***BRYNMAWR TOWN COUNCIL***

***Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council held on Wednesday, 21 April 2021 via the Starleaf app at 6.00pm.***

***Present:- Councillors Mrs. O.M. Swales (Presiding).***

 ***D. Lyn Elias***

 ***J.M. Sutton***

 ***G.D. Jones***

 ***Mrs. D. Brown***

 ***B.M. Sutton***

 ***R.J. Hill***

 ***W.K. Hodgins***

 ***J.M. Gardner***

 ***M. I. Morgan***

 ***A. Talbot.***

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

 ***Nicola. J. Williams (Asst. Town Clerk).***

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***01/21 Apologies were given on behalf of Councillors Mrs. J. Boyd, N. Boyd.***

***02/21 The Chair welcomed members to the April Meeting of the Town Council.***

***03/21 Declaration of Interest and Dispensations.***

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

***04/21*** ***Corrections – None.***

***05/21 Matters Arising from the Minutes.***

 ***Item 140/20 – Reply from Mr. Vaughan Gething, Health Minister on the down grade of Nevill Hall Hospital.***

The email stated that in Wales, the Health Minister has a role to set the strategic direction for health services and hold the Welsh NHS to account. However, it remains the responsibility of Health Boards to plan how services will be delivered 'on the ground' and they must regularly review these services to ensure they meet the needs of their resident population. If Council members still have specific concerns about any of the issues identified in the sent email, it was suggested that Brynmawr Town Council contact the ABUHB directly as they are best placed to provide a detailed response.

 A lengthy discussion ensued regarding various concerns such as the Grange Hospital opening too early before everything is running to a high standard, the lack of trained staff manning the hospital, the reduced services in other local hospitals and the length of time it takes to travel to the Grange Hospital due to high volumes of traffic in certain areas. Members stated that the Grange Hospital is operating as a general hospital and not a Critical Care Hospital for which it was originally intended to be.

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 A member stated that the borders of the Aneurin Bevan Health Board needs to be looked at and possibly changed.

 It was agreed to send a letter to the Health Board stating members above concerns.

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

The Asst. Clerk read out an email from Mr. Ian Haywood stating that the cost of a “Rugby Player” cut out would be £4,300.00 plus VAT.

 Mr. Haywood has been in touch with Hull FC and Leeds Rhinos who both would be willing to put up £1,000.00.

 It was agreed that the Clerks seek quotes for a Blue Plaque along with the registration of the plaque and present the overall price to members in the next Full Council Meeting in May 2021.

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

 The Asst. Town Clerk informed the members that Mr. Jeff Mapps, Costain Ltd. has kindly found a suitable uncut stone and is able to transport the stone to the entrance of the Welfare Park, Brynmawr some time next week. Mr. Justin Brown, A.C. Janes will then position and secure the stone at the chosen area of the park.

 ***Item 147/20 – Trees to be planted in Alma Street.***

 A member asked whether a further email could be sent regarding extra trees in Alma Street, Brynmawr.

 ***Item 149/20 – Fence around the Boiler House, Brynmawr.***

Councillor W.K Hodgins wished to declare an Interest.

 ***C***ontractors have met regarding this matter and are awaiting quotes for the fencing around the building.

 Councillor Hodgins rejoined the meeting.

 ***Item 163/20 –******Rolling programme to repair and paint the Town Council Memorial Benches.***

The Asst. Clerk read out a quote from Nigel, Metalweld Fabrications stating the cost to refurbish the steel benches purchased by Brynmawr Town Council:

* In-situ - £96.00 plus VAT.
* To remove and re-install - £145.00 plus VAT.

 When benches are removed old rawlbolts will have to be renewed.

 There would be no objection if family members wish to paint the Memorial Benches themselves.

 It was agreed to refurbish two benches a year.

 ***Item 164/20 – Brynmawr Sign at Chapel Road Garage.***

It was agreed that the Clerks send a further email to Mr. Clive Rogers, Head of Community Services, BGCBC to consider erecting a “Brynmawr Welcomes Careful Drivers” sign on the boundary to Brynmawr at the Chapel Road Garage.

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***06/21*** ***The Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 24 March 2021, having been circulated, were accepted as a true record.***

 ***Orders & Requisitions.***

***07/21*** Information Commissioners Office – Renew Registration Fee 2021/2022.

 Council moved payment of £40.00.

***08/21*** One Voice Wales – Membership Fee 2021/2022.

 The Asst. Town Clerk informed the meeting that the wrong invoice had been sent out leaving an extra £29.00 to pay for the year 2021/2022.

 Council moved payment of £29.00.

 ***Financial Correspondence.***

***09/21*** Independent Remuneration for Wales – Payments to Members of Community/Town Councils.

 It was unanimously agreed to “Opt Out” of payments to Members for the year 2021/2022.

 A copy of the Opt Out Form will be forwarded to each member forthwith.

***10/21*** It was unanimously agreed to purchase a Memorial Bench for the Late Councillor T.S. Hughes. The Clerks will seek permission possibly to place the bench in the Terence Garden at the Welfare Park, Brynmawr.

 ***Correspondence.***

***11/21*** Notice of Declaration of Vacancy for one seat in the Brynmawr North Ward has been forwarded to Ms. Michelle Morris, Returning Officer, BGCBC.

 Noted.

***12/21*** Armistice Day Event – November 2021.

 Councillor Hodgins agendered this item explaining that he had been contacted by the Brynmawr Veterans Association regarding rearranging Armistice Day. Councillor Sutton said that due to the ongoing pandemic and the guidelines from the Welsh Government, this was not the appropriate time to discuss arrangements for this event.

 The Chair thanked Councillors Barrie and Joel Sutton for all their hard work for the Brynmawr Royal British Legion Branch.

 Councillor Matthew Morgan informed the meeting that he had been invited by

 Brynmawr Veterans to pay respect on the death of His Royal Highness, The Duke of Edinburgh which was held on the Market Square on Saturday, 17 April 2021.

 Councillor Matthew Morgan was forwarded a copy of the Welsh Government Guidelines for Local Authorities on the death of His Royal Highness, The Duke of Edinburgh which states that Local Authorities are strongly advised not to hold any events to mark the passing of the Duke of Edinburgh. This includes events in cities, town squares and public spaces. The public are

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 advised against the laying of floral or other memorial tributes at public spaces.

 A few members stated how impressed they were by the event and it was organised in a dignified manner.

 Another member stated that he noticed while driving pass the War Memorial on Saturday, the 2 metre “Covid Regulation Rule” was not adhered to.

 After a lengthy discussion it was agreed that a letter be sent to the Secretary of the Brynmawr Veterans Association stating that any future events concerning entering of the War Memorial should seek permission from the Town Council who are Custodians of the War Memorial.

***13/21*** Information was received from Ms. Irene Jones, Governor Support & Development Officer that a vacancy has arisen on the Blaen-y-Cwm School Governors Board. The vacancy is due to the resignation of Councillor Matthew Morgan, therefore a new Town Council representative needs to be appointed.

 It was unanimously agreed that Councillor Julian Gardner be nominated for this position.

***14/21*** Planning Application – 157 Worcester Street, Brynmawr.

 Construct two storey side extension to comprise of garage, two bedrooms and bathroom.

 The Town Council had no objection to the planning application.

***15/21 Reports – None.***

***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.***