***BRYNMAWR TOWN COUNCIL***

***Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council held on Wednesday, 23 February 2022 via Microsoft Teams at 6.00pm.***

***Present: - Councilors Mrs. O.M. Swales (Presiding).***

***W.K. Hodgins***

***J.M. Sutton***

***R.J. Hill***

***D. Lyn Elias***

***G.D. Jones***

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

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

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***219/21 Apologies: - B.M. Sutton, J.M. Gardner, D.R. Cook, A. Talbot.***

***220/21 The Chair welcomed members to the February Meeting.***

***221/21 Declaration of Interest & Dispensations.***

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

***222/21*** ***Monthly Meeting of the Council held on 26 January 2022.***

***Corrections – None.***

***223/21Matters Arising from the Minutes.***

***Item 203/21 – Clerks working from home.***

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the inconvenience to Angela, her family and Nicola that both Clerks having to work from Angela’s home. It was agreed that Angela should receive a recompence for the use of her home. A member added there could be insurance implications if one of the Clerks harmed themselves while working from home. A member said that for a temporary solution, an office in the Tabor Chapel was offered to the Clerks. The Clerks thanked the Borough Members for seeking the office at the Tabor Chapel and explained that when they agreed to the temporary move to the building it was the day after they was removed from the Town Council Office, Orchard Street due to the building being unsafe. The Clerks said that they agreed to move to the facility on a temporary basis but when they packed/gathered everything they needed to run the Town Council on a daily basis, then realised that the room at Tabor Chapel was not big enough for their office furniture and storage of Council’s confidential correspondence.

A member said that he was disappointed that he had been informed by an Officer of the BGCBC, that they were only to deal with the Brynmawr Town Mayor regarding this matter. The Clerks said that the Town Mayor sent all the emails from Angela’s computer and none of the emails mentioned that the Mayor would deal with the matter alone.

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It was agreed that all Councillors be forwarded the emails sent between the Mayor and Mr. Mark Howland.

A member stated, that in her opinion, the Brynmawr Town Council should request to be moved back into the Town Council Office/Chamber at Orchard Street, Brynmawr once all the repairs/boiler/electrics etc. have been carried out. The member asked the Borough Members to investigate the matter. The Clerks informed the meeting that they have not received any correspondence on what is happening to the Orchard Street Office and would appreciate an update on the meeting that was held a few weeks ago regarding this matter. A member said that there is a legal situation regarding the Storm Kickboxing Academy being the Town Council’s landlord.

A member said that it could be an option that when all repairs have been done at the Orchard Street building, perhaps the Brynmawr Town Council would consider running it as a Community Centre.

A member said that all CAT’S (Community Asset Transfers) have been put on the back burner due to the Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council not having sufficient legal support (One Legal Officer who works part-time).

The Clerk informed the meeting that there could possibly be space available at the Social Services building, Brynmawr.

A member said that there are offices at the building but not enough space for a Council Chamber.

It was agreed to arrange a meeting with all members of the Brynmawr Town Council, the Clerks, Mr. Mark Howland, Community Asset Transfer Officer, Mr. Clive Rogers, Head of Community Services and Mr. Nigel Daniels, Leader, BGCBC via Microsoft Teams to discuss the future of the Orchard Street Community Centre and a permanent premises for the Brynmawr Town Council.

***Item 217/21 – Meeting with Mr. Jeff Cuthbert, Police Commissioner, and Inspector Shane***

***Underwood.***

Correspondence was received from both Mr. Cuthbert and Inspector Underwood asking Council to provide suggestions of locations to provide youth work facilities. Both the Commissioner and the Inspector would be happy to investigate it further in collaboration with the Town Council.

A member said that the ideal place would be the ground floor at the Orchard Street Community Centre and could suggest it once all works have been rectified.

A member said to email the Commissioner to ask if they have applied for the grant to change the policy to protect women and girls.

***Item 4 – Planning Meeting – Planting a tree for the Queens Jubilee.***

All member agreed that planting a tree for the Queens Jubilee was a great idea but questioned would the Town Council need to seek permission and would there be any restrictions on planting the tree at the chosen place.

A member suggested to purchase new steel/stone/slate flower boxes to be placed around the War Memorial and plaques in recognition for the Queens Jubilee.

A member suggested perhaps purchasing the boxes from a Garden Centre.

It was unanimously agreed that the boxes were a more fitting idea for the celebration of the Queens Jubilee.

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***224/21The Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 26 January 2022, having been circulated, were accepted as a true record.***

***Orders & Requisitions.***

***225 /21***Vision ICT – Website hosting and support

Council moved payment of £171.60.

***Financial Correspondence.***

***226/21***Correspondence received from Councillor D. Lyn Elias asking Council to consider a financial donation towards the replacement of the wooden cross that was placed above the Heads of the Valleys roundabout opposite the Bridgend Inn.

Councillor Elias declared an interest and left the meeting.

Council agreed that it is a great project and that a donation of £500.00 be awarded towards the replacement of the wooden cross to Libanus Chapel, Brynmawr.

Councillor Elias returned to the meeting.

***Correspondence***

***227/21*** Prior to the meeting each member received a copy of the Brynmawr Neighborhood Team update from CO17 Rachel Jones via email. Correspondence noted.

***228/21*** Prior to the meeting each member received a copy of the Section 47 Multi Locations Meetings

Sector Survey 2021 via email. Correspondence noted.

***229/21*** REMINDER – A Special Meeting has been arranged with Inspector Hannah Lawton - We Don’t Buy Crime Team for Wednesday, 16 March 2022 at 6.00pm via Microsoft Teams.

***Reports.***

***230/21*** Special Meeting with Dr. Liam Taylor and Guests, Urgent Primary Care, ABUHB held on Thursday, 27 January 2022 at 6.00pm via Microsoft Teams.

A member informed the meeting that interviews had taken place for a new Practice Pharmacist at the Brynmawr Wellbeing Centre.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding the way receptionists deals with patients, the queuing time on the telephone and the poor attitude towards patients.

It was agreed to arrange another meeting in approximately 3 months for an update from the new Practice Manager, Mr Andy Williams, Dr. Liam Taylor and Guests.

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***PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960.***