

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council held at the County Borough Council Offices, The Pavilions, Clydach Vale on Wednesday, 28th September, 2016 at 5.00 p.m.

PRESENT

County Borough Councillor R.Lewis – in the Chair

County Borough Councillors

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|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| L.M.Adams | M.Griffiths | (Mrs.)A.Roberts |
| S.A.Bradwick | P.Griffiths | J.Rosser |
| J.Bunnage | G.Holmes | G.Smith |
| A.Calvert | P.Howe | G.Stacey |
| S.Carter | P.Jarman | B.Stephens |
| (Mrs.)J.Cass | (Mrs.)S.J.Jones | G.Thomas |
| A.Crimmings | (Mrs.)C.Leyshon | L.G.Walker |
| W.J.David | S.Lloyd | (Mrs.)J.S.Ward |
| (Mrs.)A.Davies | R.B.McDonald | P.Wasley |
| C.Davies | C.J.Middle | M.Weaver |
| (Mrs.)L.De Vet | K.Montague | M.Webber |
| S.Evans | A.Morgan | E.Webster |
| S.M.Evans-Fear | B.Morgan | T.Williams |
| M.Forey | S.Powderhill | C.J.Willis |
| A.S.Fox | K.A.Privett | 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
Ms.K.May – Head of Democratic Services

42 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors D.R.Bevan, H.Boggis, J.Bonetto, A.L.Davies, MBE, J.Davies, G.R.Davies, (Mrs.)M.E.Davies, J.Elliott, (Mrs.)E.Hanagan, G.E.Hopkins, J.S.James, W.L.Langford, K.Morgan, M.A.Norris, I.Pearce, S.Pickering, M.J.Powell, S.Rees, S.Rees-Owen, R.W.Smith, (Mrs.)M.Tegg, R.K.Turner, M.J.Watts, W.D.Weeks and D.H.Williams.

43 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of personal interests in matters pertaining to the agenda.

44 WELCOME

The Mayor welcomed Ms.A.Williams, Chief Executive and Dr.C.Jones, Chairman of Cwm Taf Local Health Board and Mr.M.Jones of the Wales Audit Office to the meeting who would be addressing Members on Agenda Items 7 (Primary Care), 8 and 9 (Audit of Financial Statements) respectively.

45 MINUTES

RESOLVED – to approve as an accurate record, the minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 20th July, 2016.

46 PETITIONS

The following petitions were presented at the meeting:-

- (1) From County Borough Councillor P.Jarman on behalf of the residents of Cefnpennar and Cwmpennar highlighting the need for the playground located in The Avenue, Cefnpennar to be upgraded to 21st Century standards and to be more age appropriate to cater for the leisure needs of the children in both villages.
- (2) From County Borough Councillor P.Jarman on behalf of the residents of various locations within the Cynon Valley area, mainly Mountain Ash, Penrhiwceiber and Abercynon requesting support in keeping open the Day Centre for the elderly.
- (3) From the Mayor on behalf of the residents of Abercynon Ward requesting the introduction of a residents parking permit scheme in Upper Herbert Street and Walter Street, Abercynon.

47 ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (1) The Mayor referred to the recent bereavements of former County Borough Councillors H.Davies (Plaid Cymru) and R.G.Norman (Independent) and on receiving the news, Members stood in silence as a mark of respect.
- (2) The Deputy Leader wished to place on record her thanks on behalf of the Council to those that were involved in making the Tour of Britain a success whilst proceeding along the routes within Rhondda Cynon Taf which also received positive TV and media coverage.

48 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

- (1) From County Borough Councillor L.Walker to the Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning, County Borough Councillor (Mrs.)E.Hanagan**

“Considering the poor Estyn report on the Central South Consortium and the fact that this Council is paying £1.2 million for advice is it value for money?”

In the absence of County Borough Councillor (Mrs.)E.Hanagan at the meeting, the Mayor informed County Borough Councillor Walker that he would receive a written response, in accordance with adopted procedures.

- (2) From County Borough Councillor S.Bradwick to the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Council Business and Human Resources, County Borough Councillor M.Webber**

“Can the Deputy Leader, make a statement about the Events Programme please?”

Response from the Deputy Leader, County Borough Councillor M.Webber

“Despite savings in this area, we are continuing to offer an extensive events programme such as the `Big Bite` in Pontypridd which attracts a wide range of people”.

Supplementary Question from County Borough Councillor S.Bradwick

“The Tour of Britain, I thought was fantastic and the atmosphere was great and my school was involved. Can you provide any information on any future events which are to take place in our town centres?”

Response from the Deputy Leader, County Borough Councillor M.Webber

“The Tour of Britain was a huge success, We recognise the positive impact such events have on traders. I am delighted to confirm that the Council will be supporting events in town centres at Christmas and we will also be holding events in the Rhondda Heritage Park”.

- (3) From County Borough Councillor S.Powderhill to the Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure and Culture, County Borough Councillor A.Crimmings**

“Can the Cabinet Member please make a statement about the Ponty Lido, the National Lido of Wales?”

Response from County Borough Councillor A.Crimmings

“It has been a success. Over 70,000 visitors from across Rhondda Cynon Taf and beyond. We have had some fantastic visits including the Royal visit. Over 18,000 of those visitors paid for the activities so a lot of money was raised which was higher than predicted in the Business Plan and it is putting RCT on the map.”

Supplementary Question from County Borough Councillor S.Powderhill

“I am in agreement about the positives. What I am disappointed with is the continual attitude of certain opposition Members, they continue to make potshot remarks about the lido. Do you share my concern on the future of the lido, should there be a change in the administration?”

Response from County Borough Councillor A.Crimmings

“One hundred thousand visits – if people looked at social media and the book then everything is fantastic, either they fail to see or don’t want to see the success, so if there was a political change then it would be a threat to the lido.”

(4) From County Borough Councillor S.Carter to the Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Tourism and Planning, County Borough Councillor R.Bevan

“Will the Cabinet Member please provide an update on the development of the former Taff Vale Precinct?”

(5) From County Borough Councillor R.Yeo to the Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Tourism and Planning, County Borough Councillor R.Bevan

“What is the Council doing to promote itself as a visitor destination for tourists?”

In the absence of County Borough Councillor R.Bevan at the meeting, the Mayor informed County Borough Councillors S.Carter and R.Yeo that they would receive written responses, in accordance with adopted procedures. In response to a query from a Member, the Mayor also stated that the written responses in respect of the questions as shown at (1), (4) and (5) above, would be emailed to all Members.

49 PRIMARY CARE – CWM TAF LOCAL HEALTH BOARD

Members received Ms.A.Williams, Chief Executive and Dr.C.Jones, Chairman of Cwm Taf Local Health Board.

Ms.A.Williams outlined the challenges of GP recruitment which is affecting the whole of the UK and the changes this has brought about to Primary Care and its workforce.

She reported on funding that had been made available to Cwm Taf Local Health Board, which was being used for the recruitment of GPs under the following two initiatives:-

- To develop a targeted recruitment for GPs in the Rhondda. Working with the University to increase the number of Medical Students in the hope that if trained in South Wales they will stay in the locality.
- Primary Care Support Unit – support and working alongside Practices.

Dr.C.Jones commented on the relationships that have developed with Treorchy Comprehensive School, again promoting the initiatives that are in place to open doors for new recruits within the Health Service. Training medical students in the community is a programme that he is working towards with Cardiff University.

Following many questions that were asked by Members and duly responded to by Ms.A.Williams and Dr.C.Jones, the Mayor thanked them both for their attendance and they left the meeting.

REPORTS OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR

50 (1) AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REPORT – RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

(2) AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REPORT – RHONDDA CYNON TAF PENSION FUND

Mr.M.Jones of the Wales Audit Office presented the above-mentioned reports to the Council.

Following his presentation, Mr.Jones formed Council that he had received an objection to the accounts from a member of the public, which had not been upheld the audit certificates on the accounts could therefore be issued. and the accounts can be closed. this objection was currently being investigated.

RESOLVED to receive and note the contents of the two reports.

REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR, CORPORATE & FRONTLINE SERVICES

51 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2016

The Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services presented the Council with the Statement of Accounts for the financial year ended 31st March 2016 and following consideration thereof, it was **RESOLVED** –

- (1) To approve and note the Statement of Accounts for the financial year 2015/16 (Appendix 1) and associated Letters of Representation of the Authority (Appendix 2) and Pension Fund (Appendix 3).

- (2) To approve and note the audited final out-turn position for the council with regard to the financial year 2015/16 and the level of General Fund Balances.
- (3) To note the considerations and comments of the Audit Committee on 12th September 2016, as required by the Local Government Measure.

REPORTS OF THE DIRECTOR, LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

52 CHANGE TO THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE RESERVE FORCES AND CADETS ASSOCIATION (OUTSIDE BODY)

In accordance with the decision taken by Minute No.12(2) of the Council Meeting held on the 25th May, 2016, the Director, Legal and Democratic Services informed the Council that he had received notification from County Borough Councillor C.Middle of his resignation as a representative from the Outside Body – Reserve Forces and Cadets Association.

RESOLVED – That County Borough Councillor M.A.Norris be nominated to replace County Borough Councillor C.Middle on the Reserve Forces and Cadets Association (Outside Body).

53 2018 REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES IN WALES - INITIAL PROPOSALS

The Director, Legal and Democratic Services attached to his report at Appendix 1 a copy of the initial proposals of the Boundary Commission for Wales in respect of the 2018 review of Parliamentary Constituencies in Wales which was published on the 13th September, 2016 and he sought the Council's comments in relation thereto which were to be made by the deadline of the 5th December, 2016.

RESOLVED – That a Working Group comprising 10 Members (5 Labour, 2 Plaid Cymru, 1 Independent, 1 Democratic Alliance (DAG) and County Borough Councillor P.Baccara (unallocated)) be established to give consideration to the proposals of the Boundary Commission for Wales as shown at Appendix 1 and the feedback therefrom be presented to Council at its meeting to be held on the 30th November, in order that a response can be made by the deadline of the 5th December, 2016.

54 WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS (WALES) ACT, 2015 – SCRUTINY OF CWM TAF PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD

In his report, the Director, Legal and Democratic Services sought the Council's endorsement of the establishment of a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise the Cwm Taf Public Services Board as commended by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting held on the 26th September, 2016.

The Director, Legal and Democratic Services reported that in accordance with Minute Nos. 9.6(3) and (4) respectively of the Annual Meeting of the Council

held on the 25th May, 2016, meetings had been held with colleagues in Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council to investigate the possibility of creating a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise the Cwm Taf Public Services Board. The joint approach would avoid duplication of time and resources of the individual authorities designated Scrutiny Committees.

Set out in the report were details of the statutory provisions relating to scrutiny together with the proposed terms of reference of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Following a discussion, it was **RESOLVED –**

- (1) To endorse the recommendations as set out in (2) – (4) below, as commended by Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- (2) To agree to the creation of a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee comprising elected Members of both Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Councils to scrutinise the Cwm Taf Public Services Board;
- (3) To agree that in the absence of any statutory guidance for Scrutiny of Public Service Boards, the establishment of the Joint Scrutiny Committee be in accordance with the requirements of Section 58 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure, 2011, regulations and guidance;
- (4) To agree the draft terms of reference as set out in Appendix 2 to the report, and that the Director, Legal and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be given delegated authority to finalise/amend the terms of reference in accordance with the parameters set out herein;
- (5) That when this Authority is to be nominated the position of Chair of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the matter be reported back to a meeting of the Council to ascertain whether the post is to be paid.

55 NOTICE OF MOTION

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

“This Council calls upon Lloyds Banking Group to protect town centre branches in any future operational plans it may consider as part of its recently announced (July, 2016) restructure proposals.

This Council considers banks to be a key part of our town centres and the wider High Street economy. Ensuring all residents continue to have access to banking services should be fundamental in any potential restructuring plans considered by Lloyds Banking Group P.L.C. Promotion of internet banking does not achieve this objective and disenfranchises many Rhondda Cynon Taf residents from access banking and financial services.

This Council believes all banks have a wider social responsibility to continue supporting high street branches in our communities”.

Following consideration of the matter, it was **RESOLVED** – to adopt the Notice of Motion.

56 FOR INFORMATION – URGENT KEY OFFICER DELEGATED DECISIONS – EXCLUDED FROM “CALL-IN”

Members were informed that since the implementation date of the changes to the Council’s Scheme of Delegation as agreed at the AGM in May, 2016, the following urgent Key Officer Delegated Decisions had been taken which were excluded from “Call-In”:-

- Cymmer Primary School – Instrument of Government
- Welsh Government’s Town Centre Repayable Funding Scheme

RESOLVED – to note the information.

R.LEWIS

MAYOR

The meeting closed at 7.12 p.m.