***BRYNMAWR TOWN COUNCIL***

***Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council held on Wednesday, 22 February 2023 via Microsoft Teams at 6.00pm.***

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

 ***W.K. Hodgins***

 ***B.M. Sutton***

 ***G.D. Jones***

 ***P. West***

 ***M. Marshman***

 ***E.M. Hillier***

 ***Mrs. D. Brown***

1. ***Talbot***

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

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

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***183/22 Apologies: - J.M. Sutton, J.M. Gardner.***

***184/22 The Chair welcomed members to the February Meeting.***

***185/22 Declaration of Interest & Dispensations.***

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

***186/22*** ***Monthly Meeting of the Council held on 25 January 2023.***

 ***Corrections – None.***

***Matters Arising from the Minutes.***

 ***Item 65/22 – Accessibility to the War Memorial.***

A discussion ensued regarding access to the War Memorial, Market Square, Brynmawr.

It was agreed that a letter be sent to the Royal British Legion – Brynmawr Branch and the Brynmawr Veterans Association explaining the protocol of accessibility into the War Memorial.

***Item 161/22 – Brynmawr Foundation School.***

A member informed the meeting that the BGCBC has instructed EAS (Educational Achievement Service) to implement an improvement plan for the Brynmawr Foundation School immediately. The BGCBC recognises the problems at the school.

It was agreed to invite Mr. McNamara to meet with the Town Council to discuss the school’s issues when relocated to the Brynmawr Institute.

***Item 176/22 – The relocation to the Brynmawr Institute.***

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding Brynmawr Town Council’s overarching User Agreement with the BGCBC, contracts with the Institute, overhead payments, and a license to occupy.

***-2-***

A member stated that the Borough Council would like the lease agreed sooner rather than later.

The Borough Council will honour the Town Council’s original Agreement together with the new overarching agreement with the Institute.

As soon as the contract/lease is prepared, the DLO Team of the BGCBC can then begin to move all the Brynmawr Town Council’s furniture from Orchard Street to the Institute.

The BGCBC has agreed to pay all overheads for the Town Council to utilise the Brynmawr Institute.

It was agreed that the lease would state that the Town Council will have the inclusive use of the ground floor of the said building.

It was agreed that an urgent meeting be arranged to discuss the costs incurred by the Town Council from December 2022 until the Council relocates to their new premises together with the new agreement.

A member said that Ms. Louise Horner will email the Clerks a copy of the overarching agreement within the next few days.

***Item 173/22 – A Memorial Bench for the Late former Councillor Keith Jenkins.***

The Clerk informed the meeting that she had contacted Mr. Keith Jenkins’s son who was very happy for the Brynmawr Town Council to erect a bench at St. Mary’s Church, Brynmawr for the Late Keith Jenkins.

The Clerk informed members that the Memorial Bench has been ordered from Metalweld Fabrications.

It was agreed to contact Mr. Graham Hill to seek permission to erect the Memorial Bench at St. Mary’s Virgin Church.

***Item 179/22 – Meeting with Dr. Liam Taylor and New Practice Manager.***

A member asked whether Dr. Liam Taylor had forwarded any updates on the issues/problem at the Brynmawr Medical Centre.

The Clerk informed the meeting that no update has been received.

A member said that the new Practice Manager at the surgery started her employment two weeks ago.

It was agreed to ask Dr. Liam Taylor and the new Practice Manager, Ms. Amy McCrystal to meet with the Town Council to discuss issues/improvements at the Brynmawr Medical Practice if no update is received within two weeks.

***The Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 25 January 2023, having been circulated, were accepted as a true record.***

***Orders & Requisitions.***

***187/22*** Vision ICT – Website Hosting and Support for April 2023 to March 2024.

Council moved payment of £171.60.

***188/22*** Melrose IT – Microsoft 365, Office Applications License and Anti-Virus.

Council moved payment of £80.71.

***-3-***

***189/22*** Digital Systems Ltd – Payment of copies used whilst being in Orchard Street, Brynmawr.

The Clerk informed members that the old photocopier from Orchard Street Office has now been returned to Digital Systems.

Council moved payment of £38.49.

***Financial Correspondence.***

***190/22*** Wales Air Ambulance – Financial Assistance.

It was agreed that the Wales Air Ambulance be awarded £350.00.

***Correspondence***

***191/22*** Council to consider purchase of a Blue Plaque in Commemoration of

 King Charles III’s Coronation on 6 May 2023.

It was agreed that a Blue Plaque be purchased immediately at the cost of £382.00 plus VAT and £17.50 carriage.

***192/22*** Planning Application – 1 Hill Crescent, Brynmawr.

 Councillor Hodgins declared an interest and left the meeting.

 Proposed two storey side house extension and front porch. New vehicular gates and crossover with drop kerb.

 It was agreed by Full Council that there be no objections to this planning application.

 Councillor Hodgins returned to the meeting.

***193/22*** Planning Application – Former St. John’s Ambulance Hall, Well Street, Brynmawr.

 Conversion of redundant recreational hall to a single-family dwelling.

 A member informed the meeting that the property has been sold to a private buyer.

 A member said that there could be reservations regarding parking at the property.

 A member stated that there are two parking spaces at the site.

It was agreed by Full Council that there by no objections to this planning application, but members have concerns regarding parking at the property and the implications of highway issues.

***194/22*** Planning Application – The Bungalow, Windsor Road, Brynmawr.

 Outline planning permission for 2 bungalows with private drive.

 It was agreed by Full Council that there be no objections to this planning application.

***195/22*** Correspondence was received from Councillor Peter West regarding “Activity in the

Community”.

Councillor West informed members that Mr. Gavin Davies, Brynmawr Police Ward Manager would be more than happy to attend a meeting with the Town Council to discuss anti-social behaviour in Brynmawr. Mr. Davies and the Fire Brigade have been visiting the stores on the Asda site and the new site (Lidl’s and Home Bargains) to advise the staff on how to store their waste properly which have discouraged the fires being lit by youngsters on the path towards the stores.

Another member said that he has tried to arrange two meetings with Mr. Gavin Davies, but Mr. Davies could not attend either of them. The Police are to take ownership of the anti-social behaviour not community groups within the town. There is a lack of pro-active policing in the area.

***-4-***

Members congratulated Councillor West on his persistent work regarding the fires on the path leading to the Asda site.

Councillor West explained that he has been in contact with various groups/bodies within Brynmawr and said that in his opinion, if all organisations pulled together, it would make a stronger approach on how to benefit the community.

A member explained that the organisations in Brynmawr are all happy to work individually and look to the Town Council for any support in their projects.

Another member stated that the Town Council works well with organisations in Brynmawr.

It was agreed that when relocated to the Brynmawr Institute, an informal meeting will be arranged with the organisations/community groups within Brynmawr.

It was also agreed that a face-to-face meeting be arranged with Mr. Gavin Davies, Brynmawr Police Ward Manager, Mr. Sergeant Neil Pigeon, Inspector Warden, and the Fire Service when the Town Council relocates to its new premises to discuss the anti-social behaviour within the town.

***196/22*** ***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.***