

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TOWN & COMMUNITY COUNCIL FORUM HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND, CF31 4WB ON MONDAY, 18 JULY 2016 AT 4.00PM

Present:-

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| MW Butcher | HE Morgan | CL Reeves | R Williams |
| EM Hughes | G Phillips | M Reeves | RE Young |
| CL Jones | DR Pugh | HJ Townsend | R Thomas |

In Attendance:

Councillor RC Jones – Deputy Mayor, Bridgend County Borough Council

Officers:

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| Lee Jones | Head of Regulatory and Partnerships |
| Gary Jones | Head of Democratic Services |
| Mark Galvin | Senior Democratic Services Officer – Committees |
| Elizabeth Jones | Project Officer |

Town/Community Councillors

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|------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| Councillor S Baldwin | - | Bridgend Town Council |
| Councillor N Oram | - | Coychurch Higher Community Council |
| Councillor B Nash | - | Coychurch Lower Community Council |
| Councillor PW Jenkins | - | Maesteg Town Council |
| Councillor S Priday | - | Ogmore Valley Community Council |
| Councillors LE Jones | - | St. Brides Minor Community Council |
| Councillors P Williams | - | Ynysawdre Community Council |

Invitees

| | | |
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| Councillor R Morgan | - | Mayor Bridgend Town Council |
| Councillor D Aston | - | Chairperson Brackla Community Council |
| Councillor C Holmes | - | Chairperson Cefn Cribwr Community Council |
| Councillor H Thomas | - | Chairperson Coity Higher Community Council |
| Councillor SM Bennett | - | Chairperson Cornelly Community Council |
| Councillors K Smith | - | Chairperson Coychurch Lower Community Council |
| Councillor DT Griffiths | - | Chairperson Garw Valley Community Council |
| Councillor L Grantham-Brooks | - | Vice-Chairperson Llangynwyd Middle Community Council |
| Councillor J Terry | - | Mayor Maesteg Town Council |
| Councillor A John | - | Chairperson Newcastle Higher Community Council |
| Councillors MJ Jenkins | - | Chairperson Ogmore Valley Community Council |
| Councillor J McCarthy | - | Mayor Pencoed Town Council |
| Councillor R Lee | - | Mayor Porthcawl Town Council |
| Councillor K John | - | Chairperson Pyle Community Council |
| Councillor F Watkins | - | Chairperson St. Brides Minor Community Council |
| Councillor J Hutchinson | - | Chairperson Ynysawdre Community Council |

120 ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

RESOLVED:

Following a motion, which was duly seconded and carried unanimously, Councillor HJ Townsend was elected Chairperson for the meeting, in the absence of the current Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Town and Community Council Forum.

121 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from the following Members:-

Councillor MEJ Nott
Councillor D Sage
Councillor S Aspey
Councillor CA Green
Councillor CE Smith
Councillor A Owen

122 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

123 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of a meeting of the Town & Community Council Forum dated 21 March 2016, be approved as a true and accurate record.

124 THE TOWN & COMMUNITY COUNCILS' (TCCs) CHARTER

The Head of Regulatory and Partnerships submitted a report to update Members on the development of the Town and Community Councils' Charter; seek approval for the Town and Community Council Charter Action Plan, and to formally sign the Charter as approved by the individual Town, Community and the Borough Council of Bridgend.

At its meeting on 21st September 2015 the Town and Community Council Forum agreed that a TCC Charter Working Group be established to review the current Charter. The working group consisted of 6 Elected Members from Bridgend County Borough Council and 6 Elected Member representatives from the Town and Community Councils.

The Head of Regulatory and Partnerships added, that the Working Group met on 2 previous occasions to undertake the review, which included the circulation of the existing Charter to all Town and Community Councils to identify any opportunities they may have to improve the Charter. The Working Group carried out a research exercise and contacted other Local Authorities to identify and collate examples of best practice to be incorporated into a revised Charter for Bridgend.

A series of proposals were discussed and the amendments were agreed for inclusion in the revised draft Charter, as were outlined in paragraph 3.3 of the report, and the Charter was endorsed by the Forum at its last scheduled meeting.

The Head of Regulatory and Partnerships, advised that the Charter reflected the commitment of all Councils to work in partnership in order to meet future challenges, and would assist in the ongoing delivery of citizen-focused services, and promote Town/Community Councils working together for the benefit of all the residents of the County Borough.

Paragraph 4.2 of the report outlined proposals received from certain Town/Community Councils, to add to the TCC's Action Plan that supported the Charter. Other proposals for the Action Plan were detailed within this at Appendix 1 to the report, and these had been agreed previously.

Finally, the Head of Regulatory and Partnerships, confirmed that the Mayors/Chairpersons of each of the Town and Community Councils had been invited to the meeting to sign the

Charter, thereby confirming their commitment to this document and its accompanying Action Plan.

A Member asked if any adjoining or neighbouring Town/Community Councils in close proximity in terms of their location, could meet-up in order to possibly agree upon or come forward with joint recommendations or views on how to tackle and progress certain projects together in partnership that would incorporate both of their areas.

The Chairperson advised that as far as she was aware, there were no plans for this, and that the Town and Community Council Forum and the supporting Charter including its Action Plan, would tackle projects and resolve issues that were confronted by the two tiers of Authority as a whole. Certain Town and Community Councils however, she added, were aligned with One Voice Wales, an advisory and umbrella body for Town/Community Councils that provided support and advice to these bodies.

A Member had noted that attendance figures at meetings of the Town and Community Council Forum had dwindled the last few years. He hoped that the Charter and the development of integrated working between the local authority and Town/Community Councils through the Action Plan would promote productive and more meaningful meeting agenda's which in turn would improve attendance figures at future meetings of the Forum.

The Chairperson advised that there would be regular meetings between Officers of the Council and Clerks to Town/Community Councils, the first of which was tomorrow, and she would ensure this point was made at this inaugural meeting.

A Member pointed out that even though Town/Community Councils suggested items for placing on the agenda at meetings, these items sometimes did not subsequently get placed on the agenda.

The Head of Democratic Services advised that items had to relate to whole of the County Borough, rather than specific issues in one areas. If this was not the case then they would not satisfy the terms of reference of the Town and Community Council Forum. There may also be a delay before items requested considered by the Forum, as they may have to be considered by Cabinet, Council or the appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committee before wider consideration is undertaken.

As this concluded questions on the report, Officers proceeded to request the Mayors and/or Chairpersons of Town/Community Councils that were present at the meeting, to formally sign the Charter as a working document.

RESOLVED: That the Town and Community Council Forum approved the Charter Action Plan, and further approved that the Charter document be signed by representatives of all Town/Community Councils within the Bridgend County Borough.

125 URGENT ITEMS

None.

The meeting closed at 4.45pm