

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, Cambrian Park, Clydach Vale on Wednesday, 24th June, 2015 at 5 p.m.

PRESENT

County Borough Councillor B.Stephens – in the Chair

County Borough Councillors

L.M.Adams	M.Forey	S.Rees-Owen
(Mrs.)T.Bates	M.Griffiths	(Mrs.)A.Roberts
D.R.Bevan	P.Griffiths	J.Rosser
J.Bonetto	(Mrs.)E.Hanagan	G.Smith
S.A.Bradwick	G.Holmes	R.W.Smith
J.Bunnage	P.Howe	G.Stacey
A.Crimmings	J.S.James	(Mrs.)M.Tegg
W.J.David	(Mrs.)S.J.Jones	L.G.Walker
A.L.Davies,MBE	R.Lewis	(Mrs.)J.S.Ward
C.Davies	(Mrs.)C.Leyshon	M.J.Watts
J.Davies	C.J.Middle	M.Weaver
G.R.Davies	K.Montague	M.Webber
(Mrs.)M.E.Davies	A.Morgan	C.J.Williams
(Mrs.)L.De Vet	B.Morgan	D.H.Williams
J.Elliott	M.A.Norris	T.Williams
S.Evans	S.Pickering	C.J.Willis
S.M.Evans-Fear	S.Rees	R.Yeo

Officers in Attendance

Mr.C.Lee – Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services
Mr.C.Bradshaw – Director, Education & Lifelong Learning
Mr.T.Wilkins – Director, Human Resources
Mr.C.B.Jones – Service Director, Legal & Democratic Services
Mr.P.Griffiths – Service Director, Performance & Improvement
Mr.R.Gatis – Service Director, Community Care
Ms.K.May – Head of Democratic Services

22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors P.Baccara, A.Calvert, (Mrs.)A.Davies, A.S.Fox, G.E.Hopkins, S.Lloyd, K.Morgan, S.Powderhill, M.J.Powell, R.K.Turner, G.Thomas, P.Wasley, E.Webster and W.D.Weeks

23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED – to note that in accordance with the Members’ Code of Conduct, there were no declarations of interest mad at this juncture. However, a declaration was made later in the meeting (Minute No.

24 PETITION

County Borough Councillor R.Smith handed in a petition on behalf of the residents of Hopkinstown requesting that the Council place a 20 mile per hour speed restriction on the residential streets of Hopkinstown and traffic calming measures on Telelkebir Road and Jenkins Street.

25 ANNOUNCEMENT

County Borough Councillor (Mrs.)J.Ward updated Members on the monies that had been collected for the Nepal Appeal following the collection box that had been circulated at the last Council meeting, to date £154 had been collected and this together with further receipts would be handed to the Senior Captain of the Ghurkas. Councillor Ward thanked Members for their contributions to the appeal.

26 MINUTES

RESOLVED – to approve as accurate records the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on:

(1) 22nd April, 2015

(2) Annual Meeting of the Council – 20th May, 2015 subject to:

- a. A further recommendation being added to Minute No.10 as follows: Minute No.10(9) that the Scrutiny Work Programmes be determined and approved by the respective Scrutiny Committees.
- b. Minute No.15(2) reading – “to appoint County Borough Councillor P.Jarman as Chair of the Democratic Services Committee....”

27 STATEMENT

In accordance with Procedure Rule 2 of the Council’s Constitution, the Leader of the Council made the following statement:

“I am firmly of the opinion that our staff are one of this Council’s most valuable assets and it is deeply unfortunate that they have over the last two years borne the brunt of austerity and will inevitably continue to in the future.

This I believe is the right decision not just for Rhondda Cynon Taf but for any employer and as a public sector organisation I believe we have a duty to set the right example and this is why I have asked Officers to bring forward proposals to introduce the living wage in Rhondda Cynon Taf over the next financial year.

There will of course be a cost to this proposal but I am firmly of the view that such a move will protect those employees who would benefit from the living wage from the detrimental impact a further five years of austerity will have on their living standards. We know that the Chancellor's Budget next month will hit public services and potentially in turn the lowest paid. We may as a Council have a limited ability to shield our communities from these cuts but I firmly believe, as the largest employer locally, that the introduction of the Living Wage has the potential to deliver wider benefits to the local economy.

We have made tackling poverty one of our key priorities and by increasing the income for our lowest-paid staff we can help to improve their standard of living.

Our lowest-paid staff undertake some of the most important and challenging jobs in the Council on a daily basis, delivering services which are heavily relied upon by the public and should therefore I believe be paid a decent salary for their work.

This is about making sure people have a decent wage and in doing so providing a boost to the local economy because people will have a little extra money to spend in local shops which will in turn support local businesses. Almost four thousand employees would benefit from this proposal.

This is one of the most significant decisions that we are likely to take over the remaining term of this Council and I hope there will be overwhelming support from all Councillors when the issue is considered by the Executive in the near future."

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

28 THE COUNCIL'S DRAFT CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR 2015/16

In accordance with Part 1 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 the Chief Executive sought the Council's approval to approve the Council's Corporate Performance Report for 2015/16 as shown at Appendix 1 to the report.

At the meeting the Service Director, Performance and Improvement reported that for the financial year 2014/15 the Council approved seven priorities and whereby quarterly updates were presented as part of the Performance Reports during the year. To help in ensuring that the Council effectively discharges its legal duty, Scrutiny Working Groups were established in 2014 to review and challenge evaluations of performance and priority plans as part of developing pre-scrutiny arrangements. The primary area deemed in need of improvement and as reported to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on

the 15th October, 2014 was `timing` in that the performance evaluations and priority plans were not considered together. In addressing this, Lead Officers evaluated the performance of 2014/15 priority areas and at the same time drafted priority plans for 2015/16 with the aim of enabling a more complete picture of performance, which were reported to the Scrutiny working Groups in April and May, 2015 (a summary of the main conclusions drawn by each of the Scrutiny Working Groups was set out in Table 1 of the report).

It was further reported that the 2014/15 performance evaluations provided the core evidence to enable Officers to produce a draft Corporate Performance Report for 2015/16, which aims to set out, in an understandable way how the Council has performed against its priorities in 2014/15 and also propose priorities for 2015/16, which were included in the document shown at Appendix 1.

In conclusion, it was reported that the Wales Audit Office has a statutory duty to audit the approved version of the Council's Corporate Performance Report, the results of which will be formally reported to the Council later in the municipal year.

Following a lengthy discussion, it was **RESOLVED** – to endorse the Corporate Performance Report for 2015/16 in accordance with Part 1 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 as shown at Appendix 1 to the report that sets out a public assessment of performance for s014/15 along with priorities for 2015/16 and plans for achieving them.

(**Note:** County Borough Councillors C.Davies, G.R.Davies, S.Evans-Fear, S.Rees-Owen and M.Weaver wished to have recorded that they abstained from voting on the above matter).

29 NOTICE OF MOTION

The following Notice of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillors R.Lewis, S.Pickering, L.M.Adams, (Mrs.)T.Bates, D.R.Bevan, H.Boggis, J.Bonetto, S.Bradwick, (Mrs.)J.Bunnage, A.Calvert, P.Cannon, S.Carter, J.Cass, A.Crimmings, W.J.David, A.Davies, MBE, (Mrs.)A.Davies, J.Davies, (Mrs.)M.E.Davies, (Mrs.)L.De Vett, J.Elliott, S.Evans, M.Forey, A.Fox, M.Griffiths, P.Griffiths, (Mrs.)E.Hanagan, G.Holmes, G.Hopkins, (Mrs.)S.Jones, L.Langford, (Mrs.)C.Leyshon, S.Lloyd, C.Middle, K.Montague, A.Morgan, B.Morgan, M.Norris, S.Powderhill, S.Rees, (Mrs.)A.Roberts, J.Rosser, G.Smith, R.Smith, G.Stacey, B.Stephens, (Mrs.)M.Tegg, G.Thomas, R.K.Turner, (Mrs.)J.Ward, M.J.Watts, M.Webber, D.Weeks, C.J.Williams, D.H.Williams, T.Williams, C.J.Willis and R.Yeo was moved and seconded:

“This Council welcomes the proposal of the Cabinet to ban the use of sky lanterns on local authority land and banning the sale of sky lanterns on premises and property controlled by the Council.

RSPCA Cymru has long highlighted the dangers associated with the use of sky lanterns, and continues to call on the Welsh Government to implement an outright ban on their use across Wales.

In 2013 the Welsh Government wrote to local authorities encouraging them to introduce a voluntary ban, and so far five out of the 22 have done so. Once the proposal of the Cabinet is implemented Rhondda Cynon Taf will become a further addition to this list.

Sky lanterns (also known as Chinese lanterns) can harm wildlife, livestock and other animals by causing injuries that lead to suffering and a slow painful death. RSPCA Cymru strongly advises against their use and recommends that harmless alternatives are sought to prevent injury, suffering and fatality of animals.

This Council supports the RSPCA objective and already refuses permission for sky lanterns to be used on Council land, however going further to deliver an outright ban of Sky Lanterns across RCT is welcomed”.

In accordance with paragraph 10.4.1 of Part 4 of the Council’s Constitution, the following notice of amendment to the Notice of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillors G.R.Davies and C.Davies was moved and seconded:

“At the end of the Motion as tabled add the following paragraph:-

“Whilst a ban in Rhondda Cynon Taf administrative area is a step in the right direction, we need National legislation to restrict the sale and use of Sky lanterns and as a consequence this Council calls on the Welsh Government to act on this matter”

Following a discussion and consideration of the amended Notice of Motion as presented in accordance with paragraph 10.4.1 of Part 4 of the Council’s Constitution, it was **RESOLVED** – to adopt the amended Notice of Motion.

In accordance with the Council’s Procedure Rules, a discussion took place on the substantive motion taking into consideration the adopted amendment to the Notice of Motion, and it was **FURTHER RESOLVED** – to adopt the following Notice of Motion (with the inclusion of the amendment):

“This Council welcomes the proposal of the Cabinet to ban the use of sky lanterns on local authority land and banning the sale of sky lanterns on premises and property controlled by the Council.

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Whilst a ban in Rhondda Cynon Taf administrative area is a step in the right direction, we need National legislation to restrict the sale and use of Sky lanterns and as a consequence this Council calls on the Welsh Government to act on this matter”.

**B.STEPHENS
MAYOR**

The meeting closed at 5.50 p.m.