***BRYNMAWR TOWN COUNCIL***

***Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council held on Wednesday, 24 January 2024 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber, Brynmawr Institute, Market Square, Brynmawr.***

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

 ***J. M. Sutton***

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

 ***E. M. Hillier***

 ***Mrs. D. Brown***

 ***R.J. Hill***

 ***Mrs. C. Bolter***

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

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

***177/23 Apologies: - A. Talbot, J.M. Gardner, B.M. Sutton.***

***178/23 The Chair welcomed members to the January Meeting.***

***179/23 Declaration of Interest & Dispensations.***

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

***180/23*** ***Monthly Meeting of the Council held on 06 December 2023.***

 ***Corrections – None.***

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

 ***Item 131/23 – Crawshay House – R.M. Williams.***

A member asked if a reply had been received from R.M. Williams regarding the cutting back of the overgrown hedges around the building (Former Crawshay House) and a response regarding an inspection to be carried out by the appropriate Officers, BGCBC due to the poor state of the building and surrounding grounds.

 The Clerk read out a response from Mr. Steve Smith stating that unless there is a breach of planning, there is not a lot that can be done regarding this matter.

 Mr. Smith informed members that he has forwarded the complaint regarding the hedges and possible impact on the highway to the appropriate Officers.

It was agreed to send a letter to Mr. Andrew Myatt at Tai Calon regarding the removal of a tree adjacent to No. 1 Trafalgar Close as the principle is, if one tree is cut down one must be replaced. The Council would also like to know who is responsible for the upkeep of the shelter on the same piece of land.

***Item 129/23 – Brynmawr Post Office.***

A member asked if there has been any further information received regarding the opening of the Brynmawr Post Office.

The Clerk informed the meeting that no further information had been received, only that the owner has committed to re-opening in February 2024.

All members agreed that it is very important that Brynmawr has a Post Office.

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***156/23 – Brynmawr Medical Centre.***

A member asked if letters had been sent regarding the downgrading of the Minor Injuries Unit at Nevill Hall Hospital.

The Clerk informed the meeting that no letters had been sent as the information regarding who and where to send the letters was not received.

A member informed the meeting that a Health Board Meeting was being held tonight, justifying their actions regarding the footfall through Nevill Hall Hospital.

It was agreed to invite the CEO of the ABUHB to meet with the Town Council to discuss the future of Nevill Hall Hospital and its services.

It was also agreed to write to Monmouthshire County Council and Abergavenny Town Council to inform them that Brynmawr Town Council supports their cause regarding the downgrading of Nevill Hall Hospital and to enquire whether the Town Council can help with the process.

The Clerk reminded members that a meeting had been arranged with the Health Board to discuss the taking over of the Brynmawr Medical Centre on Wednesday, 14 February 2024 at 6.00pm in the Brynmawr Institute.

***174/23 Meeting held with Ms. Eleri Thomas, Deputy Commissioner, and Inspector Stevie Warden.***

The Borough Members agreed to highlight any issues/concerns that members have during the next Police Meeting.

It was agreed to invite Mr. Gavin Davies, Ward Manager, and Inspector Stevie Warden to a meeting with members of the Brynmawr Town Council in April 2024.

***181/23*** ***The Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 06 December 2023, having been circulated, were accepted as a true record.***

 ***Orders & Requisitions.***

***182/23*** Grenke Leasing – Equipment Protection for the year 2024.

 Council moved payment of £110.00.

***183/23*** Grenke Leasing – Quarterly fee 01/01/2024 to 31/03/2024.

 Council moved payment of £270.00.

***184/23*** Wales Audit Office – Full External Audit Fee 2022/2023.

Council moved payment of £950.00.

***185/23*** Digital Systems – Photocopier (copies).

 Council moved payment of £36.00.

***Financial Correspondence.***

***186/23*** Prior to the meeting each member received a copy of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales – Annual Report 2024/2025– Annual payments to Town/Community Councillors.All members unanimously agreed to Opt-Out of payment to members (£156.00) for 2024/2025.

***187/23*** Internal Audit 2023/2024. IAC Audit has agreed to undertake the Brynmawr Town Council’s Internal Audit again this year.

Letter noted.

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***Correspondence.***

***188/23*** A thank you letter was received from the Brynmawr Rotary Club for Council’s kind

donation of £350.00 towards the Christmas Hampers 2023.

 Letter noted.

***189/23*** Prior to the meeting, each member received a copy of One Voice Wales – Remote training sessions for members.

The Clerk asked members if they wish to attend any of the training sessions to contact the Clerks.

***190/23*** Council to consider nominating a representative to sit on the Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum (Former representative Councillor P. West).

No member present at the meeting accepted the position.

It was agreed to leave this matter on the table.

***191/23*** Prior to the meeting each member received correspondence from One Voice Wales – Cost of

living – Community and Town Council activity in Wales.

 It was agreed to discuss this matter at the Events Committee Meeting to be held on Wednesday, 07 January 2024.

***Reports.***

***192/23*** Budget/Precept 2024/2025 Report held on Wednesday, 24 January 2024.

 The Budget/Precept 2024/2025 was moved and accepted as a true record.

***193/23*** Annual Investment Strategy for Brynmawr Town Council 2024/2025 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.***