

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**SIXTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Minutes** of the Sixteenth Annual General Meeting of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council held at the County Borough Council Offices, The Pavilions, Clydach Vale on Wednesday, 25 May 2011 at 5.00 p.m.

**PRESENT**

**County Borough Councillors**

L.M.Adams	(Mrs) M.E.Davies	C.Middle
D.E.B.Arnold	(Mrs) L.De Vet	A.Morgan
S.Assiratti	G.Evans	M.A.Norris
P.Baccara	S.M.Evans-Fear	M.J.Powell
(Mrs) T.A.Bates	M.Forey	K.A.Privett
J.J.Bell	A.S.Fox	M.Rea
D.R.Bevan	(Mrs) E.Hanagan	(Mrs) A.Roberts
L.Bouchard	E.L.Hancock	G.J.Roberts
S.A.Bradwick	A.E.Hobson	R.Roberts
J.G.Bunn	G.Holmes	R.W.Smith
M.Burtonwood	G.E.Hopkins	(Mrs) M.Tegg
P.Cannon,QPM	J.V.Huish	R.K.Turner
(Mrs) J.Cass	J.S.James	E.A.Walters
(Mrs) A.Crimmings	P.Jarman	(Mrs) J.S.Ward
W.J.Daniel	C.J.Jones	M.J.Watts
W.J.David	I.Jones	(Mrs) M.Webber
A.L.Davies,MBE	(Mrs) S.J.Jones	W.D.Weeks
(Mrs) A.Davies	(Mrs) C.Leyshon	C.J.Williams
C.Davies	S.Lloyd	D.H.Williams
G.R.Davies	(Mrs) C.Ludlow	H.E.Williams
H.E.Davies	R.B.McDonald	J.Williams
		C.J.Willis

**Officers in Attendance**

Mr.K.Griffiths – Chief Executive  
Mr.G.Jones – Group Director, Environmental Services  
Mr.E.Williams – Group Director, Community & Children's Services  
Mr.P.J.Lucas – Director, Legal & Democratic Services  
Mr.C.Bradshaw – Acting Director, Education & Lifelong Learning  
Mr.C.Hanagan – Head of Strategy

**1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors A.Christopher, S.G.Farr, S.Gregory, E.Jenkins, (Mrs) J.Jenkins, K.Morgan, R.Moses and G.Stacey.

**2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

**3 RETIRING MAYOR'S REMARKS**

The retiring Mayor, County Borough Councillor S.Lloyd, opened the meeting and addressed Members on his year of office. County Borough Councillor Lloyd spoke of the highlights of the year that he felt had helped raise the profile of Rhondda Cynon Taf. Councillor Lloyd thanked Members and Officers for their invaluable support and also thanked all who had contributed and supported his charities.

**4 ELECTION OF MAYOR OF RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL FOR THE 2011-2012 MUNICIPAL YEAR**

**RESOLVED** that County Borough Councillor (Mrs) S.J.Jones be elected as Mayor of the County Borough for the 2011-2012 municipal year.

Following her election, the retiring Mayor presented County Borough Councillor (Mrs) S.J.Jones with her chain of office.

The Mayor's Consort, Mr.Emrys Jones, was then presented with the Mayor's Consort chain of office.

On taking the chair, the Mayor stated that it was a privilege and an honour to take on the appointment and she would undertake her duties to the best of her ability and in a manner appropriate to the role.

The Mayor announced that her chosen charities for the year would be:

- (1) Cwm Taff Crossroads (RCT)
- (2) RCT Special Needs
- (3) Rhondda Power House Trust
- (4) Mid Rhondda Amateur Operative Society
- (5) Colstars Youth Theatre (Cynon Valley)
- (6) GTFM Radio (Taff-Ely)

The Mayor was congratulated on her appointment by the Council.

The Mayor thanked Members for their kind words and paid tribute to the retiring Mayor.

The retiring Mayor was commended for all his hard and efforts during his term of office.

**5 APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR OF RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL FOR THE 2011-2012 MUNICIPAL YEAR**

**RESOLVED** that County Borough Councillor D.H.Williams be appointed as Deputy Mayor of the County Borough for the 2011-2012 municipal year.

Upon his appointment, the Mayor presented the Deputy Mayor with his change of office and his Consort, Mrs.Carol Williams, was then presented with her chain of office.

Both the Deputy Mayor and his Consort were congratulated on their appointments.

**6 APPOINTMENTS OF A YOUTH MAYOR AND A DEPUTY YOUTH MAYOR OF RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL FOR THE 2011-2012 MUNICIPAL YEAR**

**RESOLVED** to note the appointments of Lewis Jevons as the first Youth Mayor and Jenna Claridge as the first Deputy Youth Mayor for Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council for the 2011-2012 municipal year.

The Youth Mayor was presented with his chain of office and addressed the Council on his appointment. He stated that it was an honour to represent the young people of Rhondda Cynon Taf and to be the very first Youth Mayor for the County Borough.

The Deputy Youth Mayor then addressed the Council stating that she was honoured to take on her new role and she looked forward to working alongside Lewis and to being a great ambassador for the youth within Rhondda Cynon Taf.

The Mayor congratulated Lewis and Jenna on their appointments and stated that she was looking forward to working closely with them over the coming year.

**7 MAYOR'S REMARKS**

The Mayor introduced The Reverend Robin Wood as her Chaplain and presented him with his chain of office. The Mayor's Chaplain then said a prayer and blessed the Mayor's year of office.

**(Note:** At this point in the proceedings, the Mayor vacated the Chair in favour of the Deputy Mayor to attend to her guests).

**8 APPOINTMENT OF LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER**

**RESOLVED** that County Borough Councillor R.Roberts be appointed Leader of the Council and that County Borough Councillor A.Christopher be appointed as Deputy Leader of the Council.

**9 LEADER'S SCHEME OF EXECUTIVE DELEGATIONS**

The Leader announced there would be no changes to his Cabinet Members and their individual portfolios. Full details of his scheme of executive delegations would be made available following the meeting.

**10 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

In his report, the Director, Legal & Democratic Services sought Members' approval of proposed amendments to the Constitution.

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

- (1) To note the position regarding the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 and to receive further reports as and when parts of the Measure are brought into force.
- (2) That no allowance be paid to the voting co-opted member of the Crime and Disorder Committee.
- (3) To adopt the Council Procedure Rule set out in paragraph 6.2 of the report with regard to photographs and recording of meetings and the Constitution be amended accordingly.
- (4) To adopt the procedure set out in paragraph 7.6 of the report at Area Planning Committees when dealing with "household" applications only.
- (5) To allocate the 20 Notices of Motion for the year 2011-2012 as required by Council Procedure Rule 10(2)(a) as follows:-  
  
Labour – 8  
Plaid Cymru – 7  
W.L.D.A. – 2  
Independents – 2  
County Borough Councillor J.G.Bunn – 1
- (6) That the time required for Notice of Questions by Members at Council/Committees/Sub-Committees be the same as that required for Motions on Notice and the Constitution be amended accordingly.

**(Note:** County Borough Councillors S.Evans-Fear, M.Rea and J.Williams wished to have recorded that they voted for the following lost amendment to the motion:

- (a) Not to adopt the Council Procedure Rule set out in paragraph 6.2 of the report with regard to photographs and recording of meetings;
- (b) Not to adopt the procedure set out in paragraph 7.6 of the report at Area Planning Committees when dealing with “household” applications;
- (c) Not to agree that the time required for Notice of Questions by Members at Council/Committees/Sub-Committees be the same as that required for Motions on Notice.

**Note:** County Borough Councillor M.J.Powell wished to have recorded that he voted against the motion to adopt the procedure set out in paragraph 7.6 of the report at Area Planning Committees when dealing with “household” applications).

**11 MEMBERS’ DATA PROTECTION AND REGISTRATION OBLIGATIONS WITH THE INFORMATION COMMISSIONER’S OFFICE**

In his report, the Director, Legal & Democratic Services sought the Council’s approval to allow him to co-ordinate, process and administer, Members’ registration and notification as “data controllers” with the Information Commissioner for the reasons outlined and following consideration of the matter, it was **RESOLVED** –

- (1) That the Director, Legal & Democratic Services co-ordinate, process and administer, on an annual basis, Members’ registration and notification as “data controllers” with the Information Commissioner.
- (2) That the Council pay Members’ annual registration and notification fee of £35.00.

**12 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2011-2012**

**RESOLVED** –

- (1) To appoint the following Committees of the Council for the municipal year 2011-2012:

**Regulatory Committees**

- (a) Co-ordinating Development Control Committee (x75)
- (b) Licensing Committee (x15)

**Other Committees**

- (c) Overview & Scrutiny Committee (x17)
  - (d) Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee (x17)
  - (e) Education & Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee (x17)
  - (f) Community & Children's Services Scrutiny Committee (x17)
  - (g) Environmental Services Scrutiny Committee (x17)
  - (h) Audit Committee (x15)
  - (i) Appointments Committee (x5)
  - (j) Appeals/Employee Appeals/Chief Officer Appeals Committee (x5)
- (2) That as a Member voted against the proposal to appoint the Cynon Area Development Control Committee which resulted in non-compliance with Section 17 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the following non-politically balanced Committees cannot not be appointed:

Rhondda Area Development Control Committee (x25)  
Cynon Area Development Control Committee (x21)  
Taff-Ely Area Development Control Committee (x29)

and the Director, Legal & Democratic Services be requested to submit a report to the next meeting of the Council on alternative options available.

**(Note:** County Borough Councillors L.M.Adams, (Mrs) T.A.Bates, D.R.Bevan, L.Bouchard, S.Bradwick, P.Cannon, (Mrs) J.Cass, (Mrs) A.Crimmings, W.J.David, A.L.Davies, (Mrs) A.Davies, (Mrs) M.E.Davies, (Mrs) L. De Vet, M.Forey, A.S.Fox, (Mrs) E.Hanagan, G.Holmes, G.Hopkins, C.Jones, I.Jones, C.Ludlow, R.B.McDonald, (Mrs) C.Leyshon, C.Middle, A.Morgan, M.Norris, K.Privett, (Mrs) A.Roberts, G.Roberts, R.Roberts, R.Smith, (Mrs) M.Tegg, R.K.Turner, (Mrs) J.S.Ward, M.J.Watts, (Mrs) M.Webber, D.Weeks, C.J.Williams, D.H.Williams and C.J.Willis wished to have recorded that they voted in favour of the appointing the non-politically balanced Cynon Area Development Control Committee (x21))

### **13 POLITICAL BALANCE**

In his report, the Director, Legal & Democratic Services advised Members of the outcome of the annual review of the Political Balance of the Authority which took account of the changes of membership to the Political Groups as reported at the last meeting of the Council.

Following consideration of the up to date position in this matter, it was **RESOLVED** –

- (1) That the scheme for the allocation of seats to the different political groups and bodies to which Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 applies, as detailed below, be adopted:-

		<b>Labour</b>	<b>Plaid</b>	<b>WLDA</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Unallocated</b>
<b>Members</b>	75	48	18	5	3	1
<b>All Members</b>						
Council	75	48	18	5	3	1
Co-ordinating Development Control	75	48	18	5	3	1
	<i>Total</i>					
<b>Political Balance</b>	<b>Seats</b>					
Licensing	15	10	4	1	0	
Overview & Scrutiny	17	11	4	1	1	
Audit	15	10	4	1	0	
Appointments	5	3	1	1	0	
Appeals	5	3	1	1	0	
<b>Group Directorate Scrutiny Committees</b>						
Community & Children's Services	17	11	4	1	1	
Environmental Services	17	11	4	1	1	
Corporate Services	17	11	4	1	1	
Education & Lifelong Learning	17	11	4	1	1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>

**OTHER BODIES SUBJECT TO POLITICAL BALANCE**

<b>Total Seats</b>		<b>Labour</b>	<b>Plaid</b>	<b>WLDA</b>	<b>Ind</b>
3		2	1	0	0
4		3	1	0	0
5		3	2	0	0
6		4	2	0	0
7		4	2	1	0
8		5	2	1	0
9		5	2	1	1

- (2) That the Director, Legal & Democratic Services be authorised to make appointments to politically balance bodies upon receipt by him as Proper Officer, of notification of the wishes of the political groups subject, in the case of subsequent requests for amendment of membership of Committees, being referred to Council.
- (3) That Members of the Executive be not eligible for appointment of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, Scrutiny Committees and the Audit Committee.

**14 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2011-2012**

**RESOLVED -**

- (1) That the Members listed below be appointed for the municipal year 2011-2012:

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Vice-Chairman</b>
Co-ordinating Development Control	R.B.McDonald	C.J.Middle
Licensing	E.Jenkins	A.S.Fox
Overview & Scrutiny	R.K.Turner	Vacancy
Corporate Services Scrutiny	G.Stacey	(Mrs) A.Roberts
Education & Lifelong Learning Scrutiny	(Mrs) J.Cass	A.L.Davies,MBE
Community & Children's Services Scrutiny	W.L.Langford	M.J.Watts
Environmental Services Scrutiny	(Mrs) C.Leyshon	(Mrs) A.Crimmings
Audit	E.L.Hancock	D.Weeks
Appointments	(Mrs) T.Bates	C.Jones
Appeals/Employee Appeals/Chief Officer Appeals Committee	G.Holmes	G.Roberts

- (2) To appoint County Borough Councillor M.A.Norris as the Scrutiny Performance Management Co-ordinator for 2011-2012.

**(Note:** In protest of the appointment of the Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee from within the Council's ruling

Group, Members of the Plaid Cymru, W.L.D.A. and Independent Groups indicated they would not be taking up the seats allocated to them on the Overview & Scrutiny Committee)

**Note:** County Borough Councillor M.J.Powell wished to have recorded that he voted against the appointment of County Borough Councillor R.K.Turner as Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee).

**15 APPOINTMENT OF QUASI JUDICIAL BODIES/AD HOC COMMITTEES FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2011-2012**

**RESOLVED –**

- (1) That the under-mentioned Members be appointed to the following politically balanced Quasi-judicial Bodies/Ad Hoc Committees:

**Local Education Authority Governors (Appointments) Committee (5 Members)**

County Borough Councillors L.M.Adams, W.J.Daniel, M.Forey, (Mrs) E.Hanagan and R.Moses

**Voluntary Early Retirement Panel (5 Members)**

County Borough Councillors D.E.B.Arnold, S.Bradwick, K.Privett, M.Rea and C.J.Willis,

- (2) To appoint County Borough Councillors A.Christopher, R.Roberts, (Mrs) M.Webber and C.J.Willis (4 Members) to the (non-politically balanced) Joint Consultative Committee.

**16 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2011-2012**

The Director, Legal & Democratic Services sought the Members' approval of the proposed calendar of meetings for the municipal year 2011-2012 as set out in the Appendix to his report.

The Director, Legal & Democratic Services corrected a typing error in paragraph 5.2 (page 14 of his report) in that the Council meeting to be convened to set the Council Tax levels for 2012-12 would be held on 29 February and not 29 March as stated.

The Director, Legal & Democratic Services advised the Council that in addition to the Committees listed in the Appendix, a special meeting of the Cabinet would take place on Monday, 6 June 2011 at 4 p.m. to consider urgent business.

- (1) To note the contents of the report.
- (2) To agree the proposed Calendar of Meetings for the municipal year 2011-2012.

**17 APPOINTMENTS TO NON-EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEES 2011-2012**

**RESOLVED** that the under-mentioned Members be appointed to the following non-executive Joint Committees for the municipal year 2011-2012:-

**Combined Fire Authority for South Wales**

County Borough Councillors S.Bradwick, W.J.Daniel, (Mrs) S.J.Jones and G.Stacey

**Brecon Beacons National Park Authority**

County Borough Councillor (Mrs) J.S.Ward

**18 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

**RESOLVED** that the under-mentioned Members be appointed to the following Outside Bodies:-

**Education & Lifelong Learning Group**

1. **Pontypridd Museum Advisory Committee** (Annual Term)  
County Borough Councillors D.E.B.Arnold, (Mrs) T.Bates, (Mrs) J.Cass, (Mrs) C.Leyshon, D.H.Williams
2. **Bro Dysg** (Annual Term)  
County Borough Councillor (Mrs) E.Hanagan
3. **Welsh Books Council** (3 Years Term)  
County Borough Councillor (Mrs) M.E.Davies

**Corporate Services Group**

4. **Consortium Local Authority Wales (C.L.A.W.)** (Annual Term)  
County Borough Councillors (Mrs) A.Davies
5. **Investment and Advisory Panel** (Pensions (Annual Term)  
County Borough Councillors R.Roberts and C.J.Willis
6. **Joint Council for Wales** (Annual Term)  
County Borough Councillors G.Holmes and C.J.Willis

7. **Welsh Local Government Association** (Annual Term)  
County Borough Councillors A.Christopher, A.Morgan, (Mrs)  
E.Hanagan, R.Roberts and C.J.Willis
8. **Welsh Local Government Association Co-ordinating Committee** (Annual Term)  
County Borough Councillor R.Roberts  
Substitute: County Borough Councillor A.Christopher
9. **Wales Co-op Centre Board** (Annual Term)  
County Borough Councillor P.Cannon,QPM
10. **Edward Thomas Charity** (Annual Term)  
County Borough Councillors D.E.B.Arnold, A.L.Davies,MBE,  
A.S.Fox and S.Gregory

#### **Community & Children's Services Group**

11. **Age Concern Cymru** (Annual Term)  
County Borough Councillor M.Forey
12. **Cynon Valley Indoor Bowls Committee** (Annual Term)  
County Borough Councillor A.Morgan
13. **Capital Region Tourism Limited** (Annual Term)  
County Borough Councillor D.R.Bevan
14. **Rhondda Cynon Taf Community Arts – Executive Committee**  
(Annual Term)  
County Borough Councillor D.R.Bevan
15. **Wales Home Safety Council** (Annual Term)  
County Borough Councillor D.Weeks
16. **Rhondda Cynon Taf Community Chest** (3 Years Term)  
County Borough Councillors (Mrs) A.Crimmings, E.Jenkins and  
R.W,Smith
17. **RCT Homes** (3 Years Term)  
County Borough Councillors S.Bradwick, G.J.Roberts and  
M.J.Watts

#### **Environmental Services Group**

18. **The Alliance** (Annual Term)  
County Borough Councillors G.J.Roberts, (Mrs) J.S.Ward and  
D.Weeks

19. **Tower Colliery Liaison Committee** (Annual Term)  
County Borough Councillors S.Bradwick, (Mrs) A.Crimmings,  
I.Jones and B.Morgan.
20. **Groundwork in Rhondda Cynon Taf Board of Management**  
(3 Years Term)  
County Borough Councillors C.J.Middle, R.W.Smith and M.J.Watts

**19 SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2010-2011**

The Council was presented with the Scrutiny Annual Report for 2010-2011.

The Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, County Borough Councillor R.K.Turner, outlined the progress made over the last twelve months and following a discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to note the report.

**S.LLOYD**  
Retiring Mayor

**(MRS) S.J.JONES**  
Mayor

**D.H.WILLIAMS**  
Deputy Mayor

The meeting terminated at 7.20 p.m.