

BRYNMAWR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council held on Wednesday, 20 January, 2021 in the Council Chamber, Orchard Street, Brynmawr at 6.00pm via Starleaf Video App.

**Present:- Councillors Mrs. O.M. Swales (Presiding).
M.I Morgan
B.M. Sutton
J. M.Sutton
W.K. Hodgins
R.J. Hill
A. Talbot
J.M. Gardner
D. Lyn Elias
G.D. Jones
Mrs. D. Brown**

**In Attendance:- Mrs. A.C. Davies (Town Clerk).
Miss. N.J. Williams (Asst. Town Clerk).**

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119/20 Apologies:- Mrs. J. Boyd, N. Boyd, T.S. Hughes

120/20 The Chair welcomed members to the January Meeting.

121/20 Declaration of Interest & Dispensations.

The Chair reminded members to make declarations of interest at appropriate points on the Agenda.

**122/20 Monthly Meeting of the Council held on 9 December 2020.
Corrections – None.**

123/20 Matters Arising from the Minutes.

Item 229/20 – Health Board Letter.

Members thanked Councillor J.M. Gardner for drafting an excellent letter expressing the Brynmawr Town/Borough Members extreme concerns on the current issues of the ABUBH. It was agreed to forward the letter to Ms. Judith Paget, Chief Executive, ABUHB, Dr. Liam Taylor, Interim Director of Primary Care and Community Services, ABUHB and Mr. Vaughan Gething, Minister for Health and Social Services. Members said that if a satisfactory response is not received, then the Brynmawr Town Council will take their concerns to the Local Press. It was agreed to place the Health Board letter on to the Brynmawr Town Council Website where the general public can view the serious problems within the ABUHB. Councillor Gardner informed the meeting that he had forwarded his application form to the Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council.

Item 72/20 – Plaque for Mr. Roy Francis.

A general discussion ensued and it was agreed that the Brynmawr Town Council would pay for a plaque in recognition of the late Mr. Roy Francis.

It was agreed that the Clerks contact Mr. Eifion Lloyd Davies seeking quotes for a plaque, the wording to be engraved and the best place for the plaque to be sited.

Item 90/20 – Legacy Projects.

A member informed the meeting that the Legacy Proposals are moving forward.

Another member informed members that the slip road from Abergavenny into Brynmawr will not be scheduled to open until after October 2021.

It was agreed that a letter be sent to Mr. Jeff Mapps, Public Liaison Officer, Costain Ltd and Mr. Will Watt, Project Engineering, Transport for Wales expressing the Brynmawr Town Councils concern on the length of time that has been extended for the reopening of the new bypass into Brynmawr.

124/20 The Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 09 December 2020, having been circulated, were accepted as a true record.

Orders & Requisitions.

125/20 Digital Systems – Copies used.
Council moved payment of £20.76

Financial Correspondence.

126/20 Each member was issued with a letter from Mr. Lyn Llewellyn, Internal Auditor informing the Brynmawr Town Council that the Internal Audit Fees for 2020/2021 will be increasing by 20%. This is largely due to the new external audit regime, introduced by Audit Wales, and which will come into force for the financial year 2020/2021.

Mr. Llewellyn explained that as a result of the increasingly high standards expected by Audit Wales, which are contained in the 2019 edition of the publication “Governance and Accountability for the Local Councils in Wales,” it is clear that significantly more time needs to be spent on the internal audit to ensure that it is effective and therefore acceptable to Audit Wales – hence the 20% increase.

It was unanimously agreed to retain Mr. Lyn Llewellyn services to audit the Town Councils Internal Audit 2020/2021.

127/20 Precept 2021/2022.

Prior to the meeting each member was issued with a copy of the Town Council's Annual Budget in support of its precept for 2021/2022 together with a 3 year forecast of the Revenue & Capital Budget.

The Clerk predicted that the Council would require approximately £80,996.00 for 2021/2022 in order that the Council can fully function and be viable.

A lengthy discussion ensued whereby members asked various questions on the budget revenue for the forthcoming year.

It was strongly agreed by all members that the precept should remain the same and not be increased for 2021/2022.

It was unanimously agreed that the precept for 2021/2022 be the same as last year (0% increase).

Precept requirements for the year 2021/2022 - £43,000.00.

Risk Fund for 2021/2022 will increase by £1000.

Total Risk Fund for 2021/2022 will be £25,000.

Members wished to thank the Clerk's on an excellent audit.

It was unanimously agreed to agenda for the next Finance Committee Meeting to purchase two new up to date computer systems for the Clerks Office.

128/20 The Brynmawr Town Council's Annual Return 2019//2020.

The Brynmawr Town Council's Annual Return was received from BDO LLP (External Auditors).

On the basis of their review, in their opinion, the information contained in the Annual Return is in accordance with proper practice.

There were no matters that came to their attention which required the issuing of a separate "additional issues arising" report.

It was unanimously agreed to approve the Annual Return 2019/2020.

Correspondence.

129/20 Co-options – South Ward.

The Clerk informed the members that no applications had been received for the two vacancies for the Brynmawr South Ward.

The advert will remain open-ended.

130/20 Prior to the meeting each member received a copy of a poster from the Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council – Our NHS needs your help.

The poster stated that due to the on-going situation with the Covid 19 pandemic and the restriction on hospital visiting, they are seeking the help and support of the public. If anyone can help by donating ladies and gentlemen's night wear (new or not worn), essential toiletries and boiled sweets (individually wrapped) for staff.

A member stated that 13 surgeries in Blaenau Gwent are opening for Covid 19 Vaccinations tomorrow (21 January 2021). All staff and residents in nursing homes in Blaenau Gwent will be vaccinated by 29 January 2021.

There have been 176 deaths in the Blaenau Gwent area up to 8 January 2021.

131/20 Correspondence was received from Mr. Mark Howland, BGCBC informing members that further to his earlier e-mail regarding Growing Spaces, Mr. Howland can confirm that the advert under the Local Government Act 1972 will be going out next Thursday, 14 January 2021 and will also be in the paper for the following week. This will be accompanied by on site notices and a copy of the plan in the window of the Civic Centre reception.

Mr. Howland explained other than the name of the organisation, the area is the same as that proposed back in September 2020 and is hopefully the last hurdle to entering into a longer term lease with Growing Spaces for the Garden area and growing spaces.

It was agreed that there be no objection to a long term lease with Growing Spaces, but would like to know who the person is who will be responsible for the Terence Garden, who will be running it and the financial aspect with the running of the Cafe.

132/20 Brynmawr Town Council joining All Party Group.

It was agreed to leave this matter on the table for the time being.

Reports.

133/20 Planning & Urgent Matters Meeting held on Wednesday, 06 January 2021.

Matters Arising.

Item 4. - Cosy Place, King Street, Brynmawr.

Prior to the meeting each member was issued with a copy of a power point presentation from Mr. Mark Congreve.

The Clerk informed members that if any questions arise, she would forward them to Mr. Congreve which he agreed that he would be happy to answer via email.

A member expressed her concerns regarding there being no full time warden at the premises and would the residents living at the proposed development receive the help and support they require.

Another member said that people living in Glamorgan Street and King Street, Brynmawr expressed their concerns of the proposed development at Cosy Place. The member informed the meeting that he believes the rubbish/recycling will be collected from the back of the property so that it will not effect King Street.

The Planning & Urgent Matters Meeting was moved and accepted as a true record.

134/20 Annual Investment Strategy for Brynmawr Town Council 2021/2022 was accepted.

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