***BRYNMAWR TOWN COUNCIL***

***CYNGOR TREF BRYNMAWR***

***Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council held on Wednesday, 21 June 2023 in the Council Chamber, Brynmawr Institute at 6.00pm.***

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

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

 ***P. West***

 ***E.M. Hillier***

 ***M. Broderick***

 ***J.M. Gardner***

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

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 ***Apologies:- Mrs. A.C. Davies (Town Clerk/RFO), A. Talbot,***

***Mrs. D. Brown, B.M. Sutton, J.M. Sutton,***

***G.D. Jones.***

***55/23*** The Chair welcomed members to the June Monthly Meeting of the Town Council.

***56/23 Declaration of Interest & Dispensations.***

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

***57/23 Annual Meeting of the Council held on 31 May 2023.***

***Corrections*** ***– None.***

***58/23*** ***Annual Meeting of the Council held on 31 May 2023.***

 It was moved and seconded that the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 31 May 2023 be approved.

***59/23 Monthly Meeting of the Council held on 24 May 2023.***

 ***Corrections – None.***

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

 ***Item 28/23 – Hanging Baskets for the lampposts around the War Memorial.***

A member asked whether the hanging baskets have been ordered and when will they be erected.

A member informed the meeting that the hanging baskets will be complete and ready to place around the lampposts once the Summer Fair is over.

***Item 195/22 – Meeting with Mr. Gavin Davies, Ward Manager, and the new Inspector Mr. Stevie Warden.***

A member stated that in the Minutes it was agreed to invite the new Inspector Mr. Stevie Warden and Sergeant Pigeon to the arranged meeting, which was held on Monday, 19 June 2023 where only Mr. Gavin Davies, Ward Manager and Ms. Rachel Jones CEO71, Community Officer attended the meeting.

The Clerk informed members that both Inspector Stevie Warden and Sargent Pigeon was invited to the meeting but, was unable to attend.

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***Item 33/23 – Notice Board, Market Square, Brynmawr.***

A member questioned the cost that was quoted to repair the notice board on the Market Square, Brynmawr.

A member informed the meeting that the notice board needs new perspex, suitable paint that will last and, 4 new locks. With the rising prices everything costs a lot more especially perspex.

A member suggested using the DIY shop in Brynmawr to give a local business custom.

A member said unfortunately the paint would be the only material that can be purchased there.

Councillor West agreed to seek the necessary materials needed and invoices be

forwarded to the Clerk for direct payment to the said businesses.

***Item 34/23 – Medical Centre Relaunch.***

A member asked whether a response had been received regarding the Medical Centre Relaunch.

The Clerk informed the meeting that the response email was forwarded to all members stating that Ms McCrystal is implementing small changes to test that the system works before advertising a full relaunch and hopefully will begin early September 2023.

Ms. McCrystal agreed to keep the Town Council updated with the progress.

***60/23 The Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 24 May 2023, having been circulated, were accepted as a true record.***

***Orders & Requisitions.***

***61/23 Grenke Leasing Ltd – Documentation fee and Pro-rata equipment protection for the period 04/04/23 – 31/12/23.***

 Documentation fee - £144.00, Equipment protection - £97.90

 Council moved payment of £241.90.

***62/23 IAC Audit & Consultancy Ltd – Provision of Internal Audit Services*** ***in respect of the Brynmawr Town Council’s Internal Audit 2022/2023 - £474.00.***

 It was agreed to move payment forthwith of £474.00.

 The Council approved the dates set for the Exercise of Public Rights 2022/2023.

***Financial Correspondence.***

***63/23*** Quarterly Budget Monitoring report showing expenditure from 01/04/2023 – 14/06/23. (Sent via email).

Report accepted.

***Correspondence.***

***64/23 Mr. Kevin Rose, IAC Audit and Consultancy Ltd. - Internal Auditor – Internal Audit work 2022/2023.***

Prior to the meeting each member was issued with a paper copy (via email) of the report by Mr. Kevin Rose, Internal Audit 2022/2023 together with the Audit Internal Observations summary along with the Annual Return 2022/2023.

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Mr. Rose was pleased to submit the signed Internal Report for the Brynmawr Town Council’s Annual Return 2022/2023. He has completed the Internal Audit and can confirm that he has not given a negative response for any of the internal control objectives.

The Clerk drew to the Council’s attention the observations in respect of the Year End Audit.

(Observation) Council to note that fixed amount/lump Members Allowances are taxable under PAYE. The Council to ensure that, in future, it processes such payments through its payroll system.

Council noted the observations and will be amended in due course.

Mr. Kevin Rose would like to take this opportunity to express his thanks to the Town Clerk and Assistant Town Clerk for the assistance they provided during the Internal Audit.

All members present at the Meeting agreed to approve the Annual Return 2022/2023.

The Annual Return for the year ending March 2023 was approved and accepted.

Members wished to thank the Clerk’s for their hard work to complete the Council’s Internal Audit 2022/2023.

***65/23*** Correspondence from Mr. Eifion Heap - Jewish Historical Association of South Wales

looking for venues to host an exhibition for one week to ten days between August 2023 and

January 2024.

A member suggested that the Council Chamber, Brynmawr Institute could be used to host

the exhibition for one week during recess (August) when no meetings take place.

It was agreed to offer the Chamber for one week during August and to invite Mr. Heap to

visit the Chamber prior to the exhibition so that he can see the size of the room etc. before

agreeing to host the exhibition there.

***66/23*** A thank you letter received from SSAFA, the Armed Forces charity for the Council’s kind

donation.

Letter moved.

***67/23*** Correspondence from the BGCBC - Council to nominate a representative to attend an online

workshop to help develop the Blaenau Gwent Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP).

The Welsh Government has funded work to develop Local Area Energy Plans (LAEP) for all

the Local Authority areas in Wales. The Local Area Energy Plan for Blaenau Gwent will look

at what is preferred combination of technological and system changes we can make to the

energy system, to decarbonize heat and local transport and realize opportunities for local

renewable production.

Councillor Malcolm Broderick volunteered to attend the workshop. When the Clerk informed

him the of the time and date of the workshop, Councillor Broderick said unfortunately he

would be at work and could not attend this particular workshop.

Councillor Julian Gardner agreed to attend this workshop, if any future workshops are

arranged it was agreed that Councillor Broderick would attend.

***68/23*** Correspondence from Rod King MBE, Founder and Campaign Director,

20’s Plenty for Us - Book a Q&A for your Town and Community Council.

A discussion took place regarding members concerns on the 20mph speed limit and it was agreed to book a Q&A session with Mr. Rod King, MBE, Founder and Campaign Director of 20’s Plenty.

***Reports.***

***69/23*** Planning & Urgent Matters Meeting held on 14 June 2023.

Report accepted as a true record.

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***70/23*** Finance Committee Meeting held on 14 June 2023.

Report accepted as a true record.

***71/23*** Special Meeting held with the Allotment Association held 15 June 2023 at 5.00pm at the Brynmawr Institute.

It was agreed to reinstate Allotment Committee Meetings.

Report accepted as a true record.

***72/23*** Special Meeting with Mr. Gavin Davies, Ward Manager, Gwent Police

held on Monday, 19 June 2023 at at 6.00pm at the Brynmawr Institute.

A member suggested prior to any Police Meeting a 30-minute pre meeting should be held so that members can discuss what they wish to raise to stop duplication.

A member said that the safety of women and girls is a concern around the Town now and would like to meet with Mr. Jeff Cuthbert to discuss this issue and what is being done to resolve this serious problem.

It was agreed to meet with Mr. Nick Smith, MP to listen to his opinion on Law and Order in Brynmawr.

It was also agreed to arrange a meeting with Mr. Jeff Cuthbert, Police and Crime Commissioner, Inspector Mr. Stevie Warden, Sergeant Neil Pigeon possibly in September 2023 to discuss members concerns with Anti-Social Behaviour, safety of women etc.

***73/23*** Financial Risk Assessment 2023/2024.

Risk Assessment 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.***