***BRYNMAWR TOWN COUNCIL***

***Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council held on Wednesday, 25 October 2023 in the Brynmawr Institute, Market Square, Brynmawr at 6.00pm.***

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

 ***J.M. Sutton***

 ***J.M. Gardner***

 ***E.M. Hillier***

 ***R.J. Hill***

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

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

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***116/23 Apologies:- Mrs. O.M. Swales, A. Talbot, G.D. Jones,***

***Mrs. D. Brown, P. West, M. Broderick.***

***117/23 The Chair welcomed members to the October Meeting of the Town Council.***

***118/23 Declaration of Interest and Dispensations.***

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

***119/23 Corrections – None.***

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

 ***Item 34/23- The Brynmawr Wellbeing centre.***

A member said that he received three complaints in the past ten days regarding patients having to wait over an hour for the receptionists to answer the telephone and

not being able to book an appointment to see a Doctor.

A member said that the telephone system should be easy to solve but, seems to be getting worse.

It was agreed to discuss this matter for the forthcoming meeting with the ABUHB team on Wednesday, 01 November 2023.

The Chair asked all members to make every effort to attend the arranged meeting with the ABUHB guests.

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

Members agreed that it was nice to see the Brynmawr Town Council Notice Board being utilised.

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

A member said that in his opinion it would be dangerous to put a crossing by Carl’s burger van to the other side of the road (Asda site).

A member informed the meeting that it would be no crossing in that particular area but, a safety method put in place where Traffic Management will be involved.

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***106/23 – Venetian Blinds for Clerks Office.***

A member asked has the venetian blinds been ordered.

The Clerk said that the BGCBC were in the process of purchasing the blinds.

The Chair agreed to speak with the Officers of BGCBC regarding this matter.

***109/23 – Co-option.***

The Clerk explained to members that she has been informed that Mrs. Cheryl Bolter had not received the first letter sent to her explaining that she was successful on becoming a new member of the Brynmawr Town Council. A second letter was posted by hand to Mrs. Bolters address and is awaiting her response.

It was agreed to encourage more people to become members of the Brynmawr Town Council.

It was also agreed that the Clerks would request information from One Voice Wales on the new Legislation regarding the number of members that can sit on the Town Council.

***110/23 – Meeting with the Deputy Commissioner of the Police.***

The Clerk reminded Members that a meeting has been arranged with the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Ms. Eleri Thomas on Wednesday, 29 November 2023 at 6.00pm in the Council Chamber, Brynmawr Institute.

Can all members please make every effort to attend.

***120/23*** ***The Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 20 September 2023, having been circulated, were accepted as a true record.***

 ***Orders & Requisitions.***

***121/23 Grenke Leasing Ltd***.

Quarterly fee for the period 01/10/2023 to 31/12/2023.

Council moved payment of £270.00.

***122/23 Digital Systems UK***.

Standard charge and administration fee April to December 2023.

Council moved payment of £102.00.

***Financial Correspondence.***

***123/23 Viking Direct***.

The Clerk explained that a new drum for the Brother Printer had to be purchased in order that the Clerks can print the correspondence for members.

Council moved payment of £88.14 including VAT for a Brother drum for printer.

***124/23 Royal Mail postage stamps***.

The Clerk explained that postage stamps had to be purchased in order to post Minutes etc. by the Brynmawr Town Council’s Debit Card.

Council moved payment of £52.00.

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***125/23 Brynmawr Rotary Christmas Hamper Fund***.

A request was received from the Brynmawr Rotary for financial assistance towards the Christmas Hamper Fund.

It was agreed that the Brynmawr Rotary be awarded £350.00 towards the Christmas Hamper Fund.

***126/23 A.C. Janes & Son***.

Cleaning of the War Memorial in readiness for Armistice Day 2023.

Council moved payment of £1,488.00.

***Correspondence.***

***127/23*** Correspondence was received from Councillor Gerwyn Jones asking Council to

consider a leave of absence from the Town Council due to his wellbeing.

It was unanimously agreed to accept Councillor Jones’s request and granted him six months leave of absence.

***128/23*** Prior to the meeting each member received a copy of a letter received from Councillor

Malcolm Broderick handing in his resignation as a Member of the Brynmawr Town Council.

It was unanimously agreed that hopefully one day Mr. Broderick will return as a member of the Town Council when life is not so busy for him as he had a lot to give and was a proactive member during his short time on the Brynmawr Town Council.

It was agreed to accept and move Mr. Broderick’s letter of resignation.

***129/23*** A request from Mrs. Councillor O.M. Swales to discuss the Brynmawr Post Office.

A member informed the meeting that he had spoken with the owner of the Brynmawr Post Office last Friday and the owner is reconsidering the financial options to re-open the Brynmawr Post Office.

The member said that Officers of the BGCBC along with Mr. Nick Smith, MP are involved in reinstating the Brynmawr Post Office.

It was agreed that a letter be sent to Ms. Paula Vennells, Manager of Audit Complaints, The Post Office Counter Ltd to express how essential it is to have a Post Office in Brynmawr.

***130/23*** A request from Mrs. Councillor O.M. Swales to discuss the overnight closure of the Minor Injuries Unit at Nevill Hall Hospital.

A member reminded members that a meeting is due to take place regarding the Provision of Minor Injury Services at Tabor on Wednesday, 01 November 2023 between 10.00 – 12.30. A member said that he had requested the ABUHB hold a possible later meeting in the future so that people who are working will be able to attend.

 A member said that Ebbw Vale Hospital is under utilised and in his opinion, it should be up graded.

 All members agreed that the Accident and Emergency Department should be reinstated back at the Nevil Hall Hospital.

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 ***131/23*** A request was received from Councillor E.M. Hillier to discuss the overgrown hedges around the perimeter of Crawshay House, Brynmawr (Darenfelin Road and Greenland Road).

A member explained that the hedges are overgrown around the perimeter (pathways and road) all around the area in question.

It was agreed that a letter be sent to R.M. Williams owner of Crawshay House requesting him to cut back the hedges around the perimeter Crawshay House.

It was agreed to wait for a reply before taking any action.

***132/23*** Correspondence received from Ms. Kelly Preston, asking Council to consider

arranging a meeting with Mr. Alun Davies, MS when convenient.

It was agreed that a meeting be arranged during January 2024.

***133/23*** A thank you letter was received from MIND for Council’s kind donation.

 Letter noted.

***134/23*** Prior to the meeting each member received a letter from Councillor Peter West

 handing in his resignation as a Member of the Brynmawr Town Council forthwith.

It was unanimously agreed that Mr. West had put forward some very good points and the Council will start/continue to work on them in the future.

It was agreed to accept and move Mr. Broderick’s letter of resignation.

***135/22*** Planning Application – 151 King Street, Brynmawr.

 Construction of detached garage and fence panels.

 The Full Council has no objection to this planning application.

***136/23***Planning Application – 48 Beaufort Street, Brynmawr.

 Change of use of first and second floor storerooms into 2 flats.

 The Brynmawr Town Council has no objection to this planning application on the grounds that the application applies to Planning Legislations.

***137/23*** Planning Application – 49 Beaufort Street, Brynmawr.

 Change of use of first and second floor storerooms into 2 flats and minor external alterations.

The Brynmawr Town Council has no objection to this planning application on the grounds that the application applies to Planning Legislations.

***138/23 Reports.***

Planning and Allotment Meetings cancelled. Arrange a further Allotment Meeting for 08 November 2023.

***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.***