***BRYNMAWR TOWN COUNCIL***

***Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council held on Wednesday, 25 January 2023 at 6.00pm in the Learning Action Centre, Market Square, Brynmawr.***

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

***B.M. Sutton***

***J. M. Sutton***

***W.K. Hodgins***

***G.D. Jones***

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

***P. West***

***M. Marshman***

***E. M. Hillier***

***Mrs. D. Brown***

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

***Miss. N.J. Williams (Asst. Town Clerk) ---------------o0o---------------***

***Apologies: - A. Talbot.***

***165/22 The Chair welcomed members to the January Meeting.***

***166/22 Declaration of Interest & Dispensations.***

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

***167/22 Monthly Meeting of the Council held on 07 December 2022.***

***Corrections – None.***

***168/22 Matters Arising from the Minutes.***

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

The Clerk informed members that the Legal Document for the Brynmawr War Memorial would be stored at the Blaenau Gwent Archives and not in the Orchard Street Council Office.

A member stated that the Brynmawr War Memorial has been on the Brynmawr Urban District Council’s Asset Register since 1927 and continued when the Brynmawr Town Council was formed in 1974. From 1974 to the present time, the War Memorial remains on the Town Council Asset Register. The War Memorial is maintained and insured by the Town Council.

Another member explained that there was a Trust Act passed in 1923 which stated that Councils would be Custodians of Town War Memorials.

It was agreed that a letter be sent to both Mr. Simon Paige, Chairman of the RBL local Branch and Mr. Ian Reynolds, Chairman, Brynmawr Veterans Association explaining that the Brynmawr Town Council are the Custodians of the War Memorial. The Clerks and Councillor Wayne Hodgins are keyholders. If a member of the public requires access to the War Memorial to pay their respects, they can contact the Clerks to arrange for the gates to be opened at the time requested.

This information can be found on the Brynmawr Town Council’s Website.

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***Item 121/22 – Meeting to be arranged with Inspector Shane Underwood and Mr. Gavin Davies, Community Officer.***

A member informed the meeting that Inspector Shane Underwood is no longer the Inspector for Brynmawr.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding pallets left at the back of the Pets at Home and other surrounding stores. A member said that the youngsters are continuing to light fires on the path towards Asda using the pallets and boxes from the stores.

A member said that Mr. Gavin Davies, Police Community Officer, has visited the stores in question with a Fire Officer to speak with the Managers and Staff explaining how to store their waste correctly.

A member said that at the Asda site in Merthyr Tydfil, there are fences with pad locks so that all the waste from the stores can be contained properly.

A member suggested that the Environmental Officers could play a part in this issue due to the waste element. In his opinion, certain parts of the original plans have not been adhered to and the stores could possibly be in breach of their original planning consent by not storing their waste correctly. The other part of the problem is anti-social behaviour which is down to policing and other issues.

Members agreed that if the area was fenced off the problem would solve itself.

A member suggested that perhaps a workshop could be arranged where the pallets could be turned into furniture by the youngsters. Perhaps if a Police Officer and a Fire Officer could arrange a visit to the local schools to talk about the dangers of lighting fires.

It was agreed to arrange a meeting with the new Inspector and a Fire Officer to liaise with both authorities regarding this issue. This meeting will be arranged when the Town Council is relocated to the Brynmawr Institute.

The Brynmawr Borough Members agreed to look into the planning issues said areas.

***Item 125/22 – Brynmawr Town Council Christmas Disco.***

Members said that the Christmas Disco was a real success.

It was agreed to arrange another Christmas disco this year.

Councillor Joel Sutton agreed to arrange to book the concert room in the Brynmawr Social Club for the second week of December 2023.

Once a date is confirmed, the Clerks can book the DJ.

***Item 157/22 – Donation to a Local Foodbank.***

A member asked where the Trussell Trust Foodbank was based.

The Clerk explained that Trussell Trust is the Blaenau Gwent Foodbank which operates from the Tabor Chapel, Brynmawr, Davies Street, Brynmawr.

***Item 159/22 – The Roy Francis Memorial Fund.***

A member informed the meeting that the original planning consent has been refused by Welsh Water as the position of the Statue was too close to the boundaries of the sewage system.

Another planning application has been forwarded to the Borough Council to change the position of the Statue, which will be approximately 1 metre from the original plan.

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

A member said that the Estyn Report from Brynmawr Foundation School was very poor. It

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seems that the education at this school has not improved.

A general discussion ensued, and it was agreed that once the Town Council move to their new premises a meeting should be arranged with the Head Teacher of the school Mr McNamara to a meeting to discuss the Estyn report and the school’s performance.

***169/22 The Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 07 December 2022, having been circulated, were accepted as a true record.***

***Orders & Requisitions.***

***170/22*** Viking Stationery – Toner Cartridge for printer.

Council moved payment of £74.02.

***171/22*** Aneurin Leisure Trust – Hire of room for Council Meeting.

Council moved payment £13.50 via the Town Council’s Debit Card.

***Financial Correspondence.***

***172/22*** External Audit Report 2022/2023.

Plenary Powers were given to the Clerk to make payment once the invoice is received.

***173/22*** Council to consider purchasing a Memorial Bench for the Late former Councillor Keith Jenkins.

A member said that Mr. Jenkins was an excellent Councillor.

The Council moved to purchase a Memorial Bench from Metalweld Fabrications.

A rolling program to maintain benches purchased by the Brynmawr Town Council is still in place.

***Correspondence.***

***174/22*** A thank you letter was received from the Brynmawr District Museum Society for Council’s donation.

Letter noted.

***175/22*** Correspondence received from One Voice Wales – Remote training sessions for members.

One Councillor to attend a particular training session and report back their information to Council.

***176/22*** The Clerks updated members on the relocation to the Brynmawr Institute.

A meeting was held on Wednesday,18 January 2023 with both Clerks along with Councillor Wayne Hodgins and Councillor Julian Gardner who met with Mr. Rob Jenkins at the Brynmawr Institute to explain what needed to be completed before the Town Council could relocate to the building.

The Clerks also informed the meeting that they had requested access to the Orchard Street Council Office to gain access for vital correspondence/stationery in preparation for the Internal Audit. Still awaiting a date for access.

The Borough members informed the members that the Council will be reimbursed for the incurred costs from December until relocated to the Brynmawr Institute.

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***177/22*** Council to nominate a member to sit on the Blaenau Gwent Armed Forces Forum.

It was agreed that Councillor Gerwyn Jones be the representative from the Brynmawr

Town Council to sit on the Blaenau Gwent Armed Forces Forum.

***Reports.***

***178/22*** Planning & Urgent Matters Meeting held on Wednesday, 11 January 2023.

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

***179/22*** Special Meeting with Dr. Liam Taylor and Guest held on Wednesday, 11 January 2023.

A member said that the Brynmawr Medical Centre has improved greatly from telephone consultations to being offered face-to-face appointments with GPs etc.

***180/22*** Budget/Precept 2023/2024 Report held on Wednesday, 18 January 2023.

The Budget/Precept 2023/2024 was moved and accepted as a true record.

***181/22*** Annual Investment Strategy for Brynmawr Town Council 2023/2024 was moved and accepted.

***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.***