***BRYNMAWR TOWN COUNCIL***

***Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council held on Wednesday, 26 January 2022 at 6.00pm via the Microsoft Teams App.***

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

 ***B.M. Sutton***

 ***J. M. Sutton***

 ***W.K. Hodgins***

 ***R.J. Hill***

 ***A. Talbot***

 ***J.M. Gardner***

 ***D. Lyn Elias***

 ***G.D. Jones***

 ***D.R. Cook***

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

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

***Apologies: - E. M. Hillier.***

***200/21 The Chair welcomed members to the January Meeting.***

***201/21 Declaration of Interest & Dispensations.***

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

***202/21 Monthly Meeting of the Council held on 08 December 2021.***

 ***Corrections – None.***

***203/21 Matters Arising from the Minutes.***

 ***Item 183/21 – BT Broadband.***

The Clerk informed members that the Brynmawr Town Council’s BT Broadband account has now been cancelled due to the closure of the Orchard Street Town Council Office.

Once temporary/permanent premises have been negotiated by the Borough Council, Clerks will seek a new Broadband Provider.

***Item 184/21 – Grenke Leasing.***

The Clerk informed members that due to the Printer/Photocopier being on lease, payments will have to continue to be made. This was agreed.

***204/21 The Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 08 December 2021, having been circulated, were accepted as a true record.***

 ***Orders & Requisitions.***

***205/21*** BT – Broadband, line rental etc. – termination charge plus any final charges.

 Council moved payment of £18.00 for the termination charge and payment for final charges.

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***Financial Correspondence.***

***206/21*** Plenary Powers were given to the Clerks by the Town Mayor to purchase a Brother - LaserJet printer.

The Clerk explained to members that the ink in her own printer costs £24.00 which only lasted a week. To save Council having to spend that sum of money per week it was more economical to purchase a printer that uses a cartridge toner.

Printer cost - £184.99 including VAT. Council moved payment.

***207/21*** External Audit Report 2021/2022.

Prior to the meeting each member received a copy of the report via email.

Council moved to make payment once invoice received.

***Correspondence.***

***208/21*** The Brynmawr Town Council’s Annual Return 2020/2021.

Prior to the meeting each member received a copy of the Brynmawr Town Council’s Annual Return received from Wales Audit Office.

There were no matters that came to their attention which required the issuing of a separate additional issues arising report.

Council moved report and thanked the Clerks for their continued hard work.

***209/21*** A thank you letter was received from the Children’s Wales Air Ambulance for Council’s kind donation of £350.00 received on 25/11/2021.

Letter noted.

***210/21*** The Clerk reminded members that a Special Meeting had been arranged with Dr. Liam Taylor and Guests on Thursday, 27 January 2022 at 6.00pm via the Microsoft Teams App.

***211/21*** Prior to the meeting each member received a copy of the Consultation on the Local Government and Elections (Wales) act 2021: Community and Town Council’s statutory guidance via email.

The 2021 Act was passed on 20 January 2021 and provides for the establishment of a new and reformed legislative framework for the Local Government elections, democracy, governance, and performance. The legislation affects the Community and Town Council sector and the key changes.

Report moved.

***212/21***Planning Application – 1-4 McDonalds, Blaina Road, Lakeside Retail Park.

Installation of 6 no. Fascia Signs (including roof letters and the ‘M’ logo letter).

The Brynmawr Town Council had no objection to this planning application.

***213/21*** Planning Application – 22 Old Blaenavon Road, Brynmawr.

Construct rear single storey extension combined with 2 storey side extension. Also, to extend front porch and roof cover.

The Brynmawr Town Council had no objection to this planning application.

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***Reports.***

 ***Planning & Urgent Matters Meeting held on Wednesday, 12 January 2022.***

***214/21 Matters Arising.***

 ***Item 2. – Land Southwest, Factory Road, Brynmawr.***

A member stated that, there are no problems with sewage in Alma Street and Greenland Road, Brynmawr and is concerned that the Brynmawr Town Council are objecting to this planning application on hearsay. A member explained that sometime ago drainage in his rear garden had raised up by sewerage overflowing and then a few weeks later the Welsh Water had to dig the road up to fix the sewerage problem.

Another member informed the meeting that there had been a million-pound investment spent on a new pumping station that is now in operation which should prevent the sewerage

problems that have been experienced in the past. A member added that the problem is the old sewerage pipes (Victorian China) that needs renewing.

A member explained that there was an issue at the old “Tecweld” factory site where water/sewerage run through Aspen Park area, down Darenfelen Road out on to Greenland Road.

A member highlighted that sewerage is not a principal planning matter.

Members agreed that although the Water Board are still being called out to remove blockages, some of the problems have now been rectified.

***Item 4*** – A member stated that he had said in the last meeting “there was a big improvement at the Benwarr’s Fields, Brynmawr and not that it was back to its original condition”. The member informed the meeting that there will be approximately 300 trees planted around this area and suggested that perhaps the Town Council could purchase some trees to also plant in the said area.

Another member suggested planting a tree for the Queens Jubilee to take place in June 2022.

A member asked for an update regarding the planting of trees in Alma Street, Brynmawr.

A Borough member agreed to investigate this matter.

It was agreed to agenda this matter for the next Full Council Meeting in February 2022.

 The Planning & Urgent Matters Meeting was moved and accepted as a true record.

***215/21*** Annual Investment Strategy for Brynmawr Town Council 2022/2023 were accepted.

***216/21*** ***Precept Meeting 2022/2023.***

Prior to the meeting each member was issued with a copy of the Town Council's Annual Budget in support of its precept for 2022/2023 together with a 3-year forecast of the Revenue & Capital Budget.

 The Clerk predicted that the Council would require approximately £81,896.00 for 2022/2023 in order that the Council can fully function and be viable.

 It was agreed that the precept for 2022/2023 be the same as last year (0% increase).

 Precept requirements for the year 2022/2023 - £43,000.00.

 Members agreed they would give careful consideration before awarding grants to groups/organisations for 2022/2023 and to preferably determine donations to local organisations within Brynmawr.

 Risk Fund at 2022/2023 – no increase.

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

 ***Underwood.***

A discussion ensued whereby it was agreed to contact Mr. Cuthbert, Police Commissioner to get clarification on what grants were possibly available, the criteria, the timescale and how would the Town Council apply for one. The Town Mayor, Julian Gardner agreed to download all the relevant information from the website and forward it to all members. Another member suggested finding a project and then ask Mr. Cuthbert how he could help the Town Council deliver the project.

A member stated that he had forwarded emails to Inspector Underwood that he had previously sent to the owner of the Crawshay House building and is hopeful that the Inspector will be able to move the development along by contacting the owner. Another member informed the meeting that works could possibly start on the site shortly.

 ***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.***