

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the extraordinary meeting of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council held at the County Borough Council Offices, The Pavilions, Clydach Vale on Wednesday, 26 November 2014 at 5 p.m.

PRESENT

County Borough Councillor M.J.Watts – in the Chair

County Borough Councillors

L.M.Adams	M.Forey	S.Pickering
(Mrs) T.A.Bates	A.S.Fox	K.A.Privett
D.R.Bevan	M.Griffiths	(Mrs) A.Roberts
J.Bonetto	P.Griffiths	J.Rosser
S.A.Bradwick	(Mrs) E.Hanagan	G.Smith
A.Calvert	G.Holmes	R.W.Smith
P.Cannon,QPM	G.E.Hopkins	G.Stacey
S.L.Carter	P.Howe	B.Stephens
(Mrs) J.Cass	P.Jarman	(Mrs) M.Tegg
A.Crimmings	(Mrs) S.J.Jones	R.K.Turner
W.J.David	W.L.Langford	G.P.Thomas
A.L.Davies,MBE	R.Lewis	L.G.Walker
(Mrs) A.Davies	(Mrs) C.Leyshon	P.Wasley
C.Davies	S.Lloyd	M.O.Weaver
G.R.Davies	R.B.McDonald	M.Webber
(Mrs) M.E.Davies	A.Morgan	T.Williams
(Mrs) L. De Vet	B.Morgan	C.J.Willis
J.Elliott	M.A.Norris	R.A.Yeo
S.M.Evans	I.Pearce	

Officers in Attendance

Mr.C.Lee – Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services
Mr.G.Isingrini – Group Director, Community & Children’s Services
Mr.C.Bradshaw – Director, Education & Lifelong Learning
Mr.P.J.Lucas – Director, Legal & Democratic Services
Mr.T.Wilkins – Director, Human Resources
Mr.C.Hanagan – Service Director, Cabinet Office & Public Relations

86 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors J.Bunnage, S.M.Evans-Fear, J.S.James, K.Montague, K.Morgan,

S.Powderhill, M.J.Powell, S.Rees, S.Rees-Owen, (Mrs) J.S.Ward, W.D.Weeks and D.H.Williams.

87 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no personal interests declared in matters pertaining to the agenda at this point in the proceedings.

88 PETITION

County Borough Councillor P.Cannon,QPM presented the Mayor with a petition, on behalf of residents of Bronllwyn Road, Gelli, requesting further highway improvements in their area.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

89 FORMAL RESPONSE TO THE WELSH GOVERNMENT VOLUNTARY MERGER PROSPECTUS

In his report, the Chief Executive provided Members with details of the Voluntary Merger Prospectus published by the Minister for Public Services in September 2014 which required feedback on any expressions of interest by 28 November 2014.

The Service Director, Cabinet Office reported that the Cabinet, at its meeting on 2 October 2014, had considered the Voluntary Merger Prospectus and had authorised the Council Leader and the Chief Executive to approach neighbouring local authorities to seek expressions of interest to consider the rationale for merging as set out in the Prospectus. It had also been agreed that these discussions should inform the formal decision of the Council in response to the Minister.

Following the Cabinet's decision, the Council Leader formally wrote to the local authorities listed in the report seeking views on whether an expression of interest to consider a voluntary merger was appropriate and the Cabinet met on the 20 November 2014 to consider the outcome and discuss the response to be presented to the Minister.

The report presented to the Cabinet at its meeting on 20 November 2014 was attached to the Chief Executive's report as Appendix 1 and the Service Director, Cabinet Officer outlined the Cabinet's decisions thereon and the draft response to the Minister was attached to the report as Appendix 3, for consideration.

The Service Director, Cabinet Office informed the Council that the Council Leader had met with the Leader of Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council

on 25 November 2014 and as a result, the draft response to the Minister had been amended to reflect the outcome of the meeting and the revised version was circulated to Members at the meeting, for their consideration.

Following lengthy consideration of the matter, it was **RESOLVED** –

- (1) To note the decision of the Cabinet at its meeting on 20 November 2014.
- (2) To endorse the recommendations agreed by Cabinet as set out in Appendix 1 to the report including the contents of the revised response letter to the Minister circulated at the meeting.

(Note: The following lost amendment to the motion was put forward by County Borough Councillor P.Jarman and seconded by County Borough Councillor G.R.Davies:

“That the penultimate and last paragraphs of the response letter (Revised Appendix 3 refers) be amended to read as follows:

‘This Council therefore intends to explore the potential for collaborating on services more closely with the City and County of Cardiff Discussions at an Officer level are already taking place on this matter. Nonetheless, despite the positive response recently received from Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council, this Council will not have formal discussions with Merthyr Council on any voluntary merger’.

Note: County Borough Councillors C.Davies, G.R.Davies, P.Jarman, I.Pearce, L.G.Walker, P.Wasley and M.O.Weaver wished to have recorded that they voted in favour of the lost amendment to the motion).

(Note: In accordance with the Code of Conduct, County Borough Councillor S.Pickering declared a personal interest in the above-mentioned matter – “I work for Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council, it is also a prejudicial interest and I will leave the meeting for the item).

**M.J.WATTS
MAYOR**

The meeting terminated at 5.50 p.m.

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