

BRYNMAWR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council held on Wednesday, 24 February, 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
R.J. Hill
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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136/20 Apologies:- Mrs. J. Boyd, N. Boyd, T.S. Hughes, W.K. Hodgins, A. Talbot

137/20 The Chair welcomed members to the January Meeting.

138/20 Declaration of Interest & Dispensations.

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

139/20 Monthly Meeting of the Council held on 20 January 2021.

Corrections – None.

140/20 Matters Arising from the Minutes.

Item 229/19 – Health Board Letter.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the response letter from Ms. Judith Paget, Chief Executive, ABUHB where members agreed that Ms. Paget does not face facts in her response letter on the number of serious issues within the ABUHB. Over the past few weeks members have received numerous complaints from patients that have been admitted to the Grange Hospital where they did not receive the care that they expected. A member said that Nevill Hall Hospital should have been kept as a clean hospital (no Covid) to start carrying out operations. Another member stated that the situation in the Grange is not running efficiently with 50% less Covid patients. Patients are still having to wait long periods of time to be admitted. Ambulances traveling to and from the Grange Hospital are getting held up due to heavy traffic at various areas of their route causing more delays.

A member informed the meeting that the lease at the extended car park at Whitehead, British Steel Works will expire on the 1st March 2021, therefore patients will have to use the Kingsway Carpark, Newport.

It was agreed that Councillor Gardner draft another letter stating the more recent complaints

received from patients/family members/friends etc on the major issues to be dealt with at the Grange Hospital.

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

A member asked whether any more information on a plaque in recognition of the late Mr. Roy Francis had been received.

The Clerk informed members that no more information had been received regarding this matter.

Item 90/20 – Response from Mr. Jeff Mapps.

The Clerk read out a response email from Mr. Jeff Mapps stating that nothing has changed since Costain Ltd. presented the plans to the Town Council last year. The closure of the westbound slip road was to be closed for around 3-4 months and the lower level (which becomes the westbound carriageway/slip road) was to be closed for 12 months. Work in this area is progressing well and Costain is on target to reopen 12 months from traffic switch. Letter noted.

Item 127/20 – Precept 2021/2022.

Various members expressed their disappointment on the 4% rise in the Blaenau Gwent Borough Council's Precept.

A Town Council Borough Member informed the meeting that the Borough Members have voiced their concerns and discussions are still on going regarding this matter. The final decision will be made on 4th March 2021.

Item 131/20 – Response from Mr. Mark Howland.

The Clerk read out a response email from Mr. Mark Howland stating that Growing Spaces have indicated it would be under the control of their horticultural supervisor and that staff will be deployed to deliver workshops, arts, cooking etc. Mr. Howland has suggested once formalities are complete that Growing Spaces make themselves know to Brynmawr Town Council. Letter noted.

141/20 The Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 20 January 2021, having been circulated, were accepted as a true record.

Orders & Requisitions.

142/20 Vision ICT – Website and hosting.
Council moved payment of £150.00.

143/20 Viking – Stationary.
Council moved payment of £53.64.

Financial Correspondence.

144/20 Thank You Plaque for the NHS Workers/Key-workers.

A lengthy discussion ensued and it was agreed to purchase a permanent modest size stone plaque (similar to the Jack Williams Plaque) to our Health Workers and Keyworkers for their dedication during the Covid 19 pandemic.

It was agreed to contact Ashley Williams, Monumental Mason and Costain for an uncut stone to possibly be sited inside the Brynmawr Welfare Park (inside the entrance of the park).

It was agreed to leave on the table until after the Pandemic has eased.

Correspondence

145/20 Kids Cancer Charity – Financial Assistance.

Council agreed that the amount of £50.00 be awarded to the Kids Cancer Charity.

146/20 Problems at the Brynmawr Medical Centre.

Members stated that they have received numerous complaints with the medical service given by the Brynmawr Medical Centre. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the way the receptionists at the Brynmawr Medical Centre treats patients when they are trying to book an appointment with a Doctor/Nurse. Members stated that the Well Pharmacy adjacent to the Medical Centre is causing the general public a lengthy waiting for collection of their prescriptions where their employees should be more pro-active collecting prescriptions from people whilst queuing for their medication. Patients are coming to the end of their tether and losing faith in their medical practitioners. There are more bad points than goods points with the system at the Brynmawr Medical Centre.

It was agreed invite Dr. Liam Taylor, Interim Director of Primary Care and Community Community Services, ABUHB to the next Full Council Virtual Meeting to be held on Wednesday, 24 March 2021 to express the Town Council's concerns of the Brynmawr Medical Centre. It was also agreed that Members send their issues to the Clerks so that they can forward them to Dr. Taylor in preparation for the meeting.

147/20 New Trees to be planted in Alma Street.

A member expressed her concerns regarding missing trees and the state of a banking due to vehicles using it as an entrance in to their property.

It was agreed that a letter be sent to Mr. Clive Rogers, Highways, BGCBC asking, if possible, could 6-7 extra trees be planted in Alma Street, Brynmawr.

148/20 Members to approve a further 6 months leave of absence for Councillor's Mrs. J. Boyd, N. Boyd and T. S. Hughes (Co-morbidities).
It was agreed to move leave of absence.

149/20 Prior to the meeting each member received a copy of a letter from Miss D. Nash regarding the Boiler House Building, Brynmawr.

Miss Nash states that as the area around the Boiler House is progressing at last with much needed stores and thinks that the building stands in the way of further progression. It is unsafe, ugly and thinks it is about time it was demolished. Miss Nash also asked where are the shops that were to be built on the old NMC site.

A Member informed the meeting that the Boiler House will be part of the Nantyglo and Brynmawr Master Plan which is due to come out soon. It is an iconic building where drawings have been created for it by the same company who designed the Sydney Opera House, Australia.

It was agreed to contact Mr. Clive Rogers to ask if possible could a security fence be put in place until the Master Plan comes out.

A member stated that the NMC site have been going through a process which is coming to an end and there should be movement on the site very soon.

It was agreed a letter be sent to Miss Nash stating the above and informing Miss Nash that the Town Council shares her concerns.

Reports.

150/20 Planning & Urgent Matters Meeting held on Wednesday, 10 February 2021.
Report accepted as a true record.

151/20 Finance Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, 10 February 2021.
Matters Arisen.

Item 4 – 2 New computer systems for the Clerks office.

Prior to the meeting each member received a copy of all the information on the computer systems purchased for the Clerks Office.

Councillor Gardner agreed to help the Clerks set up the new computer systems next week once they have been delivered. Members thanked Councillor Gardner for all his help.

Council moved payment of £1667.97 including VAT plus a year cost of Microsoft 365.

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