

**COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY, 14 MAY 2025**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD HYBRID IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND, CF31 4WB ON WEDNESDAY, 14 MAY 2025 AT 16:00**

**Present**

Councillor H Griffiths – Chairperson

|                  |                     |               |                   |
|------------------|---------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| H T Bennett      | A R Berrow          | F D Bletsoe   | S J Bletsoe       |
| JPD Blundell     | E L P Caparros      | N Clarke      | Clatworthy        |
| HJ David         | P Davies            | S Easterbrook | M J Evans         |
| N Farr           | J Gebbie            | GH Haines     | M L Hughes        |
| D M Hughes       | M R John            | M Jones       | RL Penhale-Thomas |
| J E Pratt        | R J Smith           | JC Spanswick  | I M Spiller       |
| JH Tildesley MBE | A Ulberini-Williams | G Walter      | A Wathan          |
| AJ Williams      | I Williams          | MJ Williams   |                   |

**Present Virtually**

|              |               |                     |          |
|--------------|---------------|---------------------|----------|
| S Aspey      | RJ Collins    | C Davies            | P Ford   |
| RM Granville | S J Griffiths | D T Harrison        | RM James |
| W J Kendall  | M Lewis       | J Llewellyn-Hopkins | T Thomas |
| HM Williams  | R Williams    | E D Winstanley      |          |

**Apologies for Absence**

C L C Davies, W R Goode, P W Jenkins and T Wood

**Officers:**

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Laura Griffiths | Principal Solicitor  |
| Lindsay Harvey  | Corporate Director - Education, Early Years & Young People |
| Rachel Keepins  | Democratic Services Manager                                |
| Carys Lord      | Chief Officer - Finance, Housing & Change                  |
| Claire Marchant | Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing         |

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Michael Pitman  
Alex Rawlin  
Anya Richards  
Oscar Roberts  
Mark Shephard  
Kelly Watson

Technical Support Officer – Democratic Services  
Corporate Policy & Performance Manager  
Group Manager - Communications and Public Affairs  
Business Administrative Apprentice - Democratic Services  
Chief Executive  
Chief Officer - Legal & Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy

**Declarations of Interest**

None

**137. To receive announcements from the Mayor Councillor Heather Griffiths**

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| Decision Made      | The Mayor gave an outgoing speech thanking all those who supported her throughout her term. The group Leaders provided their thanks to The Mayor commending her for the proactive part she had played in his mayoral role in 2024-2025. |
| Date Decision Made | 14 May 2025   |

**138. To elect the Mayor for the period to May 2026 in accordance with  
Section 23(1) of the Local Government Act 1972**

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| Decision Made      | <u>RESOLVED</u> : That Councillor Huw David be elected as Mayor for the ensuing year, to May 2026 |
| Date Decision Made | 14 May 2025   |

**139. To elect the Deputy Mayor for the period to May 2026 in accordance with  
Section 24(1) of the Local Government Act 1972**

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| Decision Made | There were two nominations for the Deputy Mayor of Bridgend County Borough Council namely Cllr Heidi |
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|                    | <p>Bennett and Cllr Norah Clarke</p> <p>A vote took place with the results as follows:</p> <p>Cllr Heidi Bennett – 28<br/>Cllr Norah Clarke – 17</p> <p><u>RESOLVED</u>: That Councillor Heidi Bennett be elected as Deputy Mayor for the ensuing year, to May 2026</p> |
| Date Decision Made | 14 May 2025   |

**140. To elect the Leader of Bridgend County Borough Council**

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| Decision Made      | <p>There were two nominations for Leader of Bridgend County Borough Council for the ensuing year 2025-26, namely Councillor JC Spanswick and Councillor R Penhale-Thomas. A vote therefore took place on the election of the Leader, the result of which was as follows:-</p> <p>Cllr John Spanswick – 28</p> <p>Cllr Ross Penhale Thomas – 17</p> <p><u>RESOLVED</u>: That Councillor John Spanswick be elected as Leader of Bridgend County Borough Council for the ensuing year, to May 2026</p> |
| Date Decision Made | 14 May 2025   |

**141. The Leader to inform Council of the Members to be appointed to the Cabinet including the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member portfolios**

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| Decision Made | <p>The Leader advised that his Cabinet would comprise of the following Members occupying the portfolios as stated:-</p> |
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|                    | Councillor J Gebbie – Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member Social Services, Health and Wellbeing<br>Councillor P Davies – Cabinet Member Climate Change and the Environment<br>Councillor M Jones – Cabinet member Education and Youth Services<br>Councillor N Farr – Cabinet Member Regeneration, Economic Development and Housing<br>Councillor H Williams – Cabinet Member Finance and Performance<br>Councillor M Evans and Councillor E Caparros (joint role) – Cabinet Member Resources |
| Date Decision Made | 14 May 2025  |

**142. Appointments to the Council Committees and Other Council Bodies**

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| Decision Made | <p><b>Appeals Panel</b></p> <p>There were two nominations for the Chairperson of Appeals Panel, as well as two nominations for the Vice-Chairperson</p> <p>The vote results were as follows:</p> <p><u>Chairperson</u><br/>Councillor Heidi Bennett – 26<br/>Councillor Alan Wathan – 20</p> <p><u>Vice-Chairperson</u><br/>Councillor William Kendall - 25<br/>Councillor Alan Wathan – 20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chairperson: Councillor Heidi Bennett</li><li>• Vice Chairperson: Councillor William Kendall</li></ul> |
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|  | <p><b>Democratic Services Committee</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chairperson: Councillor Tim Thomas</li></ul> <p><b>Development Control</b></p> <p>There were two nominations for the Chairperson of Development Control Committee, as well as two nominations for the Vice-Chairperson</p> <p>The vote results were as follows:</p> <p><u>Chairperson</u><br/>Councillor Richard Granville – 29<br/>Councillor Della Hughes – 17</p> <p><u>Vice-Chairperson</u><br/>Councillor Simon Griffiths - 27<br/>Councillor Della Hughes – 19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chairperson: Councillor Richard Granville</li><li>• Vice Chairperson: Councillor Simon Griffiths</li></ul> <p><b>Licensing Committee and Licensing Act</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chairperson: Councillor Maxine Lewis</li><li>• Vice Chairperson: Councillor Richard Williams</li></ul> <p><b>Town and Community Council Forum</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chairperson: The Leader</li><li>• Vice Chairperson: The Deputy Leader</li></ul> <p><b>Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b></p> |
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|                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chairperson: Councillor Alex Alberini Williams</li></ul> <b>Social Services, Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chairperson: Councillor Freya Bletsoe</li></ul> <b>Communities Environment and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chairperson: Councillor JP Blundell</li></ul> <b>Education and Youth Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chairperson: Councillor Heather Griffiths</li></ul> |
| Date Decision Made | 14 May 2025  |

**143. Proposed Programme of Meetings of the Council and Council Committees**

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| Decision Made | <p>The Monitoring Officer presented a report outlining the proposed schedule for council and committee meetings for May 2025 to April 2026. She advised that the Budget meetings in February 2026 were subject to change and this was dependent on the Welsh government's settlement announcement timeline. Further details of other meetings were available in Appendix 1 of the report.</p> <p>A proposal was made to move the Town and Community Council Forum meeting, originally scheduled for August 18<sup>th</sup> 2025 due to the holidays and availability of Members. This was agreed upon unanimously and a new date would be proposed in due course.</p> <p>An amendment to include a full Council meeting in December was proposed by Cllr Martin Williams as he had believed that there would be relevant business to discuss up until Christmas. The Monitoring Officer stated that in recent years there had not been a Council meeting held in December to do previous years</p> |
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|                    | having limited or no business to discuss, and found that January's meeting of Council were satisfactory to discuss business. She stated that any urgent business that needed to be held could still be held in December, however it was up to Members whether they wished to hold a meeting by standard. A vote was carried out following this proposal and was ultimately rejected. |
| Date Decision Made | 14 May 2025  |

**144. Representation on Outside Bodies & Other Committees**

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| Decision Made | <p>The Monitoring Officer presented a report which sought Council's approval for the appointment of Members to the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee – Joint O&amp;SC, South Wales Police and Crime Panel, South East Wales Strategic Planning Group and South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee Governance and Audit Sub-Committee, as set out in the report at Appendix 1, for the ensuing year, to May 2026. The appointments were as follows:</p> <p><b>Councillor Simon Griffiths</b> was nominated as Chair of the Southeast Wales Corporate Joint Committee overview and scrutiny committee</p> <p><b>Councillor Jon Paul Blundell</b> was nominated as Vice-Chair of the Southeast Wales Corporate Joint Committee overview and scrutiny committee</p> <p><b>Councillor Simon Griffiths</b> was nominated as the representative South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee Governance and Audit Sub Committee</p> <p><b>Councillor Simon Griffiths</b> was nominated as the representative South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee Standards Sub-Committee</p> <p><b>Councillor Joanna Hopkins</b> was nominated as the representative for the South Wales Police and Crime Panel</p> <p><b>Councillor Richard Granville</b> was nominated as the representative for the Southeast Wales strategic planning group</p> |
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| Date Decision Made | 14 May 2025 |

**145. To invest the Mayor of Bridgend County Borough Council for 2025/2026**

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| Decision Made      | <p>Following Council having approved the nomination of Councillor Huw David as Mayor of Bridgend County Borough for the year 2025/2026, Councillor David was invited by the outgoing Mayor, to formally accept the Office of Mayor.</p> <p>Councillor Huw David verbally accepted the office of Mayor and recited the following oath:– “I Huw David do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty the King, Charles the Third.”</p> <p>Councillor Heather Griffiths extended her congratulations to the incoming Mayor. Councillor Griffiths also announced that the current Youth Mayor, Ellie O’Connell and Deputy Youth Mayor, Daisy Davies would remain in their respective posts for a further year.</p> |
| Date Decision Made | 14 May 2025  |

**146. To invest the Mayor's Consort**

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| Decision Made      | Councillor Huw David announced that he would not have a consort. |
| Date Decision Made | 14 May 2025  |

**147. To invest the Deputy Mayor of Bridgend County Borough Council for 2025/2026**

|                    |   |
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| Decision Made      | Councillor Heidi Bennett formally accepted the position and thanked everyone for their support. She echoed the warm words of Councillor Huw David in recognizing the outgoing Mayor's contribution. |
| Date Decision Made | 14 May 2025   |



**148. To invest the Deputy Mayor's Consort**

|                    |  |
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| Decision Made      | Councillor Heidi Bennett announced that her husband, David Bennett would be her consort. |
| Date Decision Made | 14 May 2025  |

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

The meeting closed at 17:40