

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**Minutes** of the meeting of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council held at The Pavilions, Cambrian Park, Clydach Vale on Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2016 at 5.00 p.m.

**PRESENT**

County Borough Councillor R.Lewis – in the Chair

**County Borough Councillors**

L.M.Adams	A.S.Fox	S.Rees
P.Baccara	P.Griffiths	S.Rees-Owen
(Mrs.)T.A.Bates	(Mrs.)E.Hanagan	(Mrs.)A.Roberts
D.R.Bevan	P.Howe	J.Rosser
J.Bonetto	J.S.James	G.Smith
S.A.Bradwick	(Mrs.)S.J.Jones	G.Stacey
J.Bunnage	(Mrs.)C.Leyshon	(Mrs.)M.Tegg
A.Calvert	S.Lloyd	R.K.Turner
S.Carter	C.J.Middle	G.Thomas
(Mrs.)J.Cass	A.Morgan	(Mrs.)J.S.Ward
(Mrs.)A.Crimmings	B.Morgan	P.Wasley
W.J.David	M.A.Norris	M.Weaver
C.Davies	I.Pearce	M.Webber
G.R.Davies	S.Pickering	E.Webster
(Mrs.)M.E.Davies	S.Powderhill	C.J.Williams
J.Elliott	K.Privett	T.Williams
S.Evans-Fear	S.Rees	C.J.Willis
M.Forey		R.Yeo

**Officers in Attendance**

Mr.C.Bradshaw – Chief Executive  
Mr.C.Lee – Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services  
Mr.G.Isingrini – Group Director, Community & Children’s Services  
Mr.P.J.Lucas – Director, Legal & Democratic Services  
Mr.T.Wilkins – Director, Human Resources  
Mr.C.Hanagan – Service Director, Cabinet & Public Relations  
Mr.P.Griffiths – Service Director, Performance & Improvement  
Ms.K.May – Head of Democratic Services

**21. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors H.Boggis, (Mrs.)A.Davies, J.Davies, (Mrs.)L.De Vet, M.Griffiths, G.Holmes, G.E.Hopkins, P.Jarman, W.L.Langford, K.Morgan, M.J.Powell, J.Rosser, R.W.Smith, B.Stephens, L.Walker, M.J.Watts, W.D.Weeks and D.H.Williams.

**22. TRIBUTES – JO COX,MP**

Members paid tributes and condolences to Jo Cox the 41 year old Labour MP for Batley and Spen, who had died on Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> June, 2016 after being stabbed and shot outside the library in Birstall, West Yorkshire.

The Mayor stated that he had signed the book of condolence that had been placed in the Municipal Buildings, Pontypridd.

Members stood in a minute's silence as a mark of respect.

**23. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**RESOLVED** – to note that there were no declarations of interest in matters pertaining to the agenda.

**24. PETITIONS**

The following Members handed to the Mayor the petitions as detailed below:-

- (1) From County Borough Councillor S.Pickering on behalf of the residents of Buarth y Capel, Ynysybwl who have bought the non-traditional properties and requesting that grant funding be sought to externally insulate the privately owned properties on the previously owned Council estate at Buarth y Capel.
- (2) From County Borough Councillor P.Wasley on behalf of the residents of Collenna Road and surrounding area in Tonyrefail raising serious concerns on the traffic situation coming down from Trebanog or raising from Tonyrefail lights is operating at speed, to such an extent that residents fear to cross the road at certain times of the day.
- (3) From County Borough Councillor I.Pearce on behalf of the residents of Treherbert calling upon the Council to carry out urgent repairs to the River wall underneath the Bridge at the top of Station Street, Treherbert.
- (4) County Borough Councillor E.Webster on behalf of the residents of Treorchy calling upon Cwm Taf Health Board to ensure that Horeb Surgery is kept open as it was believed that the surrounding surgeries were already at breaking point and would be unable to cope with the 3,000 plus patients currently registered at Horeb Surgery.
- (5) From County Borough Councillor P.Griffiths on behalf of the residents of Lon yr Awel and Heol y Coed, Pontyclun in respect of parking issues and traffic calming respectively.
- (6) From County Borough Councillor P.Griffiths on behalf of the residents of Maes-y-Felin Estate, Pontyclun regarding the appalling conditions of the roads on the estate.
- (7) From County Borough Councillor J.Bonetto on behalf of the residents of Businesses and Residents in Taffs Well mainly Cardiff Road concerning all day parking by people using the train thus causing problems for residents and affecting businesses in the area. The

possibility of `Residents Parking` on one of the street and one or two hour limited parking on the other side in order that residents/shop owners can park outside their own homes/businesses; and the possibility of the double yellow lines being removed.

## 25. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- (1) County Borough Councillor (Mrs.)T.Bates announced that following the sponsorship form that was circulated at the Council Meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2016, her daughter had completed the Marathon and the monies collected had been donated to "Wish Upon a Star" and she wished to thank Members for their contributions.
- (2) County Borough Councillor (Mrs.)E.Hanagan reported on the outstanding success of Gwynfor Dafydd, a year 13 pupil at Ysgol Llanhari and former pupil of Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Tonyrefail at the National Urdd Eisteddfod in Flint on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2016 where Gwynfor had won the prestigious Eisteddfod Chair which was an amazing feat for a school pupil in a National under 25 year old competition. Dependent on his `A` Level results Gwynfor was also heading for Cambridge University. It was agreed that a letter of congratulations be sent on behalf of the Council by the Mayor.
- (3) The Mayor announced that at the Council's Annual Meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2016 he announced his four chosen charities for the year (Minute No.4 refers). He had chosen another charity namely, `Giving to Pink Ladies` where he would be working with the Local Health Board to raise money towards a single breast unit.
- (4) County Borough Councillor A.Crimmings, Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure and Culture announced that with the support of the Police, the Council will be setting up a RCT Football Fanzone in Ynysyngharad War Memorial Park, Pontypridd for Wales' Euro 2016 quarter final match with Belgium on Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> July and will be open to the public at 6.30 p.m. Arrangements were also in place for Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> July if Wales get through to the semi finals.

## 26. **MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** – to approve as accurate records the following meetings of the Council:-

- 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2016
- Annual Council Meeting – 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2016 subject to:-
  - Minute No.4 – Adref (not Adrev) one of the chosen charities of the Mayor.
  - Minute No.14 – Calendar of Meetings, the Director of Legal and Democratic Services confirmed that adequate notice had been given to Members with the changes to the calendar for the week commencing 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2016 as a result of the schools breaking up for the summer holidays on the 20<sup>th</sup> July.
  - Minute No.20 – to confirm that County Borough Councillor J.Rosser would be replacing County Borough Councillor

K.Montague on RCT Homes and B.Stephens would replace County Borough Councillor J.Elliott.

## **27. STATEMENTS**

The Mayor gave a short statement regarding the EU Referendum and following a unanimous vote it was **RESOLVED** – to suspend Standing Orders in order to allow Members to discuss the ramifications of the EU vote.

Discussions started with the Leader of the Council outlining meetings that had taken place with Ministers and the Secretary of State and the effects on the residents of RCT such as support for Farmers, structural funds, the City Deal, flood defence, Jobs Growth Wales.

He stated that there seemed to be no urgency to invoke Article 50 and once agreed there would still remain a full two years of membership in the EU.

The Leader further stated that in his capacity as Chair of the City Deal arrangements had been made for a meeting to be held with the Secretary of State on Monday of next week (4<sup>th</sup> July) and a meeting of all Wales' Leaders had been arranged for Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> July.

Following a discussion, it was **FURTHER UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** – to publish and circulate the following Resolution of the Council:-

“The EU Referendum has seen Britain choose to leave the EU. This decision, however, must not change our vision to build an inclusive, prosperous and sustainable County Borough.

This Council – and its partners – are strongly committed to building on the history and heritage of Rhondda Cynon Taf as an area which has welcomed people from across Wales and the World to visit and settle.

Rhondda Cynon Taf is known for its inclusivity and our warm Valleys welcome, with cultural tolerance and acceptance a quality we are all proud to possess. We know our residents are rightly proud of Rhondda Cynon Taf's reputation as a community.

We are committed to building on these qualities into the future. It is essential that everyone recognises the strength that comes from our diversity and the role it plays in making Rhondda Cynon Taf a true community”.

## **REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

### **28. THE COUNCIL'S DRAFT CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT 2016/17**

In accordance with Part 1 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009, the Chief Executive attached to his report at Appendix D the Council's draft `Corporate Performance Report 2016/17` which had undergone review and challenge by three Scrutiny Working Groups, each of which had met on two occasions, the first meeting to consider the draft 2015/16 performance

evaluations and a view was formed on the extent to which they set out a balanced picture of progress and the second meeting looked at the draft 2016/17 priority action plans where a view was formed on the extent to which they were understandable and would enable progress and impact to be measured and scrutinised. The conclusions of the Scrutiny Working Groups were shown at Appendices A and B to the report, and at Appendix C were 'links' to up dated 2015/16 performance evaluations and 2016/17 priority action plans reflecting feedback received from Scrutiny Working Groups. .

Following consideration, it was **RESOLVED** – To approve the Council's draft 'Corporate Performance Report 2016/17' in accordance with Part 1 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009.

## **REPORTS OF THE DIRECTOR, LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

### **29. CHANGES TO THE MEMBERSHIP OF CWM TAF COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL**

In accordance with the decision taken by Minute No.12(2) of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on the 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2016, in his report, the Director of Legal and Democratic Services informed Members that he had received notification from the Labour Group of a change in membership of Cwm Taf Community Health Council and it was **RESOLVED** – that County Borough Councillor S.Carter replace County Borough Councillor J.Elliott on the Cwm Taf Community Health Council.

### **30. FUEL POVERTY SCRUTINY WORKING GROUP**

In his report, the Director, Legal and Democratic Services set out the findings of the Scrutiny Working Group following the Notice of Motion that was considered at the Council Meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2015 and the Interim Report of the Working Group that was presented to Council on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2015.

County Borough Councillor L.M.Adams, Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee gave his observations on the findings of the Scrutiny Working Group and indicated that Members were united in wanting to influence an agenda at a local level which they considered was primarily controlled by the "Big 6" energy companies and their pricing structures. However, to date, no single Welsh Local Authority had become a Direct Energy Supplier.

Following a discussion, it was **RESOLVED** – to agree the following recommendations of the Scrutiny Working Group as Members of the Group believed would strengthen the services available and opportunities to raise the profile of fuel poverty and help prioritise action on achieving an Affordable Warmth Strategy, which would be explored by the appropriate Cabinet Portfolio holder:-

1. To continue to work with other Local Authorities to evaluate and identify opportunities similar to Cyd Cymru;
2. To investigate opportunities for a local switching scheme or local supplier scheme in collaboration with our Social Landlords and other partners and;
3. To adopt a holistic approach in applying the appropriate focus to all aspects of a fuel poverty initiative to compliment the effective working of an Affordable Warmth Strategy.

### **31. NOTICES OF MOTION**

- (1) The following Notice of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillors B.Morgan, M.Forey, L.M.Adams, (Mrs.)T.Bates, D.R.Bevan, H.Boggis, J.Bonetto, S.Bradwick, (Mrs.)J.Bunnage, A.Calvert, P.Cannon, S.Carter, J.Cass, A.Crimmings, W.J.David, A.Davies, MBE, (Mrs.)A.Davies, J.Davies, (Mrs.)M.Davies, (Mrs.)L. De Vet, J.Elliott, S.Evans, A.Fox, M.Griffiths, P.Griffiths, (Mrs.)E.Hanagan, G.Holmes, G.Hopkins, (Mrs.)S.J.Jones, L.Langford, R.Lewis, (Mrs.)C.Leyshon, S.Lloyd, R.B.McDonald, C.Middle, K.Montague, A.Morgan, M.A.Norris, S.Pickering, S.Powderhill, K.Privett, S.Rees, (Mrs.)A.Roberts, J.Rosser, G.Smith, G.Stacey, B.Stephens, (Mrs.)M.Tegg, G.Thomas, R.K.Turner, (Mrs.)J.S.Ward, M.J.Watts, (Mrs.)M.Webber, D.Weeks, C.J.Williams, D.H.Williams, T.Williams, C.J.Willis and R.Yeo was moved and seconded:-

“Women Against State Pension Inequality”

This Council supports the Women Against State Pension Inequality (WASPI) campaign group who are campaigning against the injustice done to women born in the 1950s (on or after 6 April 1951) regarding the changes to their state pension age as a result of the Pensions Acts of 1995 and 2011.

The WASPI Campaign group have identified that:-

- Letters were sent out to women affected who were born on or after 6 April 1951 – 5 April 1953. This was 14 years after the 1995 Pensions Act was passed.
- A large percentage of these women only received a letter advising them of significant increases to their State Pension Age within 1 year (i.e. when they were 59) of their expected State Pension Age of 60. Very many others received only 2, 3, 4 and 5 years notice.
- Women were given as little as one year's notice of up to a 6 year increase to their State Pension Age, compared to men who received 6 years notice of a one year rise to their State Pension Age.
- Many women report receiving NO letter EVER.
- Others say letters were sent to the wrong address despite notifying the DWP of the address change.

This Council therefore calls upon the government to reconsider transitional arrangements for women born on or after the 6/4/1951 so that women do not live in hardship due to pension changes they were not told about until it was too late to make alternative arrangements.”

It was **RESOLVED** – to adopt the above-mentioned Motion.

- (2) The following Notice of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillors G.Smith and (Mrs.)S.Jones, L.M.Adams, (Mrs.)T.Bates, D.R.Bevan, H.Boggis, J.Bonetto, S.Bradwick, (Mrs.)J.Bunnage, A.Calvert, P.Cannon, S.Carter, J.Cass, A.Crimmings, W.J.David, A.Davies, MBE, (Mrs.)A.Davies, J.Davies, (Mrs.)M.Davies, (Mrs.)L. De Vet, J.Elliott, S.Evans, M.Forey, A.Fox, M.Griffiths, P.Griffiths, (Mrs.)E.Hanagan, G.Holmes, G.Hopkins, L.Langford, R.Lewis, (Mrs.)C.Leyshon, S.Lloyd, R.B.McDonald, C.Middle, K.Montague, A.Morgan, B.Morgan, M.A.Norris, S.Pickering, S.Powderhill, K.Privett, S.Rees, (Mrs.)A.Roberts, J.Rosser, G.Stacey, B.Stephens, (Mrs.)M.Tegg, G.Thomas, R.K.Turner, (Mrs.)J.S.Ward, M.J.Watts, (Mrs.)M.Webber, D.Weeks, C.J.Williams, D.H.Williams, T.Williams, C.J.Willis and R.Yeo was moved and seconded:-

“Miners Pension”

This Council resolves to lend its support to the UK Miners Pension Association Justice and Fair Play Campaign.

This **Association** is formed with the objective of securing justice and fair play, for every person that paid into the “Miners Pension Scheme”. Their aim is to recover funds from the government and ensure no further reductions are made upon the fund.

This Council acknowledges, that working in the Miners industry in this country was hazardous and that Miners working across Wales and UK were exposed to dangers and risks every day of their working life. On this basis 50/50 sharing of surplus is wrong and more realistic percentage which reflects the guarantors’ risk and recover all monies that rightly belong to the mineworkers of the UK should be renegotiated.

This Council therefore resolves to write to the relevant UK Government Minister outlining our objections to this continued injustice to a scheme which was intended to offer security for Miners in later life. This Council will seek to engage the support of all local Members of Parliament to highlight this injustice and support this campaign at a parliamentary level.”

**RESOLVED** – to adopt the above-mentioned Motion

**R.LEWIS**

**MAYOR**

**The meeting closed at 6.55 p.m.**