

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, Cambrian Park, Clydach Vale on Wednesday, 20th September, 2017 at 5 p.m.

PRESENT

County Borough Councillor M.Tegg – Mayor

County Borough Councillors

L.M.Adams	H.Fychan	W.Owen
S.Belzak	E.George	D.Owen-Jones
D.R.Bevan	D.Grehan	S.Pickering
J.Bonetto	M.Griffiths	S.M.Powell
S.A.Bradwick	J.Harries	S.Rees
J.Brencher	L.Hooper	S.Rees-Owen
A.Calvert	P.Howe	A.Roberts
G.Caple	G.W.Hughes	J.Rosser
A.Chapman	J.James	G.Stacey
A.G.Cox	P.Jarman	E.S.Stephens
A.Crimmings	G.Jones	G.P.Thomas
J.L.Cullwick	K.L.Jones	W.Treeby
G.R.Davies	W.Jones	L.G.Walker
J.R.Davies	R.Lewis	M.O.Weaver
A.Davies-Jones	W.Lewis	M.Webber
L.De Vet	C.Leyshon	E.Webster
S.Evans	D.Macey	D.H.Williams
S.M.Evans-Fear	A.Morgan	J.Williams
M.Fidler Jones	K.Morgan	T.Williams
M.Forey	S.Morgans	C.J.Willis
A.S.Fox	M.Norris	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.C.B.Jones – Director, Legal & Democratic Services
Mr.T.Wilkins – Director, HR
Mr.C.Hanagan – Director, Cabinet & Public Relations
Ms.K.May – Head of Democratic Services

42 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors H.Boggis, M.Diamond, J.Elliott, G.Holmes, S.Powderhill, M.J.Powell, R.Smith, R.K.Turner and G.D.G.Williams.

43 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED – to note that in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct no declarations of interest were made at the meeting pertaining to the agenda.

44 PETITIONS

The following three petitions were handed to the Mayor at the meeting by:-

- (1) County Borough Councillor L.Hooper on behalf of the residents of Tonteg requesting the introduction of traffic calming/speed reduction measures on Church Road, Tonteg.
- (2) County Borough Councillor A.Chapman on behalf of the residents of Dumfries Street, Treorchy requesting that action be taken to improve or renew the pavements to Dumfries Street, Treorchy.
- (3) County Borough Councillor E.Stephens on behalf of the residents of Gelli requesting that traffic calming measures be put in place in Alexandra Road and Tudor Road, Gelli.

45 ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (1) County Borough Councillor L.Walker announced the achievement of Ysgol Ty Coch, Tonteg, which is a day special school catering for children with severe learning difficulties and those with autism, in gaining a `double excellent` judgement by Estyn in June of this year. The Headteacher, Mr.D.Jenkins had only been in post since September, 2015 and during that time he had also changed the senior leadership team. During the time of the inspection, Mr.D.Jenkins was also employed as a temporary executive Headteacher in another special school within Rhondda Cynon Taf

Councillor Walker also thanked the Mayor for making a recent visit to the school, where the children were overwhelmed and proud that she took the time to meet with them.

- (2) County Borough Councillor M.Webber informed Members that following the large amount of money that was raised last year in `Giving to Pink` a collection box was being circulated at this meeting should Members and Officers wish to make a donation to aid the bespoke cancer unit at the Royal Glamorgan hospital.
- (3) The Mayor wished to place on record her thanks to the staff and those who nd attended her civic day which was held on Thursday, 14th August, 2017 in contributed in making it an enjoyable and memorable event.

46 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED – to approve as an accurate record the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 19th July, 2017.

47 **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

- (a) From County Borough Councillor J.James to the Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Development & Housing (County Borough Councillor D.R.Bevan)**

“Can the Cabinet Member make a statement on the importance of statutory consultation during the planning application process?”

Response from County Borough Councillor D.R.Bevan

“Thank you Councillor James for your quality question. You are all aware that statutory consultation in terms of planning applications is an important part for Members. The regulations are set out in the Town and Country Planning Order, 2012 and subsequent 2016 amendment Order”.

Supplementary Question from County Borough Councillor J.James

“One of the statutory consultees is Cwm Taf Health Board, whilst they don't get consulted on all applications however, on those that they do, they have never responded. Does the Cabinet Member share our disappointment of this and what steps would you undertake to ensure that they engage more appropriately in the future?”

Response from County Borough Councillor D.R.Bevan

“Another very good question from Councillor James. We all see the planning reports and very often statutory consultees are invited to make comments and don't respond and very often the Planning Committee get `late letters`. In respect of Cwm Taf we will contact them to ask why this doesn't take place as the statutory obligations are on the bodies themselves”.

- (b) From County Borough Councillor L.Hooper to the Leader of the Council (County Borough Councillor A.Morgan)**

“Will the Cabinet Member provide an update on the progress made on projects funded by the Community Infrastructure Levy?”

Response from County Borough Councillor A.Morgan

“Just to update Members, the current position as at the end of the 2016/17 financial year was £291,828 which was the balance of the strategic CIL income. The Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations requires the Council to publish an Infrastructure List known as the 123 List. The infrastructure

projects contained on the 123 List maybe fully or partly funded by the CIL. There is a time lag, and therefore, for example, the recent works undertaken on the A4119 was through a Section 106 agreement.

Supplementary Question from County Borough Councillor L.Hooper

“I pay tribute to the Council on the work undertaken regarding the Talbot Green roundabout, everyone will share my wishes as this will make a big difference. With this in mind, as the Leader would’ve seen that I handed in a petition earlier, calling for the introduction of traffic calming measures in Tonteg. These calls for traffic measures are nothing new as a letter was sent to residents from the Council in 1998 stating “your request has been previously noted and added to the list of schemes”. These measures have been promised before and have not been delivered. Can I ask that these long awaited measures will be put in place and added to the CIL scheme?”

Response from County Borough Councillor A.Morgan

“The works on the A4119, everyone is grateful for. It is the intention of this Authority to make further improvements from Coedely down to the M4 through a package of interventions. In terms of the letter, it was five years before I was a Councillor. The Church Village by-pass wasn’t open, so the situation would’ve considerably changed.

If you cost up all traffic calming schemes, it runs up to a couple of million pounds. We do spend a considerable amount in terms of our own capital funding and a number of improvements were made to the highways through such funding when former Councillor Hanagan was the Cabinet Member with this area of responsibility. We have invested in safe routes to schools on top of the Welsh Government road safety grant. These are all assessed on accident cluster data. There are lots of schemes that should not be funded e.g. a cul de sac with only 22 houses and then there are also lots of schemes that we would like to fund but we have to work on the accident cluster feeder.

(c) From County Borough Councillor G.R.Davies to the Cabinet Member for Adult and Children’s Community Services (County Borough Councillor G.Hopkins)

“Will you make a statement on services for the elderly in RCT?”

Note: The Mayor informed Members that in the absence of Councillor G.Hopkins a response would be made in writing.

(d) From County Borough Councillor G.Caple to the Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Development & Housing (County Borough Councillor D.R.Bevan)

“What is the Council doing to attract inward investment and create regeneration opportunities?”

Response from County Borough Councillor D.R.Bevan

“Thank you Councillor Caple for this. It’s a shame we couldn’t have a long debate on this. The evidence we are seeing on this is that there is a commitment for a strong and sustainable community which is there. There is a report being considered at tomorrow’s meeting of Cabinet on strategic sites, including housing, employment opportunities and further sites that we would like to bring on. That is the level of commitment we want to give and for the future generations. There will be benefits from the Valleys Task Force and the City Deal and the Leader of this Council chairs both bodies. There is a lot of work to do and we won’t rest until we have done this for the county and its inhabitants”.

Supplementary Question from County Borough Councillor G.Caple

“I am glad that the Council is so pro active. How will towns in the Rhondda expect to benefit from the Council’s approach?”

Response from County Borough Councillor D.R.Bevan

“I refer to town centres. We would like to wipe out car parking charges, particularly in Tonypany which has seen an increase in footfall with the works that have already been undertaken e.g. the improvements to shop fronts and pedestrian access. We did hold a meeting with traders to outline the proposals and they were welcomed and further discussions will be held as the works are progressing. We won’t rest until we get it right”.

(e) From County Borough Councillor J.Bonetto to the Cabinet Member for Council Business (County Borough Councillor M.Webber)

“Will the Cabinet Member make a statement on the council’s approach to creating employment opportunities for young people?”

Response from County Borough Councillor M.Webber

“I am pleased to say that we have a strong record of creating employment opportunities for young people. We run a diverse range of programmes, including childcare and job fairs. Over a thousand people attended the job fair held in March of this year and there is another one taking place in Aberdare next week which will offer the ideal opportunity for prospective employees to find out more about our Apprenticeships and Graduate schemes and to meet some other employers such as the Armed Forces. The Council’s Apprenticeships and Graduate schemes have seen 171 people being employed, this year the Council took on a further 45 people through these schemes and it is hoped that over this Council term over 100 positions will be created”.

Note: There was no supplementary question that Councillor Webber needed to respond to.

REPORTS OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR

- 48 (1) **AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REPORT – RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**
- (2) **AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REPORT – RHONDDA CYNON TAF PENSION FUND**

Mr.J.Herniman of the Wales Audit Office presented the above-mentioned reports to the Council.

Following a discussion and to many queries that were clarified by Mr.Herniman and the Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services, it was **RESOLVED** - to receive and note the contents of the two reports.

REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR, CORPORATE & FRONTLINE SERVICES

- 49 **STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2017**

The Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services presented the Council with the Statement of Accounts for the financial year ended 31st March 2017 and following consideration thereof, it was **RESOLVED** –

- (1) To approve and note the Statement of Accounts for the financial year 2016/17 (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 2016/17 and the level of General Fund Balances, as outlined in paragraph 7.4 of the report.
- (3) To note the considerations and comments of the Audit Committee at the meetings held on the 11th July and 4th September, 2017, as required by the Local Government Measure, as outlined in paragraphs 10.2 and 10.3 of the report.
- (4) That following the accounts now being finalised, the Leader of the Council requested that the Section 151 Officer undertakes a review of earmark reserves and other funding opportunities as part of the Council's normal budget setting processes and to report back to Members.
- (5) That on behalf of the Members, the Officers and staff concerned were thanked for the work undertaken in ensuring that the Council's finances remain in a healthy position.

JOINT REPORT OF THE SECRETARY TO THE CABINET AND THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

50 WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION: ELECTORAL REFORM IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN WALES – DRAFT RESPONSE

In accordance with Minute No. 41 of the Council Meeting held on the 19th July, 2017, the Secretary to the Cabinet and the Head of Democratic Services attached to their joint report the comment/views expressed by Members at meetings of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Appendix A) held on the 30th August and the Cabinet Working Group (Appendix B) held on the 5th September, 2017 together with a draft response as shown at Appendix C in respect of the above Welsh Government Consultation Paper.

Following a lengthy discussion when Members were informed that separate individual and Party Group responses could be made to the Welsh Government, it was **RESOLVED** –

- (1) To note the contents of the findings of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and the Cabinet Working Group at meetings held on the 30th August and 5th September, 2017 respectively.
- (2) To agree the draft response as shown at Appendix C to the report.

Note: County Borough Councillors S.Belzak, A.Chapman, A.G.Cox, J.L.Cullwick, G.R.Davies, J.R.Davies, H.Fychan, D.Grehan, L.Hooper, J.James, P.Jarman, W.Jones, D.Macey, K.Morgan S.Rees-Owen, E.S.Stephens, M.O.Weaver and J.Williams wished to have their names recorded to the fact that they voted against the motion in agreeing to the draft response.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

51 INTERIM REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY WORKING GROUP DEALING WITH FREE SANITARY PROVISIONS IN SCHOOLS

Following consideration of the Notice of Motion at the meeting of Council held on the 19th July, 2017 (Minute No.40 refers), the Director, Legal & Democratic Services provided Members with an interim report of the Scrutiny Working Group that had been established to deal with `Free Sanitary Provisions in schools`.

He reported that at the meeting of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee held on the 26th July, 2017, a Working Group was established to consider the said Notice of Motion. The first meeting of the Working Group was held on the 31st August, 2017 and comprised County Borough Councillors S.Rees-Owen (Chair), W.Lewis (Vice-Chair), A.Calvert, H.Fychan, J.Brencher and S.Evans (mover to the amended Notice of Motion). At the meeting Members were informed that whilst the interim report states that the mover and seconder to the Notice of Motion namely Councillors E.Stephens and G.R.Davies were in attendance at the inaugural meeting of the Working Group, they had submitted their apologies for absence.

The Director, Legal & Democratic Services reported on the interim findings of the Working Group and the proposed next steps.

RESOLVED –

- (1) To receive the interim report of the Scrutiny Working Group.
- (2) To receive a further report outlining the findings and recommendations of the Scrutiny Working Group to a future meeting of the Council.

52 NOTICES OF MOTION

- (1) **RESOLVED** – to note that the Notice of Motion submitted in the names of County Borough Councillors J.James, L.Hooper, M.Diamond and K.L.Jones had been withdrawn by the said Members as the matter in respect of “Dying to Work” is to be considered by Cabinet at its meeting being held tomorrow (21st September, 2017).
- (2) The following Notice of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillors G.Thomas and G.Caple was considered:-

“This Council supports the NJC pay claim for 2018 submitted by UNISON, GMB and Unite on behalf of the Council and School workers.

Council calls for the immediate end of public sector pay cap to ensure NJC pay is not allowed to fall further behind other parts of the public sector.

This Council welcomes and supports the joint review of the NJC pay spine to remedy the turbulence caused by bottom-loaded pay settlements.

This Council calls upon the UK Government to provide full funding to Wales to fund a decent pay rise for NJC employees and the pay spine review and to end cuts to funding for Wales’ public sector.

This Council therefore resolves to:

- Call immediately on the LGA to make urgent representations to Government to fully fund the NJC claim and the pay spine review and notify us of their action in this regard.
- Write to the Prime Minister and Chancellor supporting the NJC pay claim and seeking full funding for a decent pay rise and the pay spine review.
- Meet with local NJC union representatives to convey support for the pay claim and the pay spine review.”

At the meeting, the Mayor announced that in accordance with paragraph 10.4.1 of Part 4 of the Council’s Constitution the following amendment to the Notice of Motion had been received from County Borough Councillors P.Jarman, J.Williams, E.S.Stephens, D.Grehan, E.Webster, H.Fychan, G.R.Davies and M.O.Weaver:-

“This Council supports the NJC pay claim for 2018 submitted by UNISON, GMB and Unite on behalf of the Council and School workers.

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This Council welcomes and supports the joint review of the NJC pay spine to remedy the turbulence caused by bottom-loaded pay settlements.

This Council calls upon the UK Government to provide full funding to Wales to fund a decent pay rise for NJC employees and the pay spine review and to end cuts to funding for Wales’ public sector.

The Council therefore resolves to:

- Call immediately on the “WLGA and” the LGA to make urgent representations to “Welsh Government” and Government to fully fund the NJC claim and the pay spine review and notify us of their action in this regard.
- Write to the Prime Minister and Chancellor supporting the NJC pay claim and seeking full funding for a decent pay rise and the pay spine review
- Write to the First Minister supporting the NJC pay claim and call on him to lift the 1% Public Sector Pay Cap for workers in all devolved public sectors.
- Meet with local NJC union representatives to convey support for the pay claim and the pay spine review”.

Following a discussion, the vote was taken in respect of the Amended Notice of Motion which was lost and following the vote taken in respect of the original Notice of Motion which was carried, it was **RESOLVED** – to adopt the original Notice of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillors G.Thomas and G.Caple.

M.TEGG

MAYOR

The meeting closed at 7.07 p.m.