***BRYNMAWR TOWN COUNCIL***

***Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council held on Wednesday, 26 April 2023 held at the LAC, Market Square, Brynmawr at 6.00pm.***

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

***G.D. Jones***

***W.K. Hodgins***

***A. Talbot.***

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

***M. Broderick***

***E.M. Hillier***

***B.M. Sutton***

***P. West***

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

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

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***01/23 Apologies were given on behalf of Councillors Mrs. D. Brown, J.M. Sutton.***

***02/23 The Chair welcomed members to the April Meeting of the Town Council.***

***03/23 Declaration of Interest and Dispensations.***

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

***04/23*** ***Corrections – None.***

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

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

A member asked whether a letter had been sent to the Royal British Legion – Brynmawr Branch and the Brynmawr Veterans Association explaining the protocol of accessibility into the War Memorial.

The Clerk informed members that no letter has been sent yet.

It was unanimously agreed that a letter would not be sent at this moment in time but, Councillor Gardner would prepare a draft a letter to send out if the issues of the accessibility to the War Memorial arises again in the future.

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

Councillor Gardner explained that he had further discussions with the Trustees of the Brynmawr Institute where an agreement was made and accepted on a final offer of £7,800 pa, which includes the front office, back office for storage, use of kitchen, use of two toilets and Council Chamber for a period of 2 years.

Councillor Gardner agreed to speak to Ms. Louise Horner, BGCBC tomorrow, where hopefully she will agree to the costs and then the move to the Institute can progress.

***-2-***

It was agreed to seek quotes to get the Council Chamber chairs steam cleaned as they were damp while left at the Orchard Street Council Office for 16 months and to also seek quotes for blinds for the front Clerks office at the Institute.

A member stated that the BGCBC have incurred no costs for almost 2 years apart from the incurred cost payment to Brynmawr Town Council for the first 12 months for Council business e.g., Photocopier, rental of the LAC, Market Square, Brynmawr, and use of Clerks home etc. which amounted to nowhere near the cost to house the Town Council in a building.

Councillor Gardner said that he has pointed out to the Institute the benefits of having the Town Council housed in the building. The improvements that the BGCBC made to the rooms in the Institute makes it more rentable and is helping them secure grants to update the building.

Councillor Gardner said as soon as the BGCBC agrees to the offer, the Town Council can contact BT Telecommunications to install telephones and Internet in the Clerk’s Office at the Institute.

***Item 179/22 – Meeting with Dr. Liam Taylor and Team.***

The Clerk reminded members that a meeting has been arranged with Dr. Liam Taylor, Dr. Mark Wells, the new Practice Manager, Ms Amy McCrystal, and guests to be held on Thursday, 27 April at 6.15pm at the Brynmawr Medical Centre.

A member stated that the team knows the historic complaints and issues and said that it would be beneficial to have an update on how much progress has been made since the new Practice Manager has been appointed at the Brynmawr Medical Centre.

Another member said it would be great it the team would adhere to attending the next Public Consultation Meeting.

***Item 195/22 –*** ***Meeting with Mr. Gavin Davies, Ward Manager, and the new Inspector Mr. Stevie Warden.***

The Clerk informed members that an email has been sent to both Mr. Gavin Davies, Ward Manager, and the new Inspector Mr. Stevie Warden inviting them to a meeting with the Brynmawr Town Council but, as yet no reply has been received.

Councillor Julian Gardner said that he would contact both gentlemen to ask them to meet with the Members of the Town Council.

***Item 206/22 – Co-option of Vacancy for Brynmawr North Ward.***

All members and Clerks welcomed Councillor Malcolm Broderick to his first meeting of the Town Council.

***Item 208/22 – Planning Application – Land adjacent to the Talisman, Market*** ***Square, Brynmawr.***

Erection of a statue (Rugby Player Silhouette).

Member were informed that planning permission had been granted.

Members were also informed that the Brynmawr Museum is still waiting for funding bids to be granted so that the statue can be made and erected.

***-3-***

***05/23 The Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 22 March 2023, having been circulated, were accepted as a true record.***

***Orders & Requisitions.***

***06/23*** Information Commissioners Office – Renew Registration Fee 2023/2024.

£40.00.

***07/23*** Renewal of Membership for One Voice Wales 2023/2024.

Council moved payment of £1035.00.

***08/23*** BGCBC – Local Elections – Thursday, 05 May 2022.

Council moved payment of £492.00.

***09/23*** Life Leisure Trust – Hire of room for Council Meeting’s 19/26 April 2023.

Council moved payment of £29.80 via Visa Debit Card.

***Financial Correspondence.***

***10/23*** Prior to the meeting each member received a copy of theBrynmawr Town Council’s Financial Statement – Receipts & Payments Statement 2022/2023.

It was unanimously agreed to accept the reports.

Members thanked both Clerks for completing the Audit.

It was agreed to move payment of £11.15 for the postage of the Internal Audit to ICA Consultancy Ltd, Wiltshire.

***11/23*** The Annual Return 2022/2023 will be presented to Council after the Internal Audit has been completed on instructions by the External Auditors Wales Audit Office.

Moved.

***12/23*** Councillor West contacted One Voice Wales to book himself on a Training Course on the Community Engagement Part II – Module 13 for Tuesday, 18 April 2023.

The Clerk explained if any member wishes to attend a training course she must be informed of the course, and the payment must be passed by Council before attending the chosen course.

Council agreed to move payment when invoice received.

***Correspondence.***

***13/23*** Prior to the meeting each member received a copy of the Written Statement by the Welsh Government – Electoral Reform White Paper.

Various comments were made on boundaries of the Brynmawr area.

Report moved.

***14/23*** Prior to the meeting each member received a copy of the

Planning Application – 52 Windsor Road, Brynmawr via email.

Two storey side extension.

The Full Council had no objection to this planning application.

***-4-***

***15/23*** Correspondence received from Councillor Matthew Marshman – Resignation letter. The Clerk read out Mr. Marshman’s letter of resignation which stated that Mr. Marshman wished to offer his thanks for the way he had been accepted into the Town Council. The kindness and professionalism shown by all members. He then said with some regret, to tender his resignation from the Town Council. He really enjoyed the last few months with all Members. Friendships have bloomed that he hopes will last a lifetime. As a man with a very young family, and an increasingly busy work schedule (more so after taking up a higher position at work), Mr. Marshman is finding it difficult to give any more time to the Town Council and hopes that the door could possibly remain open for him to return later, when perhaps his life is not so chaotic and demanding.

It was unanimously agreed that a letter of appreciation be sent to Mr. Marshman wishing him all the best for the future.

***16/23*** Prior to the meeting each member received a copy of the

Planning Application – Enderley, Rhyd Clydach, Brynmawr via email.

Raising Ridge of roof, change roof design from hip to gable, insertion of front dormers and front extension, two storey rear extension and single storey side extension.

The Full Council had no objection to this planning application.

***17/23*** Correspondence received from Councillor Peter West – ‘The Good Councillor’s Guide’.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding how the public views the Town Council, the Town Council’s Website, and the creation of a Facebook page for the Town Council to let people know what they do and who they meet with.

In Councillor Wests’ opinion the Town Council has no communication with the BGCBC. The Clerk explained that they meet with the Borough at the Joint Committee Meetings and the Clerks Forum Meetings where the minutes for the meetings can be found on the BGCBC Website.

A member said when the Town Council moves to the Institute, the Council with have a new premises and a new identity where perhaps drop-in centers can be arranged so that the Public can come and communicate with Town Councillors.

Councillor West said, what is the point in doing little things that does not mean much to the Public. Councillor Gardner stated that he did not agree with Councillor Wests’ opinion and explained that he sought £10,000 funding and arranged various events for youngsters where it made a big difference to the children, and they appreciated having something to do.

Councillor West said that he would like to get the youngsters involved in the Town Council. A member stated that schools have their own Council’s and suggested inviting children to view the Town Council Meeting where they can ask questions and get involved.

It was agreed that marketing the Town Council is crucial going forward and looking at what the Council would like to achieve.

A member stated that the Institute will be a new foundation for the Town Council.

***-5-***

***Reports.***

***18/23*** Special Meeting held on Wednesday, 19 April 2023 to discuss the relocation of the Brynmawr Town Council to the Brynmawr Institute. (Copy sent via email).

Report accepted as a true record and moved.

***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.***