

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

RECONVENED NINETEENTH ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Reconvened Nineteenth Annual Meeting of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council held at the County Borough Council Offices, The Pavilions, Clydach Vale on Wednesday, 28 May, 2014 at 5.00 p.m.

PRESENT

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

County Borough Councillors

L.M.Adams	J.S.James	R.W.Smith
(Mrs) T.A.Bates	P.Jarman	B.Stephens
D.R.Bevan	R.Lewis	(Mrs) M.Tegg
J.Bonetto	(Mrs) C.Leyshon	R.K.Turner
S.A.Bradwick	S.Lloyd	L.G.Walker
A.Calvert	C.J.Middle	(Mrs) J.S.Ward
P.Cannon,QPM	K.Montague	P.Wasley
S.Carter	A.Morgan	M.Weaver
A.Crimmings	B.Morgan	M.Webber
(Mrs) A.Davies	K.Morgan	E.Webster
C.Davies	M.A.Norris	W.D.Weeks
G.R.Davies	I.Pearce	C.J.Williams
J.Elliott	S.Pickering	D.H.Williams
S.M.Evans-Fear	M.J.Powell	T.Williams
M.Forey	S.Rees	C.J.Willis
A.S.Fox	(Mrs) A.Roberts	R.Yeo
(Mrs) E.Hanagan	J.Rosser	
G.E.Hopkins	G.Smith	

Officers in Attendance

Mr.S.Merritt – Chief Executive
Mr.C.Bradshaw – Director, Education & Lifelong Learning
Mr.T.Wilkins – Director, Human Resources
Mrs.J.Cook – Director, Regeneration & Planning
Mr.C.B.Jones – Service Director, Legal & Democratic Services
Mr.N.Wheeler – Service Director, Streetcare
Mr.R.Gatis – Service Director, Community Care
Mr.C.Hanagan – Head of Strategy, Public Relations & Tourism

11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors P.Baccara, H.Boggis, J.Bunnage, (Mrs) J.Cass, A.L.Davies, MBE, (Mrs) M.E.Davies, M.Griffiths, P.Griffiths, G.Holmes, P.Howe, (Mrs)

S.J.Jones, W.L.Langford, R.B.McDonald, K.A.Privett, S.Rees-Owen and G.Thomas.

12 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the reconvened Annual Council Meeting and announced for information purposes, that only questions from Members in relation to the business of the Annual Council Meeting would be allowed and that questions on any other unrelated matter would not be considered at the meeting.

On behalf of the family of the late Councillor Anthony Christopher, the Mayor then took the opportunity to thank the Members and Officers who had attended his funeral last week.

13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

14 APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR OF RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL FOR THE 2014/2015 MUNICIPAL YEAR

With reference to Minute No.6 (Annual Council Meeting, 21 May 2014), the Mayor invited County Borough Councillor G.E.Hopkins to make a statement regarding his recent appointment as Deputy Mayor.

County Borough Councillor Hopkins informed the Council that he was resigning his position of Deputy Mayor with immediate effect to allow for a new Deputy Mayor to be appointed at this meeting.

Upon receiving this news, the Mayor invited the Council to put forward nominations for the post of Deputy Mayor for the 2014/15 municipal year and it was **RESOLVED** to appoint County Borough Councillor B.Stephens to the post of Deputy Mayor of the County Borough for 2014/15.

Upon his appointment, the Deputy Mayor was presented with his chain of office and his Wife/Consort, Mrs. Barbara Stephens, was then presented with her chain of office. Both were congratulated on their appointments.

15 APPOINTMENTS OF A YOUTH MAYOR AND A DEPUTY YOUTH MAYOR OF RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL FOR THE 2014/2015 MUNICIPAL YEAR

The Mayor announced that as the Youth Participation Conference had not yet taken place, this item would be deferred to a future meeting.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the position in this matter.

16 **APPOINTMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

RESOLVED that County Borough Councillor A. Morgan be appointed Leader of the Council and to note that County Borough Councillor P.Cannon,QPM is appointed Deputy Leader of the Council.

County Borough Councillor A.Morgan spoke on his role as the new Leader and thanked Members for supporting his appointment.

In response, County Borough Council Morgan was congratulated on his appointment and wished well in his new role. The Deputy Leader was also congratulated on his appointment.

17 **LEADER'S SCHEME OF EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS**

The Leader of the Council announced his new Cabinet, comprising 9 Members (including himself) and their individual designations, as follows:

- Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Safer Communities, Tourism and Heritage - County Borough Councillor P. Cannon,QPM
- Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Planning – County Borough Councillor D.R.Bevan
- Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure & Sport – County Borough Councillor A.Crimmings
- Cabinet Member for Health & Adult Social Services – County Borough Councillor M.Forey
- Cabinet Member for Education & Lifelong Learning – County Borough Councillor E.Hanagan
- Cabinet Member for Children's Social Services and Equalities – County Borough Councillor G.Hopkins
- Cabinet Member for Service Delivery, Communities and Housing – County Borough Councillor K.Montague
- Cabinet Member for Council Business and Corporate Affairs – County Borough Councillor M.Webber

The Leader informed the Council that full details of the portfolios of the individual Cabinet Members would be circulated to all Members in due course.

REPORTS OF THE DIRECTOR, LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

18 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

In his report, the Director, Legal & Democratic Services sought the Council's approval of amendments to the Constitution and following consideration of the proposals, it was **RESOLVED** –

Allocation of Notices of Motion

As required by Council Procedure Rule 10(2)(a), to allocate the 20 Notices of Motion for the 2014/15 municipal year as follows:

Labour – 11
Plaid Cymru – 5
Independent Group – 2
Democratic Alliance Group – 1
Unallocated Member (1) - 1

`Working Days` for Questions and Notices of Motions

(1) To amend Council Procedure Rule 9.4(a) to read as follows: -

- (a) the question has been received by the Proper Officer not later than 5.00 p.m. at least eight clear working days (not including the date of the meeting) before the date of the meeting; or

(2) To amend the final bullet point of Council Procedure Rule 10.1(b) to read as follows:-

- received by the Proper Officer not later than 5.00 p.m at least eight clear working days (not including the date of the meeting) before the date of the meeting or, in any case where the Mayor certifies that the subject matter is urgent and at the meeting gives reasons for its urgency, delivered to the Proper Officer before the start of the meeting.

Scrutiny Call-In

To amend Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 17.1 in accordance with paragraph 6.5 of this report subject to it being noted that all Council Members will be sent copies of records of the Executive Decisions.

Remote Attendance

- (1) To amend the Council's Constitution and rules of procedure to prohibit remote attendance by Members at meetings of the

Authority but that this position be reviewed at the next Annual Meeting.

- (2) In accordance with the requirements of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 relating to remote attendance, to amend the Council's Constitution and rules of procedure to confirm that there is no quorum for a meeting of the authority at any time when the number of Members in actual attendance constitutes less than 30% of the total number of Members in attendance at the meeting.

Webcasting

To refer the matter of "Webcasting" to the Democratic Services Committee for consideration.

Corporate Governance and Constitution Committee

To note the work undertaken during the last municipal year by the Corporate Governance and Constitution Committee as set out in paragraph 9 of this report particularly in relation to the new Welsh Model Constitution.

The Council's Contract Procedure Rules

To adopt the Contract Procedure Rules as set out in Appendix 2 to this report.

Pre Scrutiny

To note the developments in relation to pre-scrutiny as set out in paragraph 11 of the report.

Freedom of the County Borough Working Group

To formally establish a Freedom of the County Borough Working Group, comprising the Mayor (Chair), the Leaders of each political group and the Cabinet Member for Council Business and Public Relations and agree that the recommendations of the Working Group presented to Council must be unanimous.

Nomination of deputy Section 151 Officer

To note that Chris Lee, Group Director - Corporate Services (in his capacity as Section 151 Officer) has nominated Barrie Davies, Director of Finance to act as deputy Section 151 Officer in his absence.

and that the Director of Legal and Democratic Services amend the Council's Constitution to reflect the required amendments and make any consequential changes.

(Note: Prior to consideration being given to the report outlining the proposed amendments to the Constitution, the following motion was moved by County Borough Councillor M.J.Powell and seconded by County Borough Councillor J.S.James and upon being put to the vote was lost:

“To suspend Council Procedure Rules to allow a motion to be put forward to suspend the closure of Rhydyfelin Library”.

Note: County Borough Councillors (Mrs) T.Bates and M.Webber wished to have recorded that they abstained from voting on the above-mentioned lost motion).

(Note: The following lost amendment was moved by County Borough Councillor L.Walker and seconded by P.Wasley:

“That the Independent Group be allocated 3 Notices of Motion for the 2014/15 municipal year”

Note: County Borough Councillor M.J.Powell wished to have recorded that he abstained from voting on the above-mentioned lost amendment)

(Note: The following lost amendment was moved by County Borough Councillor M.J.Powell and seconded by County Borough Councillor J.S.James:

“That for the 2014/15 municipal year, the 20 Notices of Motion be available to all Members of the Council and not allocated to specific Groups subject to a maximum of two Notices of Motion being allowed at each Council meeting”)

(Note: The following lost amendment was moved by County Borough Councillor M.J.Powell and seconded by County Borough Councillor J.S.James:

“That webcasting be made available and properly put into place for the all meetings held in the Council Chamber to enable all those unable to attend the venue to view the proceedings”).

19 ARRANGEMENTS IN RESPECT OF DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE(S)

In his report, the Director, Legal & Democratic Services requested the Council to consider what arrangements it wished to adopt in respect of the discharge of the Authority’s development control functions.

The Director, Legal & Democratic Services outlined the background to the matter and the recommended proposal for undertaking the development control functions during the 2014-15 municipal year.

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

- (1) To appoint a politically balanced Development Control Committee comprising 18 Members of the Council in accordance with the principles contained within the recommendations of the Corporate Services Planning Scrutiny Working Group as set out in paragraph 4.6 of the report.
- (2) That the Director, Legal and Democratic Services amend the Council's Constitution (including the Development Control Committee's terms of reference as set out in Appendix 2 to the report) and Development Control Committee Code of Good Practice to reflect the required amendments and make any consequential changes.

(**Note:** County Borough Councillors J.S.James and M.J.Powell wished to have recorded that they voted against the above-mentioned motion).

(**Note:** The following lost amendment to the motion was moved by County Borough Councillor P.Wasley and seconded by L.Walker:

"To appoint a politically balanced Development Control Committee comprising 19 Members of the Council").

20 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2014/2015

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services requested the Council to consider appointing its Committees for the 2014/2015 municipal year and it was **RESOLVED** –

- (1) To note the appointment of a Development Control Committee (x18 Members) (Minute No. 18 refers)
- (2) To appoint the following Committees for the 2014/15 municipal year:
 - Licensing Committee (x15 Members)
 - Appointments Committee (x5 Members)
 - Appeals/Employee Appeals/Chief Officer Appeals Committee (x5 Members)
 - Overview and Scrutiny (x17 Members)
 - Community and Children's Services Scrutiny (x17 Members) plus Statutory Co-optees
 - Environmental Services Scrutiny (x17 Members)

- Education and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny (x17 Members) plus Statutory Co-optees
- Corporate Services Scrutiny (x17 Members)
- Audit (x15 Members) plus 1 Lay Member
- Democratic Services (x15 Members)
- Corporate Governance and Constitution (x7 Members)

21 QUASI JUDICIAL BODIES/AD HOC COMMITTEES

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services requested the Council to consider the appointment of Members to sit on the Quasi Judicial/Ad Hoc Committees listed in his report and it was **RESOLVED** that the under-mentioned Members be appointed to the following politically balanced Quasi Judicial Bodies/Ad Hoc Committees:

Bodies Subject to Political Balance

Local Education Authority Governors (Appointments) Committees (5 Members)

County Borough Councillors L.M.Adams, W.J.David, M.Forey, (Mrs) E.Hanagan and S.Rees-Owen

Voluntary Early Retirement/Redundancy Panel (5 Members)

County Borough Councillors G.Holmes, (Mrs) S.Jones, R.Lewis, M.Weaver and M.Webber

Non-Politically Balanced Body

Joint Consultative Committee.

County Borough Councillors P.Cannon, A.Morgan, K.Montague and M.Webber

22 THE POLITICAL BALANCE OF THE COUNCIL

In his report, the Director of Legal and Democratic Services advised Members of the outcome of the annual review of the Political Balance of the Authority.

The Service Director, Legal & Democratic Services outlined the report and it was noted that in respect of recommendation (3), that Members of the Cabinet were not eligible for appointment to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or the Scrutiny Committees only and reference to the Audit Committee had been inadvertently included in the report.

It was, therefore, **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 in the Appendix to this report, be adopted.
- (2) That the Director of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to make appointments to politically balanced 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) To note that Members of the Cabinet be not eligible for appointment to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or Scrutiny Committees
- (4) To note that Members of the Cabinet will be able to participate in meetings of the Development Control Committee subject to the provisions of the Members' Code of Conduct and the Development Control Committee Code of Good Practice.
- (5) To note that at least one Member of the Cabinet can sit on the Audit and Democratic Services Committees but the Council Leader is excluded from the positions.

23 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS FOR THE 2014-2015 MUNICIPAL YEAR

Following consideration of the report of the Director of Legal and Democratic Services in respect of the above-mentioned matter, it was **RESOLVED –**

- (1) To appoint the following Members to the posts of Chairs and Vice-Chairs:-

Committee	Chair	Vice-Chair
Development Control	R.B.McDonald	D.Weeks
Licensing	A.S.Fox	B.Morgan
Appointments	T.A.Bates	S.Lloyd
Appeals/Employee Appeals/Chief Officer Appeals	D.H.Williams	M.Griffiths

- (2) To appoint County Borough Councillor P.Jarman as Chair of the Democratic Services Committee and County Borough Councillor M.Webber as Vice-Chair of the Democratic Services Committee in accordance with the conditions laid down in the Measure.

- (3) To note that under the requirements of the Measure, the Chair of the Audit Committee is to be appointed by the Committee.
- (4) To agree that the responsibility for the appointment of the Vice-Chair of the Audit Committee be delegated to the Committee.
- (5) That the Chair of the Environmental Services Scrutiny Committee to allocated to the Plaid Cymru Group.
- (6) To appoint the following Members to the posts of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Scrutiny Committees:

Committee	Chair	Vice-Chair
Overview & Scrutiny	R.K.Turner	R.Smith
Education & Lifelong Learning	C.Leyshon	C.J.Williams
Community & Children's Services	M.E.Davies	S.Rees
Environmental Services	G.R.Davies	S.Bradwick
Corporate Services	G.Stacey	M.Norris

- (7) To appoint County Borough Councillor J.Cass as Scrutiny Performance Management Co-ordinator.
- (8) To appoint County Borough Councillor R.Lewis as Chair and (Mrs) A.Roberts as Vice-Chair of the Corporate Governance and Constitution Committee.

JOINT REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR, CORPORATE SERVICES AND THE DIRECTOR, LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

24 MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES AND SALARIES – INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT

In their joint report, the Group Director, Corporate Services and the Director, Legal and Democratic Services, informed Members of the current position regarding both Members' salaries and allowances following the publication of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales' Sixth Annual Report and sought the Council's approval of Members' salaries and allowances for the 2014/2015 municipal year.

Following consideration of the report, it was **RESOLVED** –

- (1) To note the current position with regard to Members' salaries and allowances following the Independent Remuneration Panel's ("the Panel") findings in its Sixth Annual Report.
- (2) To note the Panel's Supplementary Report relating to remuneration of Members in respect of Family Absence and the guidance issued by the Panel in respect of applications by Local Authorities to award a specific Senior Salary not within the Panel's current framework.
- (3) To award the appropriate remuneration as recommended and set by the Remuneration Panel to the posts as shown at Appendix 1 of the report for the municipal year 2014/2015 – noting that the Leader has reduced his Cabinet to 9 Members (including the Leader and Deputy Leader).
- (4) To note the Panel's determination to include a provision for developmental posts within the Remuneration Framework and that an application be made to the Panel to extend its scheme and schedule of allowances to include (because of the significant and continuous additional responsibility) the posts of Vice-Chair of Licensing and Vice-Chair of Development Control within this local authority.
- (5) That the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of the Council be remunerated in accordance with the Civic Salary Remuneration Banding B for 2014/15.
- (6) To agree payments to co-opted members continue to be capped at a maximum of the equivalent of 10 full days a year for each Committee to which an individual may be co-opted.
- (7) To agree that undertaking constituency duties should not be included as an approved duty for the purpose of claiming travel.
- (8) To re-confirm subsistence claims for official business which takes place in-cumty shall not be reimbursed by the Council.
- (9) To note the publicity requirements of the Report that the Council will need to undertake in respect of the arrangements for the publication of the remuneration received by Members during the municipal year.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

25 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2014/2015

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services sought approval of the proposed Calendar of Meetings for the 2014/2015 municipal year and it was **RESOLVED –**

(1) To note the contents of the report and the fact that the first meeting of the Development Control Committee will now take place on Thursday, 19 June and not Thursday, 5 June 2014, as stated in the calendar.

(2) To agree the proposed Calendar of Meetings for the 2014/2015 municipal year.

26 APPOINTMENTS TO NON-EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEES 2014/2015

RESOLVED that the under-mentioned Members be appointed to the following non-executive Joint Committees for the 2013/2014 municipal year:-

Combined Fire Authority for South Wales

County Borough Councillors S.Bradwick, (Mrs) S.Jones, B.Morgan and S.Pickering.

Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

County Borough Councillor (Mrs) J.S.Ward

27 APPOINTMENTS TO THE POLICE CRIME PANEL 2014/15

RESOLVED to appoint County Borough Councillors R.Smith and S.Rees-Owen to the Police Crime Panel for 2014/15.

28 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 (Mrs.)T.Bates, S.Carter, B.Morgan, S.Powderhill and D.H.Williams.

Corporate Services Group

- 2. Consortium Local Authority Wales (CLAW) (Annual Term)**
County Borough Councillor G.E.Hopkins
- 3. Investment and Advisory Panel (Pensions) (Annual Term)**
County Borough Councillors M.Forey and G.E.Hopkins
- 4. Joint Council for Wales (Annual Term)**
County Borough Councillors G.Holmes and M.Webber.

5. **Welsh Local Government Association (Annual Term)**
County Borough Councillors P.Cannon, (Mrs.)E.Hanagan,
G.E.Hopkins, A.Morgan and M.Webber.
6. **Welsh Local Government Association Co-ordinating
Committee (Annual Term)**
County Borough Councillor A.Morgan
County Borough Councillor P.Cannon (substitute)
7. **Wales Co-op Centre Board (Annual Term)**
County Borough Councillor D.R.Bevan
8. **Edward Thomas Charity (Annual Term)**
County Borough Councillors A.Davies,MBE, R.Lewis,
(Mrs.)S.Pickering and (Mrs.)J.S.Ward.

Community & Children's Services Group

9. **Age Concern Cymru (Annual Term)**
County Borough Councillor M.Forey.
10. **Cynon Valley Indoor Bowls Committee (Annual Term)**
County Borough Councillor A.Morgan.
11. **Capital Region Tourism Limited (Annual Term)**
County Borough Councillor P.Cannon and
Mr.C.Hanagan as the Officer Representative
12. **Rhondda Cynon Taf Community Arts – Executive
Committee (Annual Term)**
County Borough Councillor P.Cannon
13. **Wales Home Safety Council (Annual Term)**
County Borough Councillor D.Weeks.
14. **Rhondda Cynon Taf Community Chest**

County Borough Councillors (Mrs) A.Davies and S.Pickering
(to replace County Borough Councillors W.J.David and (Mrs)
A.Roberts for a one year term).
15. **RCT Homes Board**

County Borough Councillor (Mrs) T.Bates for a 3 Year Term and
that County Borough Councillor K.Montague will replace County
Borough Councillor C.Middle for the remainder of his term of
office.

Environmental Services Group

16. The Alliance (Annual Term)

County Borough Councillors G.Thomas, (Mrs) J.S.Ward and D.Weeks.

15. Tower Site Liaison Committee (Annual Term)

County Borough Councillors A.Crimmings, K.Morgan and G.Thomas.

**M.J.WATTS
MAYOR**

The meeting closed at 7.30 p.m.