

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, 20th July 2016 at 5.00 p.m.

PRESENT

County Borough Councillor R. Lewis – in the Chair

County Borough Councillors

(Mrs) T.A. Bates	M. Griffiths	S. Rees
D.R. Bevan	P. Griffiths	S. Rees-Owen
H.Boggis	(Mrs) E. Hanagan	(Mrs) A. Roberts
J.Bonetto	G.Holmes	G. Smith
S.A. Bradwick	G.E. Hopkins	R.W. Smith
J. Bunnage	J.S. James	G. Stacey
A. Calvert	P. Jarman	B. Stephens
P. Cannon, QPM	(Mrs) S.J. Jones	(Mrs) M. Tegg
S.L. Carter	W.L. Langford	G.P. Thomas
(Mrs) J. Cass	(Mrs) C.Leyshon	L.G. Walker
A. Crimmings	C.J. Middle	(Mrs) J.S.Ward
W.J. David	A. Morgan	P. Wasley
C. Davies	B. Morgan	M.J. Watts
(Mrs) M.E. Davies	I. Pearce	M.O. Weaver
(Mrs) L. De Vet	S. Pickering	E. Webster
J. Elliott	S. Powderhill	W.D. Weeks
S. Evans	M.J. Powell	D.H. Williams
S.M. Evans-Fear	K.A. Privett	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

32 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors L.M. Adams, P. Baccara, A.L.Davies, MBE, (Mrs) A. Davies, J. Davies, G.R. Davies, A.S. Fox, P. Howe, S. Lloyd, R.B. McDonald, K. Montague, K. Morgan, M.A. Norris, J. Rosser, R.K. Turner, M. Webber and T. Williams.

33 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

34 PETITION

County Borough Councillor S. Pickering presented the Mayor with a petition on behalf of residents of Robert Street, Ynysybwl requesting the provision of Resident Parking in Robert Street.

35 ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (1) County Borough Councillor M. Forey referred to the recent bereavement of former Plaid Cymru Member, Ray Davies, who had served as a member of the County Borough Council from 1999 to 2004 and on receiving the news, Members stood in silence as a mark of respect.
- (2) The Mayor thanked everyone involved in the recent Royal Visit to The Lido in Pontypridd. The Mayor announced that the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall had been impressed with the facilities at The Lido and had also commented on how well their visit had been organised and co-ordinated. The Mayor wished to place on record his personal thanks to the Events Team for all their hard work in organising the event and his comments were endorsed by the Council.
- (3) County Borough Councillor B. Smith informed the Council of National Awards recently presented to the Council's CCTV and Trading Standards Sections and in recognition of their success the Mayor announced that he would convey the Council's congratulations to both Sections.
- (4) County Borough Councillor P. Jarman informed the Council that "Rociale", a Company based in Mountain Ash, had recently organised a 'Say Goodbye to Sepsis' Guinness World Record attempt. Councillor Jarman stated that she had witnessed the event and was confident that it would succeed in becoming a new World Record. In response, the Mayor stated he would convey the Council's congratulations to the Company.

36 MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve as an accurate record, the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 29th June 2016.

37 STATEMENT BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

The Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan, wished to remind Members that as part of the Highways Investment Programme improvement works were shortly to commence on the Rhigos Mountain road. The mountain road would be closed from 25th July 2016 for a period of three weeks and the public were being made aware via social media, public notices

and signage. The Leader urged Members to share this information with business organisations in their areas. The Leader recognised that there would be significant disruption caused as a result of the road works but as it was the school holiday period, traffic would be lighter.

38 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

(1) From County Borough Councillor J.S. James to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan

Will the Leader of the Council make a statement on the important role that 'questions on notice' had in allowing Councillors to properly scrutinise the decisions of both the Cabinet and Council?

Response from Leader of the Council

First of all I would like to agree with Councillor James, the function to allow Members to ask questions of the Executive is important and is supported. The previous administration brought this in, it has been in being for quite some time and it is important that all Members from any Political Party have the opportunity to ask the Executive questions at full Council meetings.

Supplementary Question from County Borough Councillor James

As we all know, we are limited to five questions per meeting but I note that in January, the Labour Group submitted nine questions, in February eleven questions, in March seventeen and in April eleven questions. Does the Leader of the Council share my concerns that by flooding the ballot box, it deprives Opposition Members to properly scrutinise decisions of the Council?

Response from the Leader of the Council

Back benchers from any side of the Chamber have the right to ask questions, call the Executive to account and challenge any questions about any Council business. If you want to try and make questions much more balanced, I would suggest that Members of the Opposition, including you Councillor James, put in questions. I understand this is the first question you have put in since 2008. This is the first question you have put in, in eight years. Perhaps you should submit some questions.

(2) From County Borough Councillor S. Carter to the Leader of the Council, County A. Morgan

Will the Leader kindly make a statement on the number of visitors who have attended the Lido so far this season?

Response from the Leader of the Council

Since the Lido opened this year, about ten weeks ago, I can confirm that based on last night's figures the total attendance up to today is 37,000. We had 24,000 in total last year so since opening, attendance is in the region of 60,000. We are certainly on course to exceed what was put into the Business Plan for attendances. One thing I would say is, I know a number of Members raised questions around free entry this year but this has been hugely beneficial and has boosted numbers with more people hiring inflatables raising income so we are no worse off.

Supplementary Question from County Borough Councillor S. Carter

I am sure, or hope, that all Members would agree about what a success the Lido has been. It is important to build on its success so what opportunities are there to build on its success in the future.

Response from the Leader of the Council

On the wider Park, I have to pay a compliment to the Regeneration and Leisure Teams who have been discussing potential additional investment and we will explore further opportunities for the Park.

Members have agreed to significant proposals being put forward to take forward the Taff Vale site. As part of this, we are looking at a new footbridge to the Park. We are also in conversations with Welsh Government, Heritage Lottery and other ventures around potential opportunities and I look forward to further reports coming forward to Cabinet and the Council.

(3) From County Borough Councillor (Mrs) M.E. Davies to the Cabinet Member for Prosperity, Well-Being and Communities, County Borough Councillor J. Rosser

What communication has the Council received from the Cwm Taf UHB in respect of Primary Health Care delivery?

In the absence of County Borough Councillor J. Rosser at the meeting, the Mayor informed County Borough Councillor Davies that she would receive a written response, in accordance with adopted procedures.

39 ANNUAL IMPROVEMENT REPORT 2015-16 – RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Mr Colin Davies of the Wales Audit Office presented the Council's Annual Improvement Report for 2015-16.

Mr. Davies highlighted the key points in the report which concluded that:

- with a strong corporate focus upon the effective use of its resources, supported by strengthened service planning and governance arrangements, the Council was well placed to overcome some significant challenges
- the Council was strengthening its arrangements for managing improvement and had achieved improvement in its schools and children's services but it had significant challenges to overcome in preparation for the implementation of the Social Services and Well Being (Wales) Act.
- the Council maintains a strong corporate focus upon the effective use of its resources but recognises that there was scope to clarify planning and reporting arrangements to provide assurance that its improvement priorities inform decisions regarding resource allocation.
- the Council continues to strengthen its governance arrangements and as making progress in addressing proposals for improvement but further work was needed in order for it to evaluate the impact of service change.

During the presentation, a Member raised a query as to why the report before the Council was a draft version issued in May 2016 and not the final version which had been published by the Wales Audit Office in June 2016. In response, Officers confirmed that there was no material difference between the document marked "Draft" and the final version of the Annual Report published on the Wales Audit Office website.

Following consideration of the information before them, Members **RESOLVED** to note the report.

40 **2016/17 ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REVIEW AND AMENDMENT TO THE 2016/17 INVESTMENT STRATEGY**

In his report, the Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services provided Members with information on:

- the Council's Treasury Management activity during 2015/16; and
- the actual Prudential and Treasury Indicators for 2015/16.

Members were also advised of a proposed amendment to the Investment Strategy for 2016/17 and following consideration of the report, it was **RESOLVED** –

(1) To note the contents of the report.

(2) To approve the amendment to the Investment Strategy for 2016/17.

41 **NOTICE OF MOTION**

The following Notice of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillors (Mrs) E. Hanagan, A. Morgan, R.B. McDonald, (Mrs) A. Roberts, L.M. Adams, (Mrs) T. Bates, D.R. Bevan, H. Boggis, J. Bonetto, S. Bradwick,

(Mrs) J. Bunnage, A. Calvert, P. Cannon, QPM, S. Carter, J. Cass, A. Crimmings, W.J. David, A. Davies, MBE, (Mrs) A. Davies, J. Davies, (Mrs) M.E. Davies, (Mrs) L. De Vet, J. Elliott, S. Evans, M. Forey, A. Fox, M. Griffiths, P. Griffiths, G. Holmes, G. Hopkins, (Mrs) S.J. Jones, W.L. Langford, R. Lewis, (Mrs) C. Leyshon, S. Lloyd, C.J. Middle, K. Montague, B. Morgan, M.A. Norris, S. Pickering, S. Powderhill, K. Privett, S. Rees, 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, M. Webber, D. Weeks, C.J. Williams, D.H. Williams, T. Williams, C.J. Willis and R. Yeo:

“This Council objects against the closure of Lloyds Bank, Tonyrefail and the lack of consultation with the community.

This closure is likely to have a major impact on footfall and as a result may potentially harm the local economy of Tonyrefail.

This Council requests opportunities to offer banking services through local Post Office branches or other community facilities are considered before progressing with this decision.

It is clear that this move is part of your direction to push personal banking online but many people in Tonyrefail do not have access to the internet or do not wish to use this to access their money and manage their finances. A reconsideration of the decision is required in the interest of the wider community.

This Council seeks again to place on record its objections to the strategy being adopted by the banking sector to withdraw their high street presence.”

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

**R. LEWIS
MAYOR**

The meeting terminated at 6.45 p.m.