

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

TWENTIETH ANNUAL MEETING

Minutes of the Twentieth Annual Meeting of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council held at the County Borough Council Offices, The Pavilions, Clydach Vale on Wednesday, 20th May, 2015 at 4.00 p.m.

PRESENT

County Borough Councillors

L.M.Adams	S.M.Evans-Fear	M.J.Powell
(Mrs.)T.Bates	M.Forey	S.Rees
D.R.Bevan	A.S.Fox	S.Rees-Owen
H.Boggis	M.Griffiths	J.Rosser
J.Bonetto	P.Griffiths	G.Smith
S.A.Bradwick	(Mrs.)E.Hanagan	R.W.Smith
J.Bunnage	G.Holmes	G.Stacey
A.Calvert	G.E.Hopkins	B.Stephens
S.Carter	P.Howe	(Mrs.)M.Tegg
(Mrs.)J.Cass	P.Jarman	R.K.Turner
(Mrs.)A.Crimmings	(Mrs.)S.J.Jones	G.P.Thomas
W.J.David	R.Lewis	L.G.Walker
A.L.Davies,MBE	(Mrs.)C.Leyshon	(Mrs.)J.S.Ward
(Mrs.)A.Davies	K.Montague	P.Wasley
C.Davies	A.Morgan	M.J.Watts
J.Davies	B.Morgan	M.Weaver
G.R.Davies	K.Morgan	M.Webber
(Mrs.)M.E.Davies	M.A.Norris	E.Webster
(Mrs.)L.De Vet	I.Pearce	C.J.Willis
J.Elliott	S.Pickering	R.Yeo
S.Evans	S.Powderhill	

Officers in Attendance

Mr.S.Merritt – 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.C.Bradshaw – Director, Education & Lifelong Learning
Mr.T.Wilkins – Director, Human Resources
Mr.C.Hanagan – Service Director, Cabinet & Public Relations
Ms.K.May – Head of Democratic Services

1. **ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Retiring Mayor opened up the meeting and indicated that in view of a road accident that had recently occurred on the A4119 resulting in many Members being delayed in traffic the meeting would stand adjourned for 15 minutes.

The meeting recommenced at 4.15 p.m.

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors P.Bacarra, S.Lloyd, C.J.Middle, W.D.Weeks, C.J.Williams, D.H.Williams and T.Williams.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

RESOLVED – to note that there were no declarations of interest in matters pertaining to the agenda.

4. **RETIRING MAYOR'S REMARKS**

The retiring Mayor, County Borough Councillor M.J.Watts addressed the Council on his year of office.

County Borough Councillor M.J.Watts thanked the Members and Officers for their support during his year of office and expressed particular gratitude to his wife, who had been his Consort (Mayoress), his Chaplain, Reverend Peter Gale, his Secretary, Anne and the Chauffeurs, Steve and Gareth.

In response, Members paid tribute to the retiring Mayor and he was commended for all his hard work and efforts during the past year.

5. **ELECTION OF MAYOR OF RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL FOR THE 2015/16 MUNICIPAL YEAR**

RESOLVED – That County Borough Councillor B.Stephens be elected as Mayor of the County Borough for the 2015/16 municipal year.

Following his election, the retiring Mayor presented County Borough Councillor B.Stephens with his chain of office.

The Mayor's Consort, Mrs.B.Stephens, was then presented with the Mayor's Consort chain of office.

On taking the Chair, County Borough Councillor Stephens thanked the Council for their support and confidence in electing him as Mayor of the County Borough and he paid tribute to the retiring Mayor.

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

- Ty Hafan
- Marie Curie
- Bosom Pals
- 2 Wish Upon A Star
- Eye to Eye
- Age Connect
- Welsh Hearts (Dai Fib Appeal)

He also thanked his Chaplain, Reverend Barbara Woods who would be supporting him in his role as Mayor.

The Mayor was congratulated on his appointment by the Council.

6. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR OF RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL FOR THE 2015/16 MUNICIPAL YEAR

RESOLVED – That County Borough Councillor R.Lewis be appointed as Deputy Mayor of the County Borough for the 2015/16 municipal year.

Upon his appointment, the Mayor presented the Deputy Mayor with his chain of office.

7. BLESSING – REVEREND BARBARA WOODS

The Mayor called upon Reverend Barbara Woods to offer a blessing.

Note: At this juncture in the proceedings the Mayor, County Borough Councillor B.Stephens left the meeting to attend to his guests and the Deputy Mayor, County Borough Councillor R.Lewis took the Chair

8. 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 K.Montague to be appointed as Deputy Leader of the Council.

County Borough Councillor A.Morgan, thanked Members for supporting his appointment. Members congratulated the Leader on his appointment and also congratulated the Deputy Leader on his appointment and wished him well in his new role.

9. LEADER'S SCHEME OF EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS

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

- Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Tackling Poverty, Engagement & Housing - County Borough Councillor K.Montague.
- Cabinet Member for Economic Development & Planning – County Borough Councillor D.R.Bevan.
- Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure & Culture – County Borough Councillor A.Crimmings
- Cabinet Member for Health & Adult Social Services– County Borough Councillor M.Forey
- Cabinet Member for Education & Skills – County Borough Councillor (Mrs.)E.Hanagan
- Cabinet Member for Children’s Social Services, Equalities and the Welsh Language – County Borough Councillor G.Hopkins
- Cabinet Member for Safer Communities, Libraries & Heritage – County Borough Councillor J.Rosser
- Cabinet Member for Council Business – County Borough Councillor M.Webber

The Leader informed the Council that full details of the portfolios of the individual Cabinet Members would be published on the Council’s website in due course.

REPORTS OF THE DIRECTOR, LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

10. PROPOSED SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS

In his report, the Director, Legal & Democratic Services provided Members with a proposed Scrutiny Committee Structure to support the Council in developing a more outcome focussed approach to its scrutiny arrangements.

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

1. To agree the proposed Scrutiny Committee Structure as set out in the report for implementation with immediate effect;
2. That the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the `Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity`, `Children and Young People` and `Health and Well Being` Scrutiny Committees together with the Performance Management Co-ordinator be appointed on the membership of the `Finance and Performance` Scrutiny Committee;
3. That the Chair and Vice Chair of the Audit Committee be permitted to attend meetings of the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee;

4. That the `Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee` be the Council's designated Crime and Disorder Committee with the requirement to meet at least once a year in this capacity;
5. That any Councillor Call for Actions (CCfAs) under the auspices of the Local Government (Wales) Measure, 2011 or under the requirements of the Police and Justice Act, 2006, following validation by the Council's Monitoring Officer will be at the determination of the Chair (or in his/her absence the Vice-Chair) of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as to which Scrutiny Committee the matter is to be referred.
6. To note the `other proposed areas for improvement` (as detailed in Section 5 of the report) be considered at meetings of the Corporate Governance and Constitution Committee and the Democratic Services Committee and thereafter the Council be provided with a more detailed update;
7. That with reference to paragraph 4.20 of the report, that Cabinet Members be invited to attend meetings of the Scrutiny Committees and that Senior Officer continue to attend meetings as in previous years;
8. That the Director, Legal & Democratic Services be authorised to make the necessary amendments to the Council's Constitution including any consequential changes to the Scrutiny Call-in rules.

11. **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** –

1. Allocation of Notices of Motion

To allocate the 20 Notices of Motion as required by Council Procedure Rule 10(2)(a) for the 2015/16 municipal year, as follows:-

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

2. Member Questions

- (1) To amend the final paragraph of Council Procedure Rule 9.2 as follows:

If more than five questions on notice which may be asked at any meeting of the full Council are received by the Proper Officer then the five questions to be asked at that meeting are to be determined by a ballot conducted by the Mayor (and in his/her absence the Deputy Mayor). Any questions on notice not accepted will need to be resubmitted to the Proper Officer for the next full Council meeting in accordance with these rules.

- (2) To introduce new Council Procedure Rules 9.4(c) and (d) as follows:
 - (c) Each Member is permitted to ask one question per Council meeting (and a further supplementary question at the relevant Council meeting in accordance with Rule 9.6);
 - (d) The question must be submitted to the Proper Officer by the Member wishing to ask that question at the relevant Council meeting.

3. Council Procedure Rule 23 – Photographs and Recording of Council Meetings

To amend the final paragraph of Council Procedure Rule 9.2 to read as follows:

Proceedings at meetings will be tweeted live via the Council's official twitter account. Elected Members and members of the public are also permitted to use social media during Council meetings provided it does not disrupt proceedings. Save for this exemption proceedings may not otherwise be photographed, videoed, sound recorded or transmitted in any way outside the meeting without prior permission of the Mayor. Failure to comply with this rule may invoke rule 19.4 (members to leave meeting) and 20.1 (removal of members of the public).

4. Role and Responsibilities of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor

To implement the recommendations of the Corporate Governance and Constitution Committee following its meeting held on the 27th April, 2015 as detailed in paragraphs 7.5 and 7.6 viz:

- (1) That the annual budget for the Mayor be reduced and that such changes also be reflected in the Mayor's Office; as it was felt that the number and scale of civic events should be reviewed including the Civic Sunday Ceremony and Dinner and that more of a focus be made on fundraising events in support of the Mayor's chosen charities;

- (2) That given the important role in championing the Constitution, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor be appointed as the Chair and Vice-Chair respectively of the Council's Corporate Governance and Constitution Committee and that the Mayor not be separately remunerated for undertaking this function.
5. That the Director of Legal & Democratic Services amend the Council's Constitution to reflect the required amendments and make any consequential changes.

12. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2015/16

The Director, Legal & Democratic Services requested the Council to consider appointing its Committees for the 2015/16 municipal year, and it was **RESOLVED** – To appoint the following Committees for the 2015/16 municipal year:

- Development Control Committee (x18 Members)
- Licensing Committee (x15 Members)
- Appointments Committee (x5 Members)
- Appeals/Employee Appeals/Chief Officer Appeals Committee (x5 Members)
- Overview and Scrutiny Committee (x17 Members)
- Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee (x17 Members)
- Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee (x17 Members)
- Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee (x17 Members) plus Statutory Co-optees
- Health and Well-Being Scrutiny Committee (x17 Members)
- Democratic Services Committee (x15 Members)
- Corporate Governance and Constitution Committee (x7 Members)

13. QUASI JUDICIAL BODIES/AD HOC COMMITTEES

The Director, Legal & 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/Ad Hoc Committees:

Bodies Subject to Political Balance

- (a) Local Education Authority Governors (Appointments) Committee
(5 Members)

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

- (b) Voluntary Early Retirement/Redundance Panel (5 Members)

County Borough Councillors (Mrs.)M.E.Davies, W.J.David,
(Mrs.)S.Jones, M.Weaver and M.Webber

(1) Non-Politically Balanced Body

- (a) Joint Consultative Committee:

County Borough Councillors A.Morgan and D.R.Bevan

14. THE POLITICAL BALANCE OF THE COUNCIL

In his report, the Director, Legal & Democratic Services advised Members of the outcome of the annual review of the Political Balance of the Authority and 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 in the Appendix to the report be adopted;
2. That the Director, Legal & Democratic Services be authorised to make appointments to the 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 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.

15. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS FOR THE 2015/16 MUNICIPAL YEAR

Following consideration of the report of the Director, Legal & 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	G.Stacey	M.Griffiths
Licensing	A.S.Fox	B.Morgan
Appointments	T.Bates	S.J.Jones
Appeals/Employee Appeals/Chief Officer Appeals	D.H.Williams	J.Bonetto

2. To appoint County Borough Councillor P.Jarman of the Democratic Services Committee subject to the conditions laid down in the Local Government (Wales) Measure, 2011;
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 Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee be 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	L.M.Adams	M.J.Watts
Finance & Performance	M.A.Norris	J.S.Ward
Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity	G.R.Davies	S.Bradwick
Children & Young People	C.Leyshon	C.J.Williams
Health & Well-Being	R.W.Smith	S.Rees

7. To appoint County Borough Councillor C.J.Willis as Scrutiny Performance Management Co-ordinator.

8. To note the appointment of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor as the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Corporate Governance and Constitution Committee, as agreed at Minute No. 10.4(2) above

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

16. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES AND SALARIES – INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES' SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

In their joint report, the Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services and the Director, Legal & Democratic Services informed Members of the current position regarding both Members' salaries and allowances following the publication of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales' Seventh Annual Report and sought the Council's approval of Members' salaries and allowances for the 2015/2016 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 Seventh Annual Report;
2. To note the posts that attract a Senior Salary (up to a maximum of 19) as shown at Appendix 1 to the report;

3. That the 17 posts as shown at Appendix 2 to the report be paid a Senior Salary;
4. That the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of the Council be remunerated in accordance with the Civic Salary Remuneration Banding B for 2015/16.
5. To agree payments to co-opted members continue to be capped at a maximum equivalent of 10 full days a year for each Committee to which an individual may be co-opted.
6. To agree that undertaking constituency duties shall not be included as an approved duty for the purposes of claiming travel allowance;
7. To reconfirm subsistence claims for official business which takes place in-county shall not be reimbursed by the Council;
8. 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

17. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2015/16

The Director, Legal & Democratic Services sought the approval of the proposed Calendar of Meetings for the 2015/16 municipal year and it was **RESOLVED -**

1. To note the contents of the report;
2. To agree the proposed Calendar of Meetings for the municipal year 2015/16/

18. APPOINTMENTS TO NON-EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEES 2015/16

RESOLVED- that the under-mentioned Members be appointed to the

following non-executive Joint Committees for the 2015/16 municipal year:-

(a) **Combined Fire Authority for South Wales**

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

(b) **Brecon Beacons National Park Authority**

County Borough Councillor (Mrs.)J.S.Ward

19. APPOINTMENT TO THE POLICE CRIME PANEL 2015/16

RESOLVED – that appoint County Borough Councillors R.W.Smith and S.Rees-Owen to the Police Crime Panel for 2015/16.

20. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

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

Education & Lifelong Learning Group

1. **Welsh Books Council (3 Year Term)**

County Borough Councillor J.Rosser

Corporate & Frontline Services Group

1. **Consortium Local Authority Wales (CLAW) (Annual Term)**

County Borough Councillor G.Hopkins

2. **Investment and Advisory Panel (Pensions) (Annual Term)**

County Borough Councillors M.Forey and G.Hopkins

3. **Joint Council for Wales (Annual Term)**

County Borough Councillors D.H.Williams and M.Webber

4. **Welsh Local Government Association (Annual Term)**

County Borough Councillors A.Morgan, K.Montague, G.Hopkins, (Mrs.)E.Hanagan and M.Webber

5. **Welsh Local Government Association Co-ordinating Committee (Annual Term)**

County Borough Councillor A.Morgan and County Borough Councillor K.Montague (Substitute)

6. **Business in Focus (3 Year Term)**
County Borough Councillor D.R.Bevan
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, S.Pickering and (Mrs.)J.Ward
9. **The Alliance (Annual Term)**
County Borough Councillors G.Thomas, J.S.Ward and D.Weeks
10. **Tower Site Liaison Committee (Annual Term)**
County Borough Councillors H.Boggis, K.Morgan and G.Thomas

Community & Children's Services Group

1. **Age Concern Cymru (Annual Term)**
County Borough Councillor M.Forey
2. **Cynon Valley Indoor Bowls Committee (Annual Term)**
County Borough Councillor A.Morgan
3. **Rhondda Cynon Taf Community Chest (3 Year Term)**
County Borough Councillors (Mrs.)M.E.Davies, S.Pickering and D.H.Wiulliams
4. **Rhondda Cynon Taf Community Arts – Executive Committee (Annual Term)**
County Borough Councillor A.Crimmings
5. **RCT Homes Board (3 Year Term)**
County Borough Councillors (Mrs.)T.Bates, J.Elliott and K.Montague and Mr.P.Mees (Officer)
6. **Cwm Taf Community Health Council**
County Borough Councillors (Mrs.)M.E.Davies and S.Rees

21. SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15

County Borough Councillor R.K.Turner presented the Scrutiny Annual Report, 2014/15 and took the opportunity to thank Officers and Members for their support during his 11 consecutive years as Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. In response Members commended Councillor Turner on the commitment and dedication that he had given the position over the years and acknowledging that this had also been recognised by representatives of other Authorities, the WLGA and the Welsh Government.

RESOLVED – to note the contents of the Scrutiny Annual Report 2014/15.

**M.J.WATTS
RETIRING MAYOR**

**B.STEPHENS
MAYOR**

**R.LEWIS
DEPUTY MAYOR**

The meeting closed at 6.40 p.m.

These minutes are subject to approval at the next Council Meeting on 24.06.15