***BRYNMAWR TOWN COUNCIL***

***CYNGOR TREF BRYNMAWR***

***Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council held on Wednesday, 26 May 2021 via the Starleaf App 6.30pm.***

***Present:- Councillors J.M. Gardner (Presiding).***

***Mrs. O.M. Swales***

***W.K. Hodgins***

***R.J. Hill***

***J.M. Sutton***

***B.M. Sutton***

***Mrs. D. Brown***

***A. Talbot***

***In Attendance:- Mrs. A.C. Davies (Town Clerk/RFO).***

***Miss. N.J. Williams (Asst. Town Clerk).***

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***37/21 Apologies:- D. Lyn Elias, G.D. Jones, Mrs. J. Boyd,***

***N. Boyd.***

***38/21*** The Chair welcomed members to the May Monthly Meeting.

***39/21 Declaration of Interest & Dispensations.***

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

***40/21 Corrections – None.***

***41/21 Matters Arising from the Minutes.***

***Item 05/21 – Reply letter from Mrs. Judith Paget, Chief Executive.***

Correspondence was read out regarding the Grange Hospital being operated as a General Hospital instead of a Critical Care Hospital.

The letter stated that since opening in November 2020, the Grange Hospital has successfully treated the following patients and conditions which is entirely in line with the clinical model and plan.

* 244 Critical Care Admissions (3 Children, 241 Adults)
* 1,659 Trauma Admissions (165 Children, 1494 Adults)
* 1,521 Emergency Surgery Admissions (172 Children, 1,349 Adults)
* 2,339 Births
* 2,309 Paediatric Admissions
* 856 High Care Respiratory Admissions
* 209 Stroke patients

The Health Board acknowledges that there have been issues with patients inappropriately self-presenting to the Grange Hospital and a range of activities are in place to support greater understanding by the public of the services that can be offered at the Minor Injury Units at Nevill Hall, the Royal Gwent and Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr Hospitals.

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Councillor J. Gardner informed members that he is awaiting more information before he can finalise the letter to the ABUHB and will email it to the Clerks office in due course.

***144/20 – Uncut Stone to commemorate the people who have lost their lives due to Covid 19, NHS Staff and Key-workers.***

A member informed the meeting that he has been in dialogue with Costain Ltd and the Grounds Team of BGCBC and were happy for the uncut stone to be placed in the area where the water fountain used to be at the Welfare Park, Brynmawr. This area is a more suitable location.

Once the uncut stone is sited a plaque could be purchased by the Town Council.

***163/20 – Location for the Memorial Bench for the Late Councillor Howard Swales.***

A member informed the meeting that a location for the Memorial Bench for the Late Councillor Howard Swales has been identified and permission has been given by the BGCBC for it to be sited in Alma Street, Brynmawr.

***12/21- Guidelines for Local Authorities on the death of His Royal Highness.***

A member stated that the event to pay respect on the death of His Royal Highness held on the Market Square, Brynmawr should not have taken place as stated in the Guidelines for Local Authorities on the death of His Royal Highness, Local Authorities were strongly advised not to hold any events to mark the passing of the Duke of Edinburgh.

People were gathering around the War Memorial from 11.00am until after 3.00pm. Why was the gathering there for over 4 hours?

A member stated that in his opinion the main body of the event from (2.45pm to approximately just after 3.00pm) was conducted in a dignified manner. What took place before and after the main event he was not involved in.

The member also wished to thank Councillors Joel and Barrie Sutton together with members of the Royal British Legion Branch in the way they organise the Armistice Day Service.

***42/21*** ***The Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 21 April 2021, having been circulated, were accepted as a true record.***

***Orders & Requisitions.***

***43/21 Mr. Lyn Llewellyn, Internal Auditor – Internal Audit 2020/2021.***

Council moved payment of £360.00.

***44/21*** Prior to the meeting each member was issued with a copy of the report by Mr. Llewellyn, Internal Audit 2020/2021.

Mr. Llewellyn was pleased to confirm that all the prescribed tests in relation to the Council's internal control systems have been satisfactorily completed and as a result there are no matters that need to bring to the attention of the

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Brynmawr Town Council on this occasion. His conclusions are reflected in the internal auditor's report in the 2020/21 Annual Return. These are based on the results of the testing of key controls undertaken in accordance with

Appendix 4 – An approach to internal audit testing as detailed on pages 155 and 156 of the publication “Governance and Accountability for Local Councils in Wales: A Practitioners' Guide 2011” as amended.

Annual Return approved.

***Financial Correspondence.***

***45/21*** The Clerk asked members to consider purchasing 8 hanging baskets for the lamp posts around the War Memorial and purchasing plants for the Market Square.

It was unanimously agreed that the Council would spend £350.00 for the hanging baskets and shrubs.

***46/21*** It was unanimously agreed to purchase a Blue Plaque from Signs of the Times Ltd, Quality Cast Signs for Mr. Roy Francis, pioneering Rugby League Star, Coach and the first black player to play for Great Britain (1947) who lived in Well Street, Brynmawr.

It was agreed to seek permission possibly to place the plaque at the Recreational Park, Brynmawr.

The Council moved payment of £349.80 for a 400mm diameter plaque plus £16.50 UK mainland carriage. All prices exclusive of VAT.

***47/21*** ***New updated revised Standing Orders/Financial Regulations.***

Update Financial Regulations Item 6.1.

All payments shall be effected by cheque or other order drawn on the Council's bankers. Payments should be made in accordance with the procedures contained in the Practitioner’s Guide 2011 ‘Governance and Accountability for Local Councils in Wales.’

The new revised Standing Orders/Financial Regulations was approved.

***Correspondence.***

***48/21*** Correspondence received from BGCBC - Notice of Vacancy – Brynmawr North Ward.

No request for an election for the vacancy in the Brynmawr North Ward of Brynmawr Town Council, and therefore the vacancy can be filled by co- option in accordance with the provisions of the Local Elections (Parishes and Communities) Rules 2006.

It was agreed to co-opt and notices will be placed on the Town Council Website, BGCBC Website and notice board.

***49/21*** Planning Application – Planning Application – St. Mary's Church in Wales Primary School, Brynmawr.

Construction of a 17 bay ground level car park on the grounds of the school.

The Town Council had no objection to the planning application.

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***50/21*** Planning Application – Planning Application – Kyrewood, 3 Intermediate Road, Brynmawr. Felling of a Sycamore Tree.

The Town Council had no objection to the planning application.

***Reports.***

***51/21*** Special Meeting with ABUHB held on Wednesday, 21 April 2021.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding members concerns with the Brynmawr Medical Centre, the Receptionists approach to patients and the hostile manner of the Practice Manager of the facility.

A member stated that until there is a change of leadership things will not improve at the Brynmawr Surgery.

It was agreed that any future concerns/complaints should be sent to the new Health Minister Ms. Eluned Morgan along with Alun Davies MS, AM and Dr. Liam Taylor.

It was also agreed to meet with the new Practice Manager at the next meeting with Dr. Liam Taylor.

Report accepted as a true record.

***52/21*** Planning & Urgent Matter Meeting – Cancelled due to no correspondence received.

***THE FOLLOWING ITEMS MAY CONTAIN INFORMATION THAT IS OF A CONFIDENTIAL OR PERSONAL NATURE AND IS THEREFORE EXCLUSIVE TO MEMBERS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL ONLY.***

***PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960.***