***BRYNMAWR TOWN COUNCIL***

***Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council held on Wednesday, 26 February 2025 in the Council Chamber, Brynmawr Institute at 6.00pm.***

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

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

 ***Mrs. S. Morgan***

 ***E.M. Hillier***

 ***J.M. Sutton***

 ***B.M. Sutton***

 ***R.J. Hill***

***J.M. Gardner***

***G.D. Jones***

***G. Nutt***

***In Attendance: - Miss. N.J. Williams (Asst. Town Clerk).***

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***222/24 Apologies: - Mrs. A. C. Davies (Town Clerk/RFO)***

***Mrs. D. Brown***

***223/24 The Chair welcomed members to the February Meeting.***

***224/24 Declaration of Interest & Dispensations.***

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

***225/24*** ***Monthly Meeting of the Council held on 22 January 2025.***

***226/24 Corrections – None.***

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

 ***Item 148/24 – To arrange an event for the 80th Anniversary VE Day.***

Councillor Sutton informed members that the date will not be recognised as a Bank Holiday. The member also asked the Clerk to inform Ms. Alyson Tippings, BGCBC, by 01 April 2025 if the Town Council decides to commemorate the occasion so that Ms. Tippings can advertise the Town Council Event.

 It was agreed that a meeting be arranged during the first week of March 2025.

***Item 220/24 – St. Davids Day Events.***

A member informed the meeting that the Town Council St. Davids Day Event in conjunction with BGCBC, Blaen-y-cwm Primary School, St. Mary’s CW Primary School, Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg Primary School and St. Mary’s RC Primary School held on 21 February 2025 at the Market Hall Cinema was a success even though there were a few minor problems with the screen and sound system.

The Chair informed members that on Saturday, 01 March 2025 at around 10.00am he

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will be handing out Welsh cakes to the public and offering them a cup of tea from the Homestead Café on the Market Square to celebrate St. Davids Day and asked if any members will be available to help on the said morning.

***227/24 The Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 22 January 2025, having been circulated, were accepted as a true record.***

***Orders & Requisitions.***

***228/24*** Vision ICT – Website Hosting and Support for April 2024 to March 2025.

 Council moved payment of - £174.00.

***229/24*** Melrose IT – Microsoft 365, Office Applications License and Anti-Virus.

Council moved payment of - £101.23.

***230/24*** Melrose IT – Broadband and calls – 01/02/2025 to 28/02/2025.

 Council moved payment of £62.40.

***Financial Correspondence.***

***231/24*** Mr. Heath Gait, Bushido Community & Wellbeing Centre (Former Orchard

Street Community Centre).

Mr. Gait is in the process of taking over the Orchard Street Community Centre and after a few amendments to the lease to occupy he will be able to sign the document and begin applying for funding towards the full redevelopment of the property.

Mr. Gait said in the meantime he is looking for smaller funding pots to help with the clearance and preparation of the property in readiness for the redevelopment stages.

The Town Council agreed to award Mr. Gait £250.00 towards the clearance of the property. The Chair agreed to award Mr. Gait £100.00 out of his Mayors Allowance.

(LGA 1972 s.174).

***Correspondence***

***232/24*** A thank you letter was received from the Brynmawr Rotary to thank the

Brynmawr Town Council for their kind donation towards the Christmas Foodbank Hampers 2025.

 Letter noted.

***233/24*** An update on the closure of the Lloyds Bank, Brynmawr Branch.

A member said that there are basic banking facilities available in the Brynmawr Post Office but in his opinion, there is now an urgent need to upgrade the banking facilities due to there being no other high street Bank in Brynmawr.

A member explained that a relative of his used the card machine at the Brynmawr Post Office which resulted in his card not being returned from the machine. The Post Office was unable to help with the situation as it is owned by the Bank of Ireland and the Post Office has no control over it. It is inconvenient for the older generation who do not use Internet Banking or have not got access to transport etc.

The Chair said that the Brynmawr Town Council Borough Members would meet with the owner of the Post Office to discuss possibly upgrading the banking facilities soon.

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***234/24*** An update on the current situation at the Brynmawr Medical Centre.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the Medical Centre being handed back to the Health Board and congratulating the Borough Members and Councillors involved in pursuing the failings at the Medical Centre which resulted in it being handed back to the ABUHB.

It was unanimously agreed that a full investigation is still needed regarding the whole situation.

It was agreed that the Clerk contacts Ms. Nicola Prygodzicz, CEO, ABUHB, to ask who to invite to a meeting in April 2025 to give members an update on the Medical Centre.

***235/24*** A request from Councillor Morgan – Council to discuss/address the state

of Brynmawr Town and the future for its development.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding the unused telephone kiosk not being removed from Market Square, the alleyway to the car park in Beaufort Street where a bag of sand remains, and the car park is still in a terrible state.

The member said that she is mindful of budget cuts which will result in the area receiving even less services.

A member asked is the Town Centre still being linked up with the Lakeside retail Park, Brynmawr.

A member said that Johns Travel have bought the Brynmawr Bus Depo so there will be no link up to the Retail Park from this facility as it will now remain as a Bus Garage.

A member said that the path that leads past the garage toward the site could be an option to link the Town to the Retail Park and agreed to have a conversation with the appropriate Officer regarding the alternative route.

It was agreed that a meeting be arranged with Mr. David Watkins, Head of Community Services Manager, BGCBC and Ms. Karen Williams, Town Centre Manger to discuss the above issues.

***236/24*** An email received from Mr. Tom Bateman, Led Houising Engagement

Coordinator, Cwmpas – Mr. Bateman would like the opportunity to meet with members of the Brynmawr Town Council to discuss Community-Led Housing in Brynmawr.

The email stated CCH (Communities Creating Homes) is the only Community-Led Housing Hub in Wales, tasked by the Welsh Government with helping communities deliver affordable, sustainable and community-led housing.

Everybody needs a secure and affordable home. But there are over 100,000 people on social housing waiting lists in Wales, and record numbers of households are living in temporary accommodation.

Cwmpas aims to help communities take control of their own housing needs and put the right homes in the right places.

It was agreed that a meeting be arranged with CCH to receive a presentation on Community-Led Housing.

***Planning Correspondence.***

***237/24*** Planning Application – Unit H Blaenant Industrial Estate, Blaenavon

Road, Brynmawr.

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Proposed extension to the front (South elevation) of the building and

additional parking area.

The Town Council had no objection to the above planning application.

***238/24*** Planning Application – Palpung Changchub Dargyeling – 96 King Street, Brynmawr.

 Proposed erection of a single storey building for use as guest accommodation and relocation of an existing timber summer house.

The Town Council had no objection to the above planning application but expressed concerns there being a Graveyard in the said area.

***Reports.***

***239/24*** Prior to the meeting members received a copy of the Meeting held with “Smart Money Cymru” held on Wednesday, 12 February 2025.

It was agreed that a separate meeting be arranged where members can receive a paper copy of all information received from Smart Money Cymru and Mr. Paul Egan, One Voice Wales to discuss a Community Investment Bond in more depth. Report accepted.

***Salary.***

***240/24*** Council moved payment of Clerk’s Salary, Assistant Town Clerk's Salary, Tax, N.I. and Pension for the month of February 2025.

 Cheque Number BACS A.C. Davies Salary

 Cheque Number BACS N.J. Williams Salary

 Cheque Number BACS Inland Revenue Tax & N.I.

 Cheque Number BACS Torfaen CBC Pension

***Events & Tasks.***

***241/24*** Prior to the meeting each member received a copy of the St. Davids Events

Meeting Minutes which took place on Tuesday, 11 February 2024.

 Report accepted as a true record

***242/24*** It was agreed to arrange a meeting next week to discuss organising an event to celebrate 80TH Anniversary VE Day in May. It was agreed that the Clerks are given permission to pay all costs of arranging the event by BAC’s or Visa Debit Card when needed.

***243/24*** Correspondence received from Ms. Sharon Cargill, Play Sufficiency Officer, BGCBC announcing the availability of funding to support the Play Sufficiency Duty which they would like to share with Town and Community Councils. Funding of £5000 is available to support play opportunities within the local community, the funding can be used for activities taking place from 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026. Due to a limited timeframe, Sharon requested that the form be submitted by **Monday, 3rd March 2025.** Councillor Gardner agreed to fill in the form with the Clerk tomorrow at the Office.

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***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.***

***244/24*** No exempt correspondence to be discussed for the month of February 2025.

 ***There being no further business, the meeting closed at 19:30 hours.***

 ***Signed ……………………………………………***

 ***W.K. Hodgins (Town Mayor).***