***BRYNMAWR TOWN COUNCIL***

***Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council held on Wednesday, 21 February 2024 in the Council Chamber, Brynmawr Institute at 6.00pm.***

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

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

***E.M. Hillier***

***Mrs. D. Brown***

***Mrs. C. Bolter***

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

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

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***195/23 Apologies: - J.M. Sutton, J.M. Gardner, B.M. Sutton,***

***G.D. Jones, R.J. Hill, A. Talbot.***

***196/23 The Chair welcomed members to the February Meeting.***

***197/23 Declaration of Interest & Dispensations.***

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

***198/23*** ***Monthly Meeting of the Council held on 24 January 2024.***

***199/23 Corrections – None.***

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

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

A reply email was received from Mr. Andrew Myatt, Director of Communities and Housing regarding the removal of a tree adjacent to Trafalgar Close, Alma Street, Brynmawr.

The email stated that one of the existing trees was removed due to the root plate failing. Mr. Myatt said that Tai-Calon do intend to replace the tree and confirmed that 9 trees were also planted when the car park was developed at Trafalgar Close.

Regarding the shelter in question, Tai–Calon do own the land and agreed to check if they have a maintenance liability on the street art shelter which forms one part of a series of street art that continues along the entire length of Alma Street.

Councillor Hodgins agreed to seek information on who is responsible for the maintenance of the shelter (bird cage shelter) from the Estate and Regeneration Department, BGCBC.

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

A member asked whether any information had been received regarding the re-opening of the Brynmawr Post Office.

The Clerk informed the members that no further information had been received with

***-2-***

regards to the Post Office re-opening.

A member said unfortunately timelines have not been adhered to.

It was agreed that a second letter be sent to the Post Office, Mr. Nick Smith MP, Mr. Alun Davies MS stating the members concerns regarding the Brynmawr Post Office still being closed.

***Item 156/23 – Downgrading of Nevill Hall Hospital.***

The Clerk informed members that no reply had been received from Abergavenny Town Council or Monmouthshire County Borough Council regarding the Brynmawr Town Council supporting the Council’s cause of the downgrading of Nevill Hall Hospital and helping with the process of keeping the MIU Department a 24-Hour Service.

The Clerk read out some suitable dates that Ms. Nicola Prygodzicz, CEO, ABUHB could meet the Brynmawr Town Council, but unfortunately members could not commit to any of the early morning/afternoon times as there are quite a few members who work during the day.

It was agreed to seek more convenient times for Ms. Prygodzicz to come to meet members and it was also agreed to arrange a meeting with the other Town Council’s in Blaenau Gwent to discuss the general services at Nevill Hall Hospital.

***Item 174/23 – Meeting with Mr. Gavin Davies, Ward Manager, and Inspector Stevie Warden.***

The Clerk informed members that Mr. Gavin Davies agreed to speak with the Inspector to arrange a suitable date for both gentlemen to come and meet with the Town Council.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the anti-social behaviour around Brynmawr Town.

A member informed the meeting that from next month there will be a different approach to deal with the issues/situation where the BGCBC and the Police will work together. There is a new Policy which gives the BGCBC more powers to help the Police deal with anti-social behaviour and criminal damage.

The member said that a new Sergeant will be starting in Brynmawr shortly. The CCTV on the Market Square, Brynmawr is working and currently run by Caerphilly Council on behalf of the BGCBC.

A member said that anti-social behaviour and criminal damage is the responsibility of the Police Force and not the BGCBC.

A member said that in her opinion, if parents were prosecuted for their children’s anti-social behaviour perhaps the problems would be alleviated.

***Item 190/23 – Member to sit on the Brecon Beacons National Park Committee.***

It was agreed to agenda the vacancy for the next Full Council Meeting to take place on Wednesday, 21 March 2024.

***200/23 The Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 24 January 2024, having been circulated, were accepted as a true record.***

***-3-***

***Orders & Requisitions.***

***201/23*** Vision ICT – Website Hosting and Support for April 2024 to March 2025.

Council moved payment of - £171.60.

***202/23*** Melrose IT – Microsoft 365, Office Applications License and Anti-Virus.

Council moved payment of - £101.23.

***203/23*** Melrose IT – Installation and setup of Wifi/Hybrid etc. in the Office and Chamber of the Brynmawr Institute in order that the Clerks have a permanent base for the running of the Office instead of the Clerks home.

Council moved payment of £2,630.00 plus £526.00 VAT = £3,156.00.

***Financial Correspondence.***

***204/23*** Marie Curie Cymru – Financial Assistance.

It was unanimously agreed that due to the financial situation the Brynmawr Town Council are not able to grant a donation at this time.

***Correspondence***

***205/23*** Prior to the meeting each member received a copy of the Cost of Living – Town/Community Activity in Wales document.

Document noted.

***206/23*** Planning Application – St Mary’s R.C. Church, Catholic Road, Brynmawr.

Proposed demolition works – Boiler room annex to existing building (annex no longer required - is not original with building).

The Full Council had no objection to this planning application.

***207/23*** Planning Application – Unit 3 and 4, King Street, Brynmawr.

Retention of decking with balustrade.

The Full Council had no objection to this planning application on the understanding that the car park will be relined with 2 disabled bays and the BGCBC would monitor the safety concerns.

***208/23*** Planning Application – Essendene House, 276 King Street, Brynmawr.

Partial demolition of existing single storey storage building and construction for two storey detached dwellings with associated new accesses.

The Full Council had no objection to this Planning Application.

***Reports – None.***

***209/23*** Planning & Urgent Matters Meeting held on Wednesday, 07 February 2024. Cancelled (no quorum).

***-4-***

***210/23*** Finance Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, 07 February 2024.

Cancelled (no quorum).

***211/23*** Events Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, 07 February 2024.

Cancelled (no quorum).

***212/23*** The Chair informed members that there will be a Brynmawr Town Council St. Davids Event on the Market Square, Brynmawr on Friday, 1 March 2024 between 10.00am – 12.00pm.

The member said that he had contacted Smart Deli for a price on Welsh cakes to be given to the school children and members of the public. The member said that he had also contacted the 3 local schools in Brynmawr, and they were all happy to participate.

Ms. Karen Williams, Town Centre Manager has offered to donate £100.00 towards the event, the Chair is donating £100.00 out of his Mayors Allowance and the Brynmawr Town Council agreed an amount up to £200.00 towards the cost of the event if needed.

It was also agreed that Brynmawr Town Council would pay for refreshments etc.

***213/23*** Easter Disco.

It was agreed to possibly arrange an Easter Disco at the Brynmawr Social Club if a DJ and the hire of a large room at the Club is available at such short notice.

It was agreed to purchase Easter eggs, Raffle prices etc.

***214/23*** Special Meeting with ABUHB – Brynmawr Medical Centre held on Wednesday,14 February 2024.

Minutes 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)***