

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES ANGEL STREET BRIDGEND CF31 4WB ON WEDNESDAY, 8 JUNE 2016 AT 3.00 PM

Present

Councillor RD Jenkins – Chairperson

S Aspey	M Butcher	N Clarke	HJ David
GW Davies MBE	E Dodd	DK Edwards	EP Foley
M Gregory	EM Hughes	CJ James	P James
PN John	B Jones	M Jones	RC Jones
DRW Lewis	JE Lewis	JR McCarthy	LC Morgan
MEJ Nott OBE	D Patel	G Phillips	DR Pugh
CL Reeves	M Reeves	CE Smith	JC Spanswick
G Thomas	M Thomas	RL Thomas	HJ Townsend
E Venables	C Westwood	PJ White	HM Williams
M Winter	RE Young		

Officers:

Susan Cooper	Corporate Director - Social Services & Wellbeing
Randal Hemingway	Head of Finance & Section 151 Officer
Andrew Jolley	Corporate Director Operational & Partnership Services
Gary Jones	Head of Democratic Services
Deborah McMillan	Corporate Director Education & Family Support
Andrew Rees	Senior Democratic Services Officer - Committees
Mark Shephard	Corporate Director - Communities

629. ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE LEADER

The Leader announced that he was was saddened to learn of the recent passing of former Councillor Megan Inglesant. He stated that former Councillor Inglesant was born in Kenfig and represented the Pyle ward for many years. She also had a distinguished musical career, having worked at both Bryntirion and Cynffig comprehensive schools and also serving as the official organist for Margam Abbey amongst other things. Former Councillor Inglesant was recognised for her service in 2010 with an honorary fellowship of the Guild of Church Musicians. The Funeral Requiem is at Margam Abbey on Thursday 9 June at 12 noon and will be followed by cremation at Margam Crematorium at 1.30pm.

All present stood in holding a minute's silence in her memory.

630. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from the following Members:

Councillor G Davies
Councillor PA Davies
Councillor N Farr
Councillor CA Green
Councillor RM James
Councillor CL Jones
Councillor AD Owen
Councillor DA Owen

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Councillor D Sage
Councillor JH Tildesley MBE
Councillor KJ Watts.

631. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Declarations of interest were made:

Councillor HM Williams declared a personal interest in agenda item 6 – Local Housing Strategy 2016-2018 as a Board Member of Valleys 2 Coast.

Councillor HJ Townsend declared a personal interest in agenda item 6 – Local Housing Strategy 2016-2018 as a Board Member of Valleys 2 Coast.

Councillor D Patel declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 6 – Local Housing Strategy 2016-2018 as a Board Member of Valleys 2 Coast and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this item.

The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing, Corporate Director Communities, Corporate Director Education and Family Support and Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer declared an interest in agenda item 7 – Pay Policy Statement – Update 2016-17 and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this item.

632. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Annual Meeting of Council of 18 May 2016 be approved as a true and accurate record.

633. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM:

Mayor

The Mayor welcomed all Members and officers to the first meeting of Council since his inauguration. He informed Council that he has had a very busy first few weeks since taking office and he thanked Ruth Ronan and Merete Bang and the Democratic Services Team for their support. He hoped to be able to announce the names of the charities that he will be supporting shortly. He had been putting forward a number of suggestions for new types of events which will help raise funds for these good causes and he asked Members to look out for more information very soon.

He announced that one of his goals as Mayor is to visit every Ward and to that end he would be grateful if Members could let the Mayoral office know of any local events that are taking place within their areas or even make arrangements for a tour of the Ward.

The Mayor also announced that he had yesterday attended the 5th official opening of the Senedd which was a very moving occasion and one that he was proud to have represented the Council at the ceremony.

The Mayor announced that this morning he and his Consort had attended the Active Wales Annual Conference in Porthcawl and welcomed members of the Wales OAP Association to the Grand Pavilion. He informed Members that it was wonderful to see so many of older citizens enjoying lively debate and looking to the future.

The Mayor also announced that the Council had marked this year's Foster Care Fortnight with a drive to encourage applications from people in the county borough. Called 'Get Connected', the event was the most successful one yet and drew a great

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deal of publicity, including almost 64,000 people who saw it on Facebook alone, which resulted in enquiries from 35 potential new foster carers. He congratulated all who had been involved for helping make it a success.

The Mayor reminded Members that the Armed Forces flag would be raised at 10.30am on Monday 20 June outside the Civic Offices. The event will mark the beginning of Armed Forces Week and the flag will be flown throughout the week. All Members are very welcome to come and observe the flag raising thereby showing support to Armed Forces colleagues both past and present.

Deputy Leader

The Deputy Leader informed Members that four local girls who have received training as part of the Girls' Network set up by the Active Young People department have travelled to London to pitch the project to IT services firm CGI. CGI are a well-known sponsor of the Commonwealth Games and the Girls network is seeking funding that will enable it to develop its services, which aim to encourage more young girls to take up sports and physical activity and boost their confidence, skills and self-esteem. He congratulated Rebecca Green from Porthcawl Comprehensive and Maesteg Comprehensive pupils Gerianne Svenson, Angharad Stokes and Megan Curling for acting as ambassadors for this very important scheme.

The Deputy Leader announced that pupils from Litchard Primary joined more than half a million children across the UK for this year's Big Pedal event, and had clocked up the most school journeys made by bike or scooter of any school in Wales. The pupils' fantastic efforts recorded a total of 2,970 journeys to and from school, which represents 82% of their daily journeys over a two week period and more than double those of the next highest school in the area, Porthcawl Primary. In total, 23 local schools took part and generated more than 17,200 'active' journeys. He stated that the Big Pedal is organised by cycling charity Sustrans, and is designed to encourage people to lead active, healthier lifestyles and leave the car at home for short local journeys. He congratulated everyone involved for their fantastic efforts.

He had the pleasure of attending Afon y Felin Primary this morning to see the pupils provide a warm welcome for gold medallist paralympic athlete Simon Richardson who was there for the opening of the school's new 'cycle shed', which he was that the pupils would put the new facility to good use.

The Deputy Leader was pleased to advise members that BAM Construction Ltd have been appointed as the contractor for the initial design stage of the all-new Brynmenyn Primary school. The new school will be constructed at the site of the former Archbishop McGrath comprehensive site adjacent to Y Dderwen and construction is anticipated to begin early next year once all necessary permissions are in place. The new school is scheduled to open its doors to pupils in January 2018.

The Deputy Leader announced that Year Five and Six pupils from Ffaldau Primary have produced a short film about the history of Pontcymmer that celebrates the history and positive aspects about life in the community. The opening and closing credits quote the well-known and locally written Welsh hymn, 'Calon Lan', which the children believe mirrors their views about the place where they live. He stated that the short film is definitely worth viewing and he hoped that Members will give it their full support.

Cabinet Member Communities

The Cabinet Member Communities informed Members that South Wales Police have advised they will be providing an escort for a series of 'abnormal load' convoys travelling

through the area between 13 – 25 June. She stated wind turbine towers, blades and other equipment are being delivered to Mynydd Brombil in Neath Port Talbot and the convoys are likely to cause temporary delays for drivers as they journey from junction 36 of the M4 along the A4063 to Aberkenfig and up the Llynfi Valley. Up to two deliveries are anticipated each day between Monday and Friday and a single delivery on Saturdays. However, the developers and hauliers are making efforts to keep any inconvenience to a minimum, and are working with South Wales Police to schedule the deliveries so that they take place at off-peak times.

The Cabinet Member Communities informed Members that high quality construction work in the County Borough has been recognised at the South Wales Regional Local Authority Building Control Awards. The awards recognise the workmanship and technical innovation that goes into constructing buildings of an outstanding standard. The new Celtic Court rehabilitation centre at Tremains Road in Bridgend won the accolade for 'best public service building' and it will now go forward to be considered for national honours at the Welsh leg of the awards later this year. The construction of two new homes at The Retreat in Porthcawl has also been highly commended and shortlisted in the 'best small new housing' category. She congratulated everyone involved with Celtic Court which is an outstanding new building that meets customer needs, and will be a strong contender at the national awards in October.

Cabinet Member Adult Social Care and Health and Wellbeing

The Cabinet Member Adult Social Care and Health and Wellbeing informed Members that Carers are getting an extra helping hand at Princess of Wales Hospital thanks to an integrated partnership between the Council, ABMU and a local charity. The Council has teamed up with the Bridgend Carers Centre for a scheme which is designed to identify the carers of patients that have been admitted to the wards. A full-time carer support worker now based within the hospital, which enables people to make sure that they are getting advice, help, support and information. The support worker's role involves going around the various wards and departments and liaising with staff to identify carers. Assessments are carried out that ensures carers are directed to relevant services and support networks such as Care and Repair, Age Concern, the hospital discharge service and community organisations. The support worker can also direct people towards services offering legal and benefits advice, information on breaks for carers, counselling and more. This valuable service is available between Monday and Friday, and includes a late session on Thursdays for carers who can only visit during the evening. He requested if any Members are aware of constituents who are carers or who may be going into hospital, they may advise them that this service is available.

The Cabinet Member Adult Social Care and Health and Wellbeing announced that Bridgend Community Transport is currently seeking volunteer drivers who can spare a few hours a week to give something back to their community. More information is available by calling 01656 669665, or visiting www.bridgendcommunitytransport.co.uk.

Cabinet Member Children and Young People and Equalities

The Cabinet Member Children and Young People and Equalities announced that for the second year running, Bridgend County Borough Council has received an excellence award from Action on Hearing Loss Cymru in recognition of the services it provides for people who are deaf or have hearing loss. After winning an excellence award in addition to last year's Gold award, the Council continues to be one of the most accessible organisations in Wales and has been praised for leading the way. She stated that the Council was the first in Wales to be accredited with the 'Louder than Words' charter and were also the first to be recognised by the British Deaf Association for working towards

achieving the British Sign Language Charter. She informed Members that the Council also provides regular deaf awareness training for staff promotes excellent engagement with local British Sign Language (BSL) users and has a proactive approach to ensuring assistive technology such as hearing loops are in working order. The Cabinet Member Children and Young People and Equalities congratulated everyone who has played a part in achieving this recognition for Bridgend County Borough Council.

The Cabinet Member Children and Young People and Equalities also informed Members that this week is also National Carers Week, and the Council is demonstrating its support with a series of roadshows designed to inform local people about what services are available locally to help and advise them. The roadshows have already included venues such as the Customer Services centre at the Civic Offices and the Princess of Wales Hospital, and will culminate at the Rhiw Shopping Centre on Thursday 9 June between 10am and 4pm. She stated that Members can find out more by visiting www.carersweek.org.

The Cabinet Member Children and Young People and Equalities announced that the Flying Start Team will be holding an open day at Garth Primary School on 10 June.

The Cabinet Member Children and Young People and Equalities also announced that a report had been considered by Cabinet on the work undertaken by the Council to safeguard children and young people and urged Members to read the report.

Cabinet Member Resources

The Cabinet Member Resources announced the following pre-Council briefings which have been scheduled:

Central South Consortium
Anti-Slavery and Human Trafficking
Budget / MTFS Update

He stated that briefings were also planned on the City Deal; Developing Dementia Friendly Communities and a presentation from the Ty Elis Counselling Service. In addition, Member Development Session will include:

Safeguarding / Child Sexual Exploitation
Prevention of radicalisation of young people
The Wellbeing and Future Generations Act

Cabinet Member Regeneration and Economic Development

The Cabinet Member Regeneration and Economic Development announced that Maesteg Town Council and the Maesteg Town Centre Partnership are funding a programme of work that will give the town centre a general makeover in time for the summer. Pavements on Commercial Street and Talbot Street are being deep cleaned, bins replaced, and 15 ageing benches around the town centre replaced with new seating. At the town hall, colourful new window panels are being installed while the market gates will be painted and signage introduced. The market stonework will also be cleansed.

The Cabinet Member Regeneration and Economic Development was delighted to attend the relaunch of the Old Pilot Lookout Tower on Porthcawl seafront recently following a refurbishment of the 150 year old building. The work has been carried out as part of the Townscape Heritage Initiative, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Cadw and the Council.

With new windows, doors, roofing and external staircase, the tower is enjoying a second lease of life and is being manned by volunteers from the National Coastwatch Institution. They will use the tower to help spot danger so that amateur sailors and fishermen can stay safe in Porthcawl.

The Cabinet Member Regeneration and Economic Development announced that the newly formed Shared Regulatory Services has been highly commended for its engagement with businesses at the Primary Authority Awards 2016. The awards are an opportunity to showcase the most innovative and successful business – regulatory partnerships in the UK over the past 12 months. The Shared Regulatory Services was nominated in the ‘Officer / Team Award’ category, with the nominees being whittled down to two from a total of eight. Despite losing out on the Team Award to Hertfordshire County Council, the service was highly commended by the judges, who said that it has “...made a big impact in a short period of time,” and that “Its drive and enthusiasm to offer high quality primary authority services is commendable.” The Cabinet Member Regeneration and Economic Development stated that this was the result of a lot of hard work over the last year which has seen the service come together to establish itself as a shared resource and form close working relationships with a broad range of businesses. He congratulated the Corporate Director Operational and Partnership Services and the Head of Regulatory and Partnerships and all who had contributed towards its success.

Announcement on Behalf of the Chief Executive

The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing announced on behalf of the Chief Executive that since the signing of the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal a Growth and Competitive Commission had been established. An appointment of a Chief Officer had been made, namely Sheila Davies of Newport City Council. She stated that BCBC would host the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal Team.

The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing was delighted to announce the launch of the Wales Community Care Information Solution had taken place which support both health and social care throughout Wales. She stated that the Council had led the procurement of the system with its partner CareWorks Limited and is the leading system used by local authorities and health boards.

634. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE LEADER

The Leader announced that entries were now being invited for the 2016 Bridgend Business Forum Awards. The awards feature a range of categories and there are opportunities for a wide variety of local businesses and entrepreneurs to gain some well-deserved recognition. The Leader stated that he had attended the awards for the past three years, and had never failed to be impressed by the nominations and calibre of the businesses that enter. He informed Members of the vital role that small and medium-sized businesses in Bridgend County Borough play in driving the local economy could not be under estimated, and the awards provide a perfect platform for acknowledging and celebrating these companies. The awards are open to all businesses based in Bridgend County Borough, and the deadline for submissions is Friday 8 July. Winners will be announced at the awards ceremony in September, and application forms and further details are available at www.bridgendbusinessforum.co.uk.

The Leader also announced that the Wallich Homeless Charity recently became the 700th member organisation of the Bridgend Business Forum. He stated that this was excellent news and a significant milestone for the forum. He also informed Members that Bridgend is fortunate to have such an active local forum, and this latest news continues to demonstrate the vibrancy and innovation offered by the many businesses and organisations that are based within Bridgend County Borough.

The Leader announced that Porthcawl Marina has joined Rest Bay and Trecco Bay in receiving prestigious Blue Flag status from Keep Wales Tidy. He stated that Blue Flags are only awarded to beaches and marinas that boast the highest water quality, environmental education and management, safety and services, which was a real coup for Porthcawl and the wider county borough, and welcome news for the summer season.

635. LOCAL HOUSING STRATEGY 2016-2018

The Corporate Director Operational and Partnership Services reported on the outcome of formal consultation on the draft Local Housing Strategy 2016-18 and recommended the Strategy for approval.

The Corporate Director Operational and Partnership Services informed Cabinet that the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 requires local authorities have a strategic role to play in the functioning of the local housing market. He stated that the principal way this can be delivered is through a Local Housing Strategy which sets out the locally agreed, long term vision for housing and it provides a statement of local strategic housing-related priorities and outcomes, set against a framework of national legislation, plans and strategies. The current Local Housing Strategy has been in place since 2009 and requires revision in order to take account of new legislation introduced by the Housing (Wales) Act 2014.

The Corporate Director Operational and Partnership Services reported that the draft Local Housing Strategy has been the subject of consultation which ran from December 2015 until the end of March 2016, with both online and written submissions encouraged. At the close of the consultation, 30 responses had been received, 25 via the online consultation process and 5 written responses from stakeholders. He stated that reasoned responses, decisions and actions were given to the representations received, which had resulted in an amended Strategy.

The Corporate Director Operational and Partnership Services outlined the detail of the Strategy which sets out five key housing priorities, which will contribute to improving the quality of life for people within the County Borough. He stated that the priorities will underpin the work of the Council and that of its partners and he outlined what each priority will focus on.

A Member referred to the pie chart included in the Strategy which showed 16% of the dwelling stock to be privately rented and questioned whether there are landlords in the private rented sector that had yet to register in accordance with legislation due to concerns in relation to the condition of some properties. The Corporate Director Operational and Partnership Services informed Council that landlords are encouraged to licence their properties but it was always able to enforce registration. He stated that the Council needed to work in partnership with private sector landlords to encourage them to improve their standards. He also stated that the Council was able to enforce through legislation but where legislation did not exist through persuasion.

A Member of Council referred to the requirement in the Bridgend Local Development Plan for the construction of approximately 10,000 new dwellings in the County Borough up to the year 2012 to meet anticipated growth and questioned the pressures this would bring on schools, health care and on the highway network and how the Council would work with partners to mitigate against this. The Corporate Director Operational and Partnership Services informed Council that the strain on services and infrastructure would be considered as part of the planning process in order to facilitate development. The Corporate Director Education and Family Support that school places are based on a

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formula and all data is fed into the profiling process currently up to the year 2020 and eventually would be up to 2024. She stated that there is pressure in Bridgend town centre to provide a new primary school and solutions were being considered.

The Corporate Director Education and Family Support stated that she would share the schools data report which had previously been considered by Cabinet with all Members of Council.

RESOLVED: That Council:

1. Noted the representations and responses to the formal consultation;
2. Approved the amended and updated Local Housing Strategy following the consultation exercise.

636. PAY POLICY STATEMENT - UPDATE 2016-17

The Corporate Director Operational and Partnership Services reported that the Localism Act 2011 requires English and Welsh local authorities to produce and publish a Pay Policy Statement beginning 2012/13 and for each financial year thereafter.

He reported that an updated Pay Policy Statement had been produced for 2016/17 for the Council's consideration which is fully compliant with the Localism Act 2011.

RESOLVED: That Council approved the updated Pay Policy Statement.

637. APPOINTMENTS TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Monitoring Officer reported that a vacancy had arisen on the Standards Committee and an appointment was therefore necessary to fill this vacancy.

He reported that there was one vacancy for an Independent Member and in accordance with the delegated authority previously given to him had overseen a recruitment process and to report to Council the outcome of the appointment. He stated that following interviews by the Standards Committee of candidates it was recommended that Mr Philip Clarke be appointed to the vacancy.

He also reported on the appointment of Mr Clifford Jones as Chairperson of the Committee by the Standards Committee on 24 March 2016.

RESOLVED: That Council:

1. Appointed Mr Philip Clarke as an Independent Member of the Standards Committee with immediate effect until a term to be determined;
2. Noted the appointment of Mr Clifford Jones as Chairperson of the Standards Committee with immediate effect until a term to be determined.

638. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

639. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business as it contained exempt information as defined in Paragraph 12 of Part 4 and Paragraph 21 of Part 5 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007.

Following the application of the public interest test it was resolved that pursuant to the Act referred to above, to consider the under-mentioned item in private with the public being excluded from the meeting as it would involve the disclosure of exempt information as stated above.

640. OVER AND REDUNDANCY PACKAGES CARRYING COSTS IN EXCESS OF £100,000

The meeting closed at 4.12 pm