several weeks in one go. Porthcawl Primary, Ferch o'r Sger, Y Dderwen and Brynteg were the first schools to get on board earlier this year, whilst Cwm Garw, West Park, St Mary's, and Croesty have all now joined them whilst other schools will be going 'live' with the system soon.

It will keep a record of the meals that each child eats building up useful nutritional information. The new system also reduces the amount of administration work in schools as they won't need to handle as much cash and cheques.

Finally, the Cabinet Member - Children and Young People extended his congratulations to Councillor Hailey Townsend on the fantastic success of her team of young people who represented Wales in the European line dancing competition and were crowned European champions on the week-end.

335 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Firstly, the Chief Executive advised Members of a recent Western Bay development as the Council recently learned that the Welsh Government is providing more than £6m towards the Community Services Project.

This is something that is being provided in partnership between Bridgend, Swansea and Neath Port Talbot Councils and Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board, and seeks to ensure that people can be cared for within their own homes rather than have to stay at hospital.

The new funding will mean the creation of 130 new jobs out in the community among the Western Bay intermediate care teams.

Half of the new jobs will be for health service staff and the rest will be employed by the three local authority partners.

There will be an element of common training and staff will be based alongside each other to maximise the opportunities for joined-up working.

It has also been agreed that any savings achieved through fewer hospital admissions and residential placements will be pooled and reinvested in the overall service.

This represents a huge investment in community-based care, and the Chief Executive was sure Members would agree that it is excellent news.

Secondly, Members will already be aware that the European Parliamentary election is set to take place on Thursday, 22 May.

You may want to remind your constituents that the deadline for making sure they are registered and can cast their votes in the election is Tuesday 6 May.

The deadline for applying to vote by post is Wednesday 7 May, and the deadline for applying for a proxy vote is Wednesday 14 May.

It is especially important for first-time householders, teenagers who have turned 18 or people who may have changed address recently to check that their details are up to date.

As well as not able to vote, anyone who is not on the electoral register may also experience problems with things like obtaining credit or making a passport application.

Registration is easy - people can either visit www.aboutmyvote.co.uk to download the necessary forms or call the Council's website www.bridgend.gov.uk.

Finally, the Chief Executive reiterated a point made earlier in the meeting by the Cabinet Member – Resources regarding the importance of Member training.

Following a recent Estyn inspection of the quality of educational services for children and young people provided by BCBC, it was recommended by them that training be provided for Members in order that they may increase their understanding and ability to interrogate data.

36% of Members of the Children and Young People's O&SC had undertaken this training to date and 22% of Members overall had received this training. Further sessions would be arranged in the future and the Chief Executive urged all Members to attend these, as Estyn would be carrying out a further inspection of these services in 6 months time.

336 LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader extended his thanks to the Council's Adoption Service for the glowing report they received recently from the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales. Since their last inspection, the service has seen an 83% increase in successful placements and was praised for its child-centred approach, timeliness and quality of the assessment process and high standards of staffing, support, leadership and adopters. He added his sincere congratulations to everyone who has made this success possible.

The Leader announced that the latest food safety hygiene ratings from the food Standards Agency have revealed that Bridgend County Borough Council is continuing to be extremely vigilant. Premises with a zero or one rating have decreased from 8% to 7.2%, whilst those with a rating of three or above have increased from around 81% to more than 85%. Across Wales, the Food Standards Agency has reported improvement in hygiene standards at food premises since the scheme was introduced in October 2010 and the Food Hygiene Rating (Wales) Act came into force last November. They have also recorded a rise in the number of premises who have requested re-inspections after making improvement, so it would appear that the scheme is having a very positive effect in terms of driving up food hygiene standards.

The Leader reported that nominations were being sought for the Bridgend Business Forum Awards 2014. This annual event shines a spotlight on local individuals and businesses who have demonstrated drive, determination, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation. BBC TV presenter Sian Lloyd will announce the categories on 1 May 2014 with a breakfast launch at the Coed-y-Mwstwr Hotel and Members will be able to find out more by visiting www.bridgendbusinessforum.co.uk

Finally, he confirmed that this year marks the centenary of World War One, and as part of this a Reach heritage event will take place which will give visitors to Bryngarw House and Country Park a glimpse of life during the First World War. With part of the lawn transformed into a typical wartime trench, the event will feature battle re-enactments, soldier survival demonstrations, a pop-up cinema and a 'War Horse' puppet workshop for children. Guest speakers will discuss topics such as the role of women during the First World War, and there will be displays from local historical and heritage groups. This free event is likely to be of huge interest to local people, so Members are encouraged to help spread the word and let their constituents know about it. More information is available at www.bridgendsheritage.co.uk

337 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Monitoring Officer presented a report that sought to appoint Ms Mary Powell as Chair of the Standards Committee.

The report by way of background information confirmed that the term of appointment for the current Chair of this Committee, Mr John Irvine had now expired, resulting in a vacancy of the post of Chair.

The Monitoring Officer confirmed that Ms Powell was a longstanding and experienced Standards Committee Member serving continuously on the Committee since early in 2008, most of that time as Vice-Chair.

In view of the above information it was therefore proposed that Ms Powell be appointed Chair of this Committee until her term of office as an Independent Member comes to an end on 20 February 2016.

The Standards Committee as its next meeting would then in turn elect a Vice-Chair for this Committee.

RESOLVED: That Council:

- (1) Appointed Ms Mary Powell as Chair of the Standards Committee with immediate effect until 20 February 2016.
- (2) Delegated to the Monitoring Officer authority to make arrangements for the recruitment and selection of a Town and Community Councillor Member and an Independent Member of the Committee.

- (3) Receives a further information report advising of the appointment of the Vice-Chair.
- (4) Authorises the Monitoring Officer to thank Mr John Irvine on behalf of the Authority for the support that he has provided to the Authority, as a Member and Chairperson of the Committee.

338 WEBCASTING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report the purpose of which was, to inform Council of progress that had been made and to approve the decision of the initial plans to take forward the introduction of webcasting for specific meeting of Council and its committees.

He confirmed that Welsh Government (WG) had expressed its support for public broadcasting of Council and other committee meetings by the provision of a grant of £40,000 to assist all Local Authorities in Wales develop the delivery of webcasting and remote attendance facilities.

Council was advised of initial proposals to develop webcasting on 11 December 2013, and at that meeting Members were informed of the intention to progress the provision of an in-house web broadcasting solution, whilst considering other options.

The Monitoring Officer proceeded by advising that the provision of an effective webcasting solution is considered to be based on the requirements detailed in paragraph 4.1 of the report.

Following on from the above, the undermentioned options for the webcasting of formal meetings of Council had been considered:-

- Option 1 - Recording Meetings to DVD and uploading the video file to a video sharing website which will be hyperlinked from the BCBC website.
- Option 2 - The provision of a webcasting service from a bespoke provider.
- Option 3 - Optimising the existing Council Chamber systems to provide an internally managed and "as required" webcasting service.

The WLGA were assisting councils interested in webcasting training for Members up and until they intended making live broadcasts.

The Monitoring Officer further added that the initial webcasting plan proposed that the Annual Meeting of Council be recorded and placed on the BCBC website using the in-house recording option. However, it was now intended to trial the enhanced Council Chamber systems and use the recording as a training aid which will only be available on the Member Zone.

Following a successful broadcast in July it is proposed that other meetings be considered for broadcast in 2014-15 financial year. It was hoped that these will include Council, Cabinet, Scrutiny Committees and the Development Control Committee. The training session will assist in identifying those meetings which would provide the greatest benefit from being webcast

The Monitoring Officer stated that it was unlikely to webcast meetings held in the committee rooms due to increased costs for providing an adequate system to achieve this.

He finalised his submission by stating that other Local Authorities that already have webcasting facilities are looking at alternative options and possible income generation from the use of these systems. These included:

- using the webcasts for training activities or briefings.
- enabling local companies and organisations to hire the facilities
- linking local authorities system sites to provide real time translation facilities

RESOLVED: That Council noted the contents of this report and approved the revision of the initial plans for the introduction for the webcasting for specific meetings of Council and its committees.

339 SUSTAINABLE ENERGY SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE

The Corporate Director - Communities submitted a report, in order to confirm to Council the outcome of the consultation exercise on the draft Sustainable Energy Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) document, and to seek Council's endorsement of the proposed amendments to the draft document and adopt the amended version as SPG to the Bridgend Local Development Plan.

The Group Manager - Development stated that on the 3 April 2014 the Development Control Committee resolved to consider the representations received during public consultation, endorse the suggested reasoned responses, decisions, and changes to the draft Sustainable Energy Supplementary Planning Guidance contained in Appendix 1 to the report, and to recommend that Council adopts SPG12 - Sustainable Energy (as amended) as Supplementary Planning Guidance to the adopted Bridgend Local Development Plan.

A six week period of public consultation was held between 19th December 2013 and 6th February 2014. The consultation was advertised in the manner identified in paragraph 3.2 of the report.

The Group Manager Development advised that four individuals and external organisations submitted comments on the draft SPG within the consultation period. The SPG (as amended to take account of comments received) was included as Appendix A to the report. Copies of the full representations could be viewed Members at the Planning Department.

The main areas of change in the document arising from the public consultation responses were then outlined in paragraph 4.2 of the report.

The Group Manager Development concluded this item by stating that the SPG will represent a material consideration in the determination of future planning applications.

RESOLVED: That Council:-

- (1) Considered the representations received and endorsed the suggested reasoned responses, decisions, and changes to the draft Sustainable Energy Supplementary Planning Guidance contained in Appendix A to the report.
- (2) Adopted SPG12 - Sustainable Energy (as amended) as Supplementary Planning Guidance to the adopted Bridgend Local Development Plan.

340 DEPARTURE PLANNING APPLICATION REFERENCE - P/14/98/FUL

The Corporate Director - Communities submitted a report on the above matter.

The Group Manager Development advised that on 3 April 2014 the Development Control Committee considered planning application P/14/98/FUL as a departure from the Development Plan. The Development Control Committee resolved not to refuse permission so the application had been referred to Council, which is being requested to grant planning permission subject to conditions.

Planning application P/14/98/FUL had been submitted to the Local Planning Authority to demolish an existing detached two-storey dwelling in the countryside and construct a replacement dwelling. The proposal would also involve the inclusion of land in the residential curtilage, primarily to accommodate a single-bay domestic garage. This is because the application includes a small portion of land beyond the original domestic curtilage, (therefore resulting in this application

departing from the LDP). The site was located approximately 500m from Llangynwyd village, as indicated on the plan attached to the report.

The Group Manager Development referred to paragraph 4.5 and the consultation process followed in relation to the application. The local Member supported the proposal and no adverse representations had been received to the application as part of the consultation process.

The Site Visit Panel of the Development Control Committee had also undertaken a site inspection of the application site.

The Group Manager Development stated that a previous application (P/13/283/FUL refers) for a replacement dwelling was recently refused on the grounds highlighted in paragraph 4.8 of the report.

The Group Manager Development stated that the applicant's agent subsequently sought pre-application advice (PE/01094/2013 refers) and particular emphasis was given on reducing the size of the replacement dwelling and improving its design and appearance so that it would be compatible with the character and appearance of its rural surroundings and the historic landscape.

He proceeded to advise, that the application was initially accompanied by a Structural Report. In terms of its findings, the general conclusion was that there were no significant structural issues within the building which could not be overcome through refurbishment rather than whole-scale demolition.

The applicant's agent submitted a supporting statement which included a schedule of comparative costs (per square metre) for (1) a new-build house, (2) a 'basic' refurbishment of the existing house based on RICS data, and (3) refurbishment cost based on a specification to match the thermal efficiency of a new-build dwelling.

The costs indicated that a new-build would cost marginally less than a 'basic' refurbishment of the existing dwelling. However, it would cost approximately £200 per square metre more to undertake a refurbishment of the existing building that would match the thermal efficiency of a new dwelling. The Team Leader Building Control had reviewed the figures and considers them to be relatively accurate and appropriate to a typical modern dwelling. Given the thrust of National Policy (in particular Planning Policy Wales, Technical Advice Notes 12 and 22) with regards to the positive benefits of energy efficiency and conservation, it is considered reasonable that a refurbished dwelling should be considered against a higher thermal rating. On this basis and given the relative poor physical condition of the existing dwelling, there was a reasonable case to be made, in principle, for a replacement dwelling.

Despite the relative poor physical condition of the existing dwelling and that it has been vacant for a number of years, there was no strong evidence to suggest that the dwelling has been abandoned, especially when planning history indicates that there was an intention in 2005 to extend the property. On this basis, the proposal is considered to satisfy Policy ENV1 of the BLDP. This is consistent with the Council's position in considering the previously refused application P/13/283/FUL.

In terms of the remainder of the report the Group Manager Development stated that these related to the following areas:-

1. Scale of the site;
2. Architectural features
3. Visibility matters
4. Boundary treatments
5. Character of visual surroundings
6. Residential amenity
7. Conservation issues

8. Ecology

The Group Manager Development added that none of the above planning issues raised concerns that would warrant refusal of the application.

To conclude therefore, the Group Manager Development advised that whilst the application was technically out of accord with Policy ENV1 of the adopted Bridgend Local Development Plan, it is considered that allowing the proposal would not undermine the fundamental principles of the Local Planning Authority's countryside protection policies and does not adversely affect ecology/biodiversity, drainage, highway/pedestrian safety, visual amenities nor so significantly harms neighbours' amenities as to warrant refusal.

A Member noted the application was out of accord with the Local Development Plan. With this in mind she further noted the replacement dwelling was 35% larger than the original one and asked what would prevent the occupant extending this further in size, which may set a precedent for others to follow.

The Group Manager Development advised that if it was the intention of the owner to do this, then a further planning application would be required. He added that Condition 5 of the Recommendation of the report did allow some control regarding the extra size of the dwelling.

A Member then expressed some dissatisfaction in that the application did not satisfy Policy EMB 1, in that a replacement dwelling should be like for like to the previous dwelling in terms of size. She felt that granting the application would deviate from the Council's countryside policies.

The Group Manager Development reiterated that this was technically a departure from the LDP, but only in that it was a minor extension that extended just metres into the countryside.

The Leader advised that the Development Control Committee had previously granted this application, recommending that it be referred to Council. If Members of that Committee had been unhappy with the application, then they would have resolved to refuse the application. He asked if a vote had taken place on the application previously when it was considered by the Development Control Committee and if so, what was the outcome of this.

The Group Manager Development replied that whilst he was not totally sure, he thought that a decision had been made at the Development Control Committee previously to unanimously approve the application.

Members then agreed to have an electronic vote as to whether the application should be granted or refused, in view of the representations made above by certain Members.

Following this vote being conducted, it was

RESOLVED: That Council approved Departure Planning Application P/14/98/FUL, subject to the Conditions contained in the report of the Corporate Director - Communities.

The meeting closed at 3.50pm