

ANNUAL MEETING OF COUNCIL - 14 MAY 2014

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND ON  
WEDNESDAY, 14 MAY 2014 AT 2.00PM

Present:

Councillor C J James - Mayor and Chairperson

Councillors

S Aspey  
M W Butcher  
N Clarke  
H J David  
G Davies  
G W Davies MBE  
P A Davies  
E Dodd  
D K Edwards  
L Ellis  
E P Foley  
C A Green  
M Gregory

Councillors

D M Hughes  
E M Hughes  
P James  
R M James  
R D Jenkins  
P N John  
B Jones  
C L Jones  
R C Jones  
D R W Lewis  
J E Lewis  
J R McCarthy  
H E Morgan

Councillors

L C Morgan  
M E J Nott OBE  
A D Owen  
D G Owen  
G Phillips  
D R Pugh  
C L Reeves  
M Reeves  
D Sage  
C E Smith  
J C Spanswick  
G Thomas

Councillors

M Thomas  
R Thomas  
J H Tildesley MBE  
H J Townsend  
K J Watts  
C Westwood  
D B F White  
P J White  
H M Williams  
R Williams  
M Winter  
R E Young

Officers:

D Mepham - Chief Executive  
M Shephard - Corporate Director - Communities  
D McMillan - Corporate Director - Children  
P A Jolley - Assistant Chief Executive - Legal and Regulatory Services and Monitoring Officer  
G P Jones - Democratic Services Manager (electronic back-up)  
M A Galvin - Senior Democratic Services Officer - Committees

341 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from the following Members and Officers, for the reasons given:-

Councillor M Jones - Hospital appointment  
Councillor C E Rees - Work commitments  
Councillor E Venables - Unwell  
N Young - Family commitments  
S Cooper - Other Council Business

342 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

343 MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor stated that these were his final announcements as Mayor. He had thoroughly enjoyed his year.

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In this year he had been privileged to have attended so many wonderful events, even though it was hard to choose from any of them the one which will stay with him forever was meeting HRH the Prince of Wales at the Prince of Wales pub in Maudlam, which was a special day.

The Mayor confirmed that these were his final announcements.

He stated that these last couple of weeks had been very busy indeed as was this coming week. Tomorrow he would be attending his last 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary celebrations followed by the 'Best of the Borough Welsh Concert' at Archbishop McGrath School.

The Mayor stated that Friday starts with a visit to Mynydd Cynffig Infants School in Kenfig Hill then on to the opening of the refurbished Wyndham Arms in Bridgend, followed by a Rugby Presentation in Kenfig Hill.

On Sunday he was attending Salon Cymru 2014 Hair and Beauty Event in Cardiff. He will then be supporting and cheering one of his charities 'Stroke Association' at the start line of their 'Step Out for Stroke Event Sponsored Walk' at Newbridge Fields.

Monday would include a visit from the Kenfig Hill Male Voice Choir in the Mayor's Parlour and then onto the Library and Services Kick Out at Halo in Bridgend.

On Tuesday, the Mayor announced he was attending Pil Primary School in recognition of their recent achievement in obtaining the 'Investors in Family Award' a wonderful achievement for them all.

Finally, on Wednesday morning a visit to Litchard Primary School would be his last official engagement.

### 344 ELECTION OF MAYOR

A motion was received, which was duly seconded and carried unanimously, that Councillor G Thomas be appointed Mayor for 2014/15.

RESOLVED: That Councillor G Thomas be elected as Mayor for the year 2014/15 and that he be invested at the Civic Inauguration Ceremony on 21 May 2014.

Councillor Thomas announced that his Consort/Escort for the ensuing year would be his partner Kay Jenkins.

### 345 APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

A motion was received which was duly seconded, and carried unanimously that Councillor R E Young be appointed as Deputy Mayor for 2014/15.

RESOLVED: That Councillor R E Young be appointed Deputy Mayor for the year 2014/15, and that he be invested at the Civic Inauguration Ceremony on 21 May 2014.

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Councillor Young announced that his Consort/Escort for the ensuing year would be his wife Annette Young.

346 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY NEWLY ELECTED MAYOR

None.

347 ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE YOUTH MAYOR OF BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Mayor announced that Sophie Durston would be the Youth Mayor for 2014/15.

348 ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DEPUTY YOUTH MAYOR OF BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Mayor announced that Josie Williams would be the Deputy Youth Mayor for 2014/15.

349 ELECTION OF LEADER OF BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

A motion was received, which was duly seconded and carried unanimously that Councillor M E J Nott be elected as Leader of Bridgend County Borough Council for 2014/15.

RESOLVED: That Councillor M E J Nott be elected Leader of the Bridgend County Borough Council for the ensuing year.

350 APPOINTMENT OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CABINET

The Leader announced that the Cabinet for the year 2014/15, would comprise of himself and the following five Members:-

Councillor D Sage  
Councillor H J David  
Councillor L C Morgan  
Councillor M Gregory  
Councillor P J White

351 ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DEPUTY LEADER OF BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL AND CABINET MEMBERS TO PORTFOLIOS

The Leader announced that the Deputy Leader and the appointment of Cabinet Members to the under-mentioned portfolios, would be as follows:-

Councillor D Sage	- Deputy Leader
Councillor H J David	- Cabinet Member - Children and Young People
Councillor M Gregory	- Cabinet Member - Resources
Councillor L C Morgan	- Cabinet Member - Wellbeing
Councillor P J White	- Cabinet Member - Communities

352 REPORT OF THE LEADER

The Leader commenced by extending his congratulations to the new Mayor elect, Councillor Thomas and the Deputy Mayor for 2014/15 Councillor Young on their appointments (and that of their Consorts). He added that he would speak more on their roles at the Mayoral Inauguration next week.

The Leader thanked Members for returning him as Leader of Bridgend County Borough Council. He had often said that he believed the role to be an honour and a privilege, and assured Members that his opinion had not changed in this respect.

The past year had certainly seen some interesting developments for local government. Like many fellow Councillors, he did not remember a time when the scale and scope of the challenges that stood before the Authority had have been quite so imposing or numerous.

The pressing need to deliver savings of £36million over the next few years has brought with it a number of issues, but the Council squaring was its shoulders and tackling them through the likes of the Medium Term Financial Strategy, the Corporate Plan and the Bridgend Change Programme, all of which are united by their shared overall aim of ensuring that the council can continue to deliver high quality services for local people despite increasingly limited resources.

Bridgend County Borough Council did have a proven track record of prudent, pragmatic decision making and often being ahead of the curve.

For example, take the decision to go into partnership several years ago with Halo Leisure over the running of Council's leisure centres. At the time, this was heavily criticised in some quarters, and wrongly described as 'privatisation'.

However, now the results spoke for themselves, a multi-million pound refurbishment and hugely popular new facilities for Bridgend Recreation Centre, the relocation of Bridgend Library to an all-new purpose-built modern premises at the Rec where it attracted more than 10,000 visitors in its first month of opening, and a transformation for the old library building that is keeping it within community use as a cultural hub and base of operations for Bridgend Town Council.

Similarly, a decision to enter into a partnership with Kier for waste and recycling services was continuing to deliver major benefits, and has again provided the county borough with a 57 per cent recycling rate, one of the very best in Wales. Councils who don't meet the statutory requirement of 52 per cent will soon face financial penalties, but this has been a major success story for Bridgend County Borough for some time now.

So has added the Leader the school modernisation programme, which is continuing to deliver first class results and has seen a number of significant successes in recent months. These range from a brand new £4.3million replacement school for Penyfai Church In Wales Primary, the £1.3million new Early Years Unit at Bryncethin Primary, and of course, the valley gateway area's all-new £39million 'super school', Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen.

This in itself had been a massive achievement, especially when considering that it involved first finding and providing a new location and £20million building in Brackla for

Archbishop McGrath Comprehensive, and demolishing that school's former premises as well as the old Ynysawdre Comprehensive.

There was no sign of slowing down on this front, and the Leader was currently looking forward to the imminent start of work on the all-new primary school building destined to benefit children in Coity.

The last twelve months had been marked by a number of noteworthy events, but one which he felt particularly honoured to witness and participate with was the launch of the county borough's first ever Armed Forces Community Covenant.

As well as being designed to make it easier for veterans, service personnel and their families to receive the help, support and recognition they so richly deserve, the covenant is a mark of respect. The Council were already immensely proud of its strong relationship with serving troops and their families, veterans and cadets from the area, and this was a significant event in the history of Bridgend County Borough which further strengthened that bond.

Over the last year, the Council had also signposted its ongoing commitment towards regeneration throughout the county borough.

Whether it has been the all-new £2.5million refurbishment and creation of a new public space at Maesteg's outdoor market area, the fresh new look given to Nolton Street and other parts of Bridgend town centre as part of a £9million makeover, or almost £6million that was recently announced as part of the Vibrant and Viable Places programme, this council has been extremely active in securing fresh investment as it sought to provide the kind of environment which supports trade and attracts visitors.

This remains especially true in Porthcawl where the Authority were reworking regeneration plans following the disappointment of the food store developer backing out at the eleventh hour. Despite this setback, the new £3.2million Porthcawl Marina is proving to be hugely popular, and were about to launch a new townscape heritage initiative that will make almost £1.1million available to help restore a number of historic old buildings in the seafront area, incidentally, a move which makes the Bridgend County Borough one of just two places in the whole of the United Kingdom to have successfully established five phased THI schemes.

As an authority, BCBC were continuing to deliver improved services. Recent performance statistics from the Welsh Government highlighted that was scoring highly across indicators for education and child social care, rising from being the lowest ranking authority for our dealings with formally looked after young people to being among the top six in Wales.

The Authority had moved from 17<sup>th</sup> place to join the top five authorities in Wales for bringing vacant private properties back into use, and were among the top three councils in Wales for securing decisions on planning applications that have gone to appeal, and have also seen big improvements in the percentage of 15 year old pupils achieving a Level Two educational threshold.

The Leader acknowledged that there was still work to do in some areas, of course, but these statistics confirm that the Council has achieved some significant performance improvements within a relatively short period of time, and he was confident that successful delivery of services would continue.

Collaborative working would also continue to play an important role in all of this. A number of close working relationships with partner organisations were ongoing, especially through involvement with the Local Service Board.

This was delivering some very beneficial results, such as the ongoing partnership with the Vale of Glamorgan Council to deliver civil parking enforcement, or the community hub established with Health Partners which is providing adult social care, health and children's services in a more joined-up, co-ordinated manner.

The Council also had a growing involvement in a number of collaborative projects under the 'Western Bay' banner, including new safeguarding arrangements for adults and children, all of which was enabling us to stand and face up to future challenges in a strong, unified manner.

As Leader, he acknowledged that he was ably backed by his Cabinet colleagues, and was grateful for their unwavering support and dedication. This year, the Cabinet portfolio posts would remain unchanged as stated previously.

The Leader then in turn, gave a résumé of the strengths and qualities of each Member of the Cabinet.

The Leader wanted to add his appreciation for elected member colleagues not only within the wider Labour Party group, but all councillors representing communities throughout the area, irrespective of their political allegiance. He believed that Bridgend County Borough Council was well-served by a well-established culture of democracy, scrutiny and debate. Despite political differences amongst Members he was certain they were committed towards working together for the benefit of the residents they served.

He extended his thanks also to the outgoing Mayor, Councillor Clive James, Youth Mayor, Catherine Jones, and Deputy Youth Mayor, Kieran Sawdon, for their fine work acting as ambassadors for the county borough and in representing the views of young citizens.

The next year was not going to be easy and he had no doubt that some tough decisions would be required, never the less he was confident that with Members ongoing participation, the Authority would be more than able to meet any challenges head-on and forge a new way forward.

353 **PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF ORDINARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL AND COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report, which proposed a programme of ordinary meetings of the Council and Council Committees for the municipal year May 2014 - May 2015, for Council approval.

The report reminded Members that the approval of the programme of ordinary meetings of Council and its Committees was required in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

The Monitoring Officer confirmed that the proposed dates for meetings of Council, were shown in paragraph 4.1 of the report, whilst the suggested Programme of Meetings was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

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RESOLVED: That Council:-

- (1) Approved the proposed Programme of Council Meetings set out in Paragraph 4.1 of the report.
- (2) Approved the proposed Programme of Meetings of Council Committees set out in Appendix 1 of the report.
- (3) Noted the proposed dates of Cabinet, Cabinet Committees and Joint Committees for information purposes, also contained in Appendix 1 of the report.

### 354 APPOINTMENTS TO COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND OTHER COUNCIL BODIES

The Monitoring Officer presented a report which sought approval for the terms of reference and size of committees, to approve the allocation of groups to committees and the political balance of the Authority, the appointment to committees, the removal of senior salary from the position of Chair of the Democratic Services Committee and the appointment of Chairs and where appropriate Vice-Chairs to committees.

The Council was required by legislation and the provisions of Part 4 of the Rules of Procedure (Council Procedure Rules) of the Constitution, to undertake arrangements which will continue to facilitate and carry out the decision making processes of the Authority. The recommendations of this report, if adopted, would seek to ensure that this will be successfully achieved.

The Monitoring Officer advised that Part 3 of the Council's Constitution entitled Responsibility for Council Functions, set out the Council's Committees, Sub-Committees, Panels and other bodies currently in place.

The Monitoring Officer firstly advised Council to note that changes in existing arrangements for how the Authority discharges its licensing functions have been reviewed. These changes were outlined for the benefit of Members in paragraph 2 of the report.

The next section of the report advised of certain changes to the roles and responsibilities of Overview and Scrutiny Committees. This had been due to a number of service areas within the Authority being re-organised, and therefore the terms of reference of the Scrutiny Committees (where applicable) had been revised to reflect those changes.

The next part of the report dealt with changes to the terms of reference of the Audit Committee, in order to align its functions with guidance provided by CIPFA and in order to comply with Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.

The updated functions of committees were shown in Appendix 1 to the report, whilst the current committee structure was shown in Appendix 2 to the report.

The Monitoring Officer referred to Appendix 3 of the report that outlined the political balance of Committees, that had been modified to reflect changes mentioned above affecting the Council's licensing functions.

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The report then outlined information in respect of the allocation of Chairpersons of Overview and Scrutiny Committees to political groups that comprised the Authority, under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011. The formula used to calculate how Chairpersons should be allocated to these committees reflected that in Bridgend County Borough Council, Labour would be entitled to the allocation of 3 Chairperson posts, with Independent/Alliance and Independent/Annibynnwr having 1 each.

Paragraph 4.8 of the report then confirmed that Council notes that a co-opted Member was required to fill a vacancy on the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Committee had recommended that H Daniel fill this vacancy as a representative of NAS/NUT.

The existing Committee Memberships were shown at Appendix 4 to the report.

In relation to the remuneration of chairpersons the report then proposed that after considering a report from the Independent Remuneration Panel, the senior salary paid to the Chairperson of the Democratic Services Committee be withdrawn, and the Monitoring Officer asked Members to consider such a request.

With regard to the terms of reference recommended for the Community Renewal and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee, a Member requested that provision 1 of these i.e. the consideration of the service provision, planning and management and performance of the service area for, Culture (libraries, Arts and Adult Community Learning) be reviewed after a six monthly period. This was agreed by Members.

**RESOLVED:** That Council:-

- (1) Approved the terms and reference and size of Committees, Sub-Committees and other bodies as set out in Appendix 1 and 2 of the report, subject to revisiting a provision of the terms of reference of the Community Renewal and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee in six months' time.
- (2) Approved the allocation of seats to political groups in accordance with the political balance rules as set out in Appendix 3 of the report.
- (3) Approved the nominations to serve on each of the Committees, Panels and other bodies as shown at Appendix 4 to the report, and appoint those Councillors and other members to the relevant Committees. It was noted that the membership of Committees would be as is currently, subject to the following changes:-

Community Safety and Governance Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Councillor C James (replaces Councillor G Thomas)
Democratic Services Committee	Councillor P James (replaces Councillor J Spanswick)
Licensing Committee	Councillor C James (replaces Councillor G Thomas)

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Development Control Committee                      Councillor H Morgan  
(replaces Councillor G Thomas)

- (4) Approved the withdrawal of the senior salary payment for the Chairperson of the Democratic Services Committee.
- (5) 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 Audit Committee at its first scheduled meeting will appoint a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson:

Appeals Panel                                      Chairperson - Councillor R D Jenkins  
Vice-Chairperson - Councillor C Westwood

Licensing and Licensing Act 2003 Committee      Chairperson - Councillor R Williams  
Vice-Chairperson - Councillor D R W Lewis

Development Control Committee                      Chairperson - Councillor H M Williams  
Vice-Chairperson - Councillor M Thomas

Town and Community Council Forum                      Chairperson - Councillor M E J Nott  
Vice-Chairperson - Councillor D Sage

Democratic Services Committee                      Chairperson - Councillor J H Tildesley

- (6) Received the following nominations and appointed the undermentioned Chairpersons to the Overview and Scrutiny Committees:

Community Safety & Governance                      Councillor N E Clarke

Corporate Resources & Improvement                      Councillor M Reeves

Children and Young People's                      Councillor E P Foley

Community Renewal & Environment                      Councillor J C Spanswick

Health and Wellbeing                                      Councillor P Davies

- (7) Appointed H W Daniel as a Co-opted Member to the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- (8) Make any necessary changes to the Constitution arising from the above decisions.

**355      REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND OTHER COMMITTEES**

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report which sought Council's approval for the appointment of Members to the South Wales Police and Crime Panel and the South East Wales Strategic Planning Group, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

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**RESOLVED:** That Council approved the following nominations to the bodies listed below:-

**Organisation**

**Member Appointed**

South Wales Police and Crime Panel - Councillor M Jones

**Outside Body**

**Member Appointed**

South East Wales Strategic Planning Group - Councillor H M Williams  
(Chairperson,  
Development Control  
Committee)

The meeting closed at 3.00pm.