

ANNUAL MEETING OF COUNCIL - 13 MAY 2015

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND ON
WEDNESDAY, 13 MAY 2015 AT 2.00PM

Present:

Councillor G Thomas - Mayor and Chairperson

Councillors

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

Councillors

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

Councillors

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
M Thomas
J H Tildesley MBE

Councillors

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
S Cooper - Corporate Director –Social Services and Wellbeing
D McMillan - Corporate Director – Education and Transformation
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

478 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

Councillor D M Hughes - Family Commitments
Councillor R L Thomas - Work commitments
Councillor G Davies - Holiday
Councillor D K Edwards - Family commitments
Councillor R C Jones - Holiday
N Young - Recuperating

479 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

480 MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor announced that Members may be wondering why Council Officers are present with a video camera in the Chamber today.

They were filming some brief, silent shots of the Council meeting as part of a short five minute film looking at a day in the life of a modern Councillor.

The silent footage was required as part of a Welsh Government project which Councillor Townsend was involved with, and the completed short film will ultimately be broadcast via the Welsh Government website.

The filming would be carried out as quickly and discretely as possible, and he thanked Members for their co-operation and patience.

The Mayor then gave his final announcements, confirming that he could not believe how quickly the year had gone.

Firstly, he welcomed Councillor Neelo Farr, the new Member representing Newcastle Ward, to her first Council Meeting.

As Mayor he stated that he had been privileged to attend many wonderful events, over 450 during the year, and he was so grateful to have had this opportunity to represent the County Borough.

The last couple of weeks had been busy as always. He was privileged to attend two separate services celebrating VE in day Cardiff, one at the Cathedral and one at the Castle, and there was a wonderful celebratory and thankful atmosphere in both venues.

Members of the Swansea PALs re-enactment company, who had been part of the Bryngarw WW1 event last year, came to the Mayors Parlour to talk over what they had been doing and what their 2018 plans were. The Mayor confirmed that he was pleased to meet them again. So these last few weeks had continued the military theme which started last year.

The Charity Committee organised the biggest two events of the Mayoral calendar with a successful Golf Day where the Mayor played a round of golf. He added that the Mayor's Gala last weekend was amazing, and he was glad so many Members were able to attend and help support his charities.

Finally, he confirmed that the Mayoral Inauguration takes place next week, and he stated that he would be grateful if Members would let the office know if they were attending or not, as on the practical side exact numbers attending needed to be established as soon as possible for booking catering facilities.

481 CHIEF EXECUTIVE ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chief Executive stated that as Members were probably no doubt aware, Mr Colin Turner, the Head of Safeguarding and Family Support had formally handed in his notice in order to pursue other interests outside of the Council.

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Mr Turner had been employed with Bridgend CBC for 6 years and his time with the Council had been very positive.

He would be leaving at the end of July and so there would be further opportunity to say goodbye to him properly in due course.

The Chief Executive added that Members will be aware of the importance of this Head of Service role and a permanent appointment will be made as soon as possible.

However, due to the short timescale between now and when Mr Turner was leaving, and due to the complex and statutory nature of this service area, there would be an interim appointment made to ensure that there is continuity of professional leadership and support in this crucial service area.

The Chief Executive confirmed that he would keep Members informed as matters develop.

482 ELECTION OF MAYOR

A motion was received, which was duly seconded and carried unanimously, that Councillor R E Young be appointed Mayor for 2015/16.

RESOLVED: That Councillor R E Young be elected as Mayor for the year 2015/16 and that he be invested at the Civic Inauguration Ceremony on 20 May 2015.

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

483 APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

A motion was received which was duly seconded, and carried unanimously that Councillor R D Jenkins be appointed as Deputy Mayor for 2015/16.

RESOLVED: That Councillor R D Jenkins be appointed Deputy Mayor for the year 2015/16, and that he be invested at the Civic Inauguration Ceremony on 20 May 2015.

Councillor Jenkins announced that his Consort/Escort for the ensuing year would be his wife Theresa Jenkins.

484 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY NEWLY ELECTED MAYOR

None.

485 ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE YOUTH MAYOR OF BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Mayor announced that Daniel Butlin would be the Youth Mayor for 2015/16.

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

The Mayor announced that Cari Burns would be the Deputy Youth Mayor for 2015/16.

487 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 2015/16.

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

488 TO AGREE THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS TO BE APPOINTED TO THE CABINET

The Leader announced that the Cabinet for the year 2015/16, would comprise of himself and the following six Members:-

Councillor H J David
Councillor H Townsend
Councillor H M Williams
Councillor M Gregory
Councillor P J White
Councillor C E Smith

The Leader of the Independent Alliance Group, whilst appreciating that within the past year Councillor Smith had been appointed as a Cabinet Member to support the Cabinet due to the ill health of other Cabinet Members, she confirmed that she could not support a permanent increase of Members on the Cabinet, particularly since this original problem had now been resolved by a change in the membership of Cabinet. The reason for this, was that under the Council's MTFS, employers were still facing the threat of redundancy due to cutbacks affecting local government and the extra money committed to a further Cabinet Member could go to easing these redundancy pressures. She therefore moved an amendment that was duly seconded and proposed that the Cabinet be made up of 6 Members as was originally the case.

The Leader responded by stating that the number of Members on the Cabinet had been increased due to the overall workload of the Cabinet as a whole, both at the time Councillor Smith was appointed, and at the present time. He added that he felt this trend would continue in the future. He further added that the number of Members on the Cabinet in BCBC was still less than that in neighbouring authorities where there were as many as 9 or 10 Members forming the Cabinet.

Members then agreed to have an electronic vote on whether or not a recorded vote should be taken in order to establish whether or not there should be 6 or 7 Cabinet Members, to comprise the Executive.

Following the electronic vote, it was unanimously agreed to have a recorded vote on this matter.

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The outcome of the recorded vote was as follows:-

<u>For (a Cabinet comprising 7 of Members)</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Did Not Vote</u>
Cllr M Thomas	Cllr M Winter	Cllr L Ellis
Cllr R E Young	Cllr D G Owen	Cllr G Thomas
Cllr H M Williams	Cllr S Aspey	
Cllr A D Owen	Cllr B Jones	<u>2</u>
Cllr R Williams	Cllr E Venables	
Cllr J R McCarthy	Cllr N Clarke	
Cllr D B F White	Cllr C A Green	
Cllr N Farr	Cllr K J Watts	
Cllr R M James		
Cllr D R Pugh	<u>8</u>	
Cllr D R W Lewis		
Cllr J E Lewis		
Cllr P James		
Cllr E M Hughes		
Cllr G Phillips		
Cllr G W Davies MBE		
Cllr P John		
Cllr H E Morgan		
Cllr P A Davies		
Cllr E P Foley		
Cllr E Dodd		
Cllr D Sage		
Cllr M W Butcher		
Cllr M Jones		
Cllr C Westwood		
Cllr M Reeves		
Cllr C L Reeves		
Cllr J C Spanswick		
Cllr C L Jones		
Cllr H J Townsend		
Cllr J H Tildesley MBE		
Cllr P J White		
Cllr H J David		
Cllr M E J Nott OBE		
Cllr M Gregory		
Cllr C E Smith		
Cllr L C Morgan		
Cllr C J James		
Cllr R D Jenkins		
Totals	<u>39</u>	

489 **APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE CABINET BY THE LEADER**

The Leader stated that he would announce the Deputy Leader of BCBC from those Members appointed to the Cabinet, and confirm which Members of the Cabinet would cover the various portfolios, some of which had been re-aligned, in his report below.

490 REPORT OF THE LEADER

The Leader confirmed that he was honoured and privileged to once more be returned as Leader of Bridgend County Borough Council, and offered colleagues his thanks and continuing respect.

He said at the last annual meeting of Council that he could not recall another time when local government has had to face challenges of such scale or scope.

One year on, this was more relevant than ever, and the situation looks set to grow increasingly difficult over the next few years as we continue to strive to deliver essential services against a backdrop of ever diminishing resources.

But if past performance had taught him anything, it was that Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) is an authority that is up to the challenge.

The options before us haven't changed and are as simple as they have ever been, we can either stay still and sink without trace, or develop new ways to meet the needs of our local communities, and where possible draw on the strengths and abilities that they already possess.

That is why BCBC had in place its Medium Term Financial Strategy, Corporate Plan and Bridgend Change Programme, to ensure that we can adapt and meet local needs while also achieving savings of £49million over the next few years, in the process transforming the authority into an organisation that keeps finding new and innovative ways of working with other partners and our communities, both directly and alongside them.

BCBC's transformation agenda was powering ahead and staff had relocated to the civic offices and Ravenscourt, enabling us to make savings and sell the Sunnyside site as a prime town centre development opportunity.

The Council had already achieved huge savings through internal efficiencies, collaborative projects, contract renegotiations and the transfer of specific services to partner organisations.

The Regulatory Services partnership with Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan is well underway, as are plans for us to take on CCTV coverage in the Vale area.

The Leader was particularly excited to see that efforts to provide arts and culture services through a new Cultural Trust had drawn a strong response from people who have applied to become trustees.

This was an ambitious new project that epitomises BCBC's efforts to find new ways of delivering services, and it is going to give people who have a passion for arts and culture an opportunity to have a far greater say in how the service is provided in future.

The Leader also had high hopes for the Cultural Trust, and wanted it to be able to deliver the same kind of success and benefits that we are seeing with our innovative partnership with Halo Leisure.

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He had to admit that he still smiled whenever he visited Bridgend Life Centre to see its many excellent and popular facilities and high level of investment, and he wanted BCBC to be able to deliver to a consistent high standard across all other partnership projects, those that have already been set up, and those that are still in the making.

The Authority had reached high standards elsewhere, too. BCBC's adult social care services have been praised for making an overall performance improvement of 86 per cent, and Estyn recently announced that they were no longer monitoring Children's Services following the delivery of several significant improvements across areas relating to educational performance.

Welsh Government performance indicators have revealed that BCBC had taken the number one spot among Welsh local authorities for reducing the rate of pupils in care who leave school, higher education or training without any qualifications, and it was among the top five councils for making improvements in road conditions.

BCBC had also moved into the top six for the cleanliness of its local highways, and have successfully increased the number of local people who are visiting libraries or undertaking physical exercise at our sports and leisure centres.

He stated that in fact, Bridgend County Borough Council performed above the Wales average across half of all 44 indicators, and were found to be better than average for the south east Wales region in 55 per cent of the indicators.

The ongoing school modernisation programme continued to move from strength to strength with news that we will shortly be opening an all-new primary school in Coity.

This was an achievement that means a lot to him personally as the pupils at Coity are still being taught in the same building that he attended when he was a child.

The County Borough's recycling record continues to stand out with a 57 per cent rate that was five per cent higher than the national average, and we have achieved a number of national accolades including a 'Project of the Year' sustainability award from CLAW for the delivery of Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen, as well as a prestigious APSE award for the Council's building cleaning service.

BCBC remained ambitious for its town centres, and were continuing to deliver improvements designed to secure a long-term future, having overcome numerous obstacles and setbacks at a time when many schemes in the UK are grinding to a complete halt.

For example, in Bridgend we are following up the first-class refurbishment of Nolton Street with a Vibrant and Viable Places initiative. This aims to create a community living within the town centre itself by establishing affordable housing as well as a brand new replacement town car park.

In Porthcawl, buildings such as the Pilot Lookout Tower, Customs House and former Knight's Arms Public House are being restored thanks to a new Townscape Heritage Initiative, while the Grade II listed Jennings Building is being brought back into use as a seafront restaurant, café and units for creative industries.

As those present were aware, in setting the budget for 2015-16 the Authority carried out a full public consultation exercise that incorporated innovative elements such as

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an online budget simulator tool and a live Twitter question-and-answer session that gave people a chance to speak directly with the Chief Executive.

All Members and Officers of the Council had to forge ahead, though the Authority could not chart a way through the stormy weather that lies ahead without active public participation.

With this in mind, plans are already underway for fresh consultation over BCBC's medium term priorities and budget proposals for 2016-17.

The Leader was grateful to those Members who have already participated in the development of some core values that will be used to inform our choice of priorities.

When these new priorities and budget proposals are launched in a few months' time, he hoped that all Members will encourage their constituents to take part, have their say and help influence this important decision-making process.

In his role as Leader, he stated that he was ably backed by his Cabinet colleagues, and was grateful for their unwavering support and dedication, even as he announced that this year will see some changes to the Cabinet structure.

Councillors Lyn Morgan and David Sage will no longer serve as Cabinet portfolio holders, and the Leader wanted to publically thank them both for their valuable contributions and selfless public service.

Both he and his fellow Cabinet Members are extremely grateful to them for the support and advice they had provided.

They had both contributed hugely towards the Council, and the Leader was sure that Members would join him in recognising and applauding this.

As regards the new Cabinet structure, the Leader stated that he had asked Councillor Huw David to act as his Deputy Leader.

He believed that it is essential to ensure that there is continuity in the area of schools, school modernisation, home to school transport, youth services and access, inclusion and special education, so Councillor David would also be continuing with this responsibility.

Councillor Mike Gregory would continue to be responsible for resources, finance and performance, human resources and organisational development, customer services, ICT, property and audit.

Councillor Phil White would take on adult social services and health and well-being responsibilities such as older people, learning and physical disabilities, mental health, substance misuse and sensory impairments, whilst Councillor Charles Smith will look after regeneration, economic development and legal and regulatory services in addition to the transformation agenda.

Finally, two new faces will be joining the Cabinet the Leader announced.

Councillor Hailey Townsend will be responsible for children's social services and equalities issues such as looked-after children, child safeguarding and protection,

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fostering and adoption, youth offending, family support and early intervention and prevention.

Councillor Hywel Williams will take on the communities portfolio looking after housing, bereavement services, highways, waste and recycling, planning, and parks and playing fields.

The Leader was confident that this team would continue the good work that has already taken place, and that his two new Cabinet colleagues will be more than capable of rising to the challenges of their roles.

The culture at the heart of Bridgend County Borough Council is one of democracy, scrutiny and debate.

As Members, the Leader believed that though they may represent different political beliefs, he was sure they were all united in their desire to work for the benefit of the people and communities that they served, both individually and collectively.

The Leader wanted Bridgend County Borough Council to build on its successes, gather and hone its resources and skills, and continue to become fit for the purpose of meeting and overcoming the many challenges that the authority will have to face in coming years.

With Members ongoing participation, he believed BCBC could achieve this, and ensure that the Council is prepared, equipped and ready for what lies ahead.

490 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 2015 - May 2016, 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.

A Member asked if it would be possible to change the dates of some Committee meetings scheduled in the Programme of meetings to take place in weeks where there were school term holidays, in order to assist Members of those Committees who may have childcare commitments.

The Monitoring Officer advised that other than in August, where there were only a small number of meetings scheduled to be held due to this being the main summer holiday period, meetings were spread evenly throughout the year, in order to follow a scheduled cycle specifically designed for that particular Committee and the extent of its business, and also to spread meetings out evenly over the course of the municipal year.

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The Leader confirmed that it may be possible to re-visit the Programme of meetings in due course for the reason requested, however, as Members were aware, the Council as a local authority, served the public 52 weeks of the year, and this issue was taken on board when it scheduled its formal Committee meetings

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.
- (4) Further noted the following minor amendments to the Programme:-

Democratic Services Committee – To be held on 28th May instead of 21st May 2015.

Corporate Resources and Improvement O&SC – To be held on 24th June instead of 23rd June 2015

491 APPOINTMENTS TO COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND OTHER COUNCIL BODIES

The Monitoring Officer presented a report which sought approval for the appointment of Overview and Scrutiny Committees and such other Committees, Sub-Committees, Panels and bodies as the Council considers appropriate, to deal with matters which are neither reserved to full Council nor are executive functions

The Council is 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 next section of the report advised of certain changes to the titles, membership, roles and responsibilities of Overview and Scrutiny Committees previously agreed by Council, and a minor change to the Audit Committees terms of reference which required approval of Council.

The updated functions of Committees were shown in Appendix 1 to the report, whilst the revised 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. An updated Supplementary version of this was tabled at the

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meeting, as the political balance of the Council could not have been fully calculated until the outcome of the by-election in respect of the Newcastle ward on 8 May 2015

Appendix 4 of the report clarified the existing membership of Committees and would form the basis of any changes to the membership of Committees put forward by political group Leaders. These changes were also tabled for Members information.

RESOLVED: That Council:-

- (1) Appointed the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and such other Committees as the Council considered appropriate to deal with matters which are neither reserved to the Council nor are executive functions
- (2) 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 the minor change of remit to the Audit Committee explained above and outlined in paragraph 4.3 of the report.
- (3) Noted the full details in respect of Appendix 3 to the report, as updated and tabled to Members at the meeting.
- (4) Approved the allocation of seats to political groups in accordance with the political balance rules as set out in Appendix 3 of the report.
- (5) Approved the nominations to serve on each of the Committees, Panels and other bodies as shown at Appendix 4 to the report, subject to the changes put forward by political group Leaders, and to appoint those Councillors (and other Members) to the relevant Committees.
- (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 Audit Committee at its first scheduled meeting will appoint a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson:

Appeals Panel	Chairperson - Councillor J R McCarthy Vice-Chairperson - Councillor J E Lewis
Licensing and Licensing Act 2003 Committee	Chairperson - Councillor R Williams Vice-Chairperson - Councillor D R W Lewis
Development Control Committee	Chairperson - Councillor M Thomas Vice-Chairperson - Councillor D R W Lewis
Town and Community Council Forum	Chairperson - Councillor M E J Nott Vice-Chairperson - Councillor C E Smith
Democratic Services Committee	Chairperson - Councillor J H Tildesley

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

Partnerships & Governance	Councillor N E Clarke
Corporate Resources & Improvement	Councillor M Reeves
Children and Young People's	Councillor E P Foley
Community Environment & Leisure	Councillor J C Spanswick
Adult Social Care	Councillor D Sage

- (7) Make any necessary changes to the Constitution arising from any of the above decisions.

492 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.

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

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Member Appointed</u>
South Wales Police and Crime Panel	- Councillor M Jones
<u>Outside Body</u>	<u>Member Appointed</u>
South East Wales Strategic Planning Group	- Councillor M Thomas (Chairperson, Development Control Committee)

The meeting closed at 3.00pm.