***BRYNMAWR TOWN COUNCIL***

***Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council held on Wednesday, 20 September 2023 in the Council Chamber, Brynmawr Institute at 18.00.***

***Present:- Councillors W. K. Hodgins (Presiding).***

 ***B.M. Sutton***

 ***J. M. Sutton***

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

 ***R.J. Hill***

 ***E.M. Hillier***

 ***J.M. Gardner***

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

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

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***96/23*** The Chair welcomed members to the September Meeting of the Town Council and proceeded by asking Council to stand for a one-minute silence for Councillor Andrew Talbot’s mother (Mrs. Angela Talbot) who recently passed away.

***97/23 Apologies were given on behalf of Councillors G.D Jones, Mrs. D. Brown,***

 ***A. Talbot, P. West, and M. Broderick.***

***98/23*** All members welcomed Councillor John Hill to his first meeting of the Brynmawr Town Council.

***99/23 Declaration of Interest & Dispensations.***

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

***100/23 Monthly Meeting of the Council held on 26 July 2023.***

**101/23 *Corrections – None.***

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

 ***Item 34/23*** – ***The Brynmawr Wellbeing Centre.***

A member asked whether an update had been received regarding the Brynmawr Medical Centre Relaunch. The Clerk informed members that no correspondence had been received as yet.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding the Brynmawr Surgery and the on-going complaints still being seen on social media.

A member informed the meeting that patients were left waiting for their appointment to find out that the Doctor had left the building. This resulted in the patients having to re-schedule their appointments.

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It was agreed to invite Dr. Liam Taylor, Deputy Divisional Director, Ms. Amy McCrystal, Practice Manager and Dr. M. Wells, ABUHB to meet with the Members of the Brynmawr Town Council to discuss the ongoing problems at the Brynmawr Medical Centre.

***Item 83/23 – FAB Waste Removal (Brynmawr Allotments).***

A member said that in her opinion, plot holders who vacate their plots at the Brynmawr Allotment Gardens should be charged to remove their waste that’s been left on their plot.

The Clerk informed the meeting that the Brynmawr Town Council agreed to provide the Allotment Association with two skips per year to remove any accumulated waste.

It was agreed to arrange a meeting with the Allotment Association to discuss the rules and regulations of the Allotment Gardens.

***Item 89/23 – Access from the new Retail Park to the Asda Site.***

A member asked the Borough Members if there was any update on the access from the new Retail Park to the Asda Site.

A member informed the meeting that work is due to start soon on a crossing by Carl’s burger van to the other side of the road (Asda site).

A member said it would be more practical to have a walkway from the back of the Lidl’s Supermarket to the Asda Site and asked would it be possible to have compulsory purchase order on the site. A member said that a compulsory purchase order is not an option at present.

A member asked whether a group had been set up to look/record the traffic flow in this area. A member said that a group had not been set up.

***Item 84/23 – Notice Board on the Market Square.***

A member asked who now owns the notice board on the Market Square.

A member explained that the BGCBC was going to remove the notice board and at a previous meeting of the Town Council, it was agreed that the notice board would be taken over by the Town Council. Councillor West kindly refurbished the notice board and the Town Council paid for the materials.

***102/23 The Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 26 July 2023, having been***

 ***circulated, were accepted as a true record.***

 ***Orders & Requisitions.***

***103/23 Melrose IT – Microsoft 365 Office Applications and Anti-Virus.***

Council moved payment of £80.71.

***104/23 The Duke of Beaufort – Annual ground rent for Brynmawr Allotment Gardens.***

 Council moved payment of £30.00.

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***Financial Correspondence.***

***105/23*** The Brynmawr Town Council’s Annual Return 2022/2023.

Prior to the meeting, each member received a copy of the Brynmawr Town Council’s Annual Return which was received from the Wales Audit Office.

There were no matters that came to their attention which required the issuing of a separate additional issues arising report.

The Council moved the report and thanked the Clerks for their continued hard work.

***106/23*** Curtains for Council Chamber at the Brynmawr Institute.

It was agreed to purchase curtains for the Council Chamber at the Brynmawr Institute.

***Correspondence.***

***107/23*** Prior to the meeting each member received a copy of the Brynmawr Town

Council – Model Standing Orders 2023 (Wales) & Model Financial Regulations 2023.

Council agreed to adopt and move the report.

***108/23*** Request by Cllr. P. West to hold a general discussion on the Code of Conduct

 and the Good Councillor’s Guide.

A member said that the Good Councillor’s Guide points out how Councillors should be working on projects, events etc. in between meetings.

Members agreed that an Events Committee Meeting should be arranged where they can discuss possible projects and events throughout the year and plan how they are going to deliver them.

A member said with the new noticeboard and a more accessible office, the Town Council can advertise what it accomplishes and who they help etc. as people are not aware of what the Council does.

The Chair said that when the Council Office is fully up and running, he would like to invite members of the public to a Meet and Greet session with members of the Brynmawr Town Council.

***Co-options.***

***109/23*** The Clerk read out a letter from a candidate who wished to be considered as a

 Co-opted member on the North Ward of the Town Council.

Members were invited to consider the application received in respect of the vacancy.

Mrs. Cheryl Boulter, 6 Heol Derw, Brynmawr, Ebbw Vale, NP23 4TT.

  A general discussion ensued, and it was unanimously agreed to co-opt Mrs. Cheryl Boulter as the new Co-opted Member of Brynmawr Town Council. The Clerks to send Mrs. Boulter the necessary documentation to sign.

***110/23*** Council to consider meeting the Deputy Commissioner of the Police.

It was unanimously agreed to meet the Deputy Commissioner on Wednesday, 29 November 2023 at 6.00pm in the Brynmawr Institute.

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***111/23*** Planning Application – Crawshay House, Greenland Road, Brynmawr.

Conversion of existing building to provide 14 apartments, provision of parking and turning head, associated landscaping, and infrastructure.

Members agreed there be no objection to the planning application but, has concerns on the impact on parking facilities and the traffic flow.

***Reports.***

***112/23*** Prior to the meeting, each member received a copy of the Special Meeting with

Mr. Nick Smith, M.P. and Neighbourhood Sergeant Mr. Martyn Pugh held on Wednesday, 16 August 2023.

Report accepted as a true record.

***113/23*** Prior to the meeting, each member received a copy of the Finance Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, 06 September 2023.

***Item 3 – Brynmawr Town Centre Partnership – Christmas Switch-On 2023.***

Councillor Hodgins wished to declare an interest and left the Chamber.

Members agreed to organise an event in the future to help raise monies towards the Christmas Lights and agreed it would be nice to work together with the Brynmawr Town Centre Partnership.

It was unanimously agreed that the Brynmawr Town Centre Partnership be awarded £500.00 towards the Christmas Switch-On 2023.

Councillor Hodgins then returned to the Chamber.

Report accepted as a true record.

***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.***