

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, 22nd July, 2015 at 5 p.m.

PRESENT

County Borough Councillor B.Stephens – in the Chair

County Borough Councillors

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

Officers in Attendance

Mr.S.Merritt – Chief Executive
Mr.G.Isingrini – Group Director, Community & Children's Services
Mr.P.J.Lucas – Director, Legal & Democratic Services
Mr.T.Wilkins – Director, Human Resources
Mr.B.Davies – Director, Financial Services
Mr.C.Hanagan – Service Director, Cabinet Office & Public Relations
Ms.K.May – Head of Democratic Services

30 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors A.L.Davies, MBE, G.R.Davies, S.M.Evans-Fear, G.Holmes, K.Morgan, S.Rees-Owen, R.W.Smith and C.J.Williams.

31 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, the following declarations of interest were made at the meeting in respect of Agenda Item 10 (Urgent Item) – Notice of Motion:-

- County Borough Councillor D.R.Bevan – “Mine is a personal interest. My wife’s cousin is a Magistrate”.
- County Borough Councillor B.Stephens – “I have a personal and prejudicial interest. I am Chairman of the Magistrates’ Association Executive Committee which would include Pontypridd”.

32 ANNOUNCEMENTS

(1) Retirement of Mr.S.Merritt – Chief Executive

The Leader of the Council stated that this would be the last Council meeting to be attended by Mr.S.Merritt, Chief Executive as he would be retiring during the month of August. He wished to place on record his thanks on behalf of himself and the Authority for the many years service that Mr.Merritt has given to both the former Rhondda Borough Council and to this Authority since its inception in 1996.

Other Members also paid tribute to Mr.Merritt and wished him a long and happy retirement.

Mr.Merritt responded to the tributes made and thanked both Members and Officers for their support during his 36 years in local government.

(2) Mr.Kevin Oates – Parks and Countryside Manager

The Leader of the Council informed Members that Mr.Kevin Oates, former Parks and Countryside Manager with this Authority had passed away this week. The Leader stated that Mr.Oates had been a loyal, supportive and dedicated Officer. The Council stood in a minute’s silence as a mark of respect.

33 MINUTES

RESOLVED - to approve as an accurate record the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 24th June, 2015 as an accurate record, subject to County Borough Councillors P.Jarman and I.Pearce names being included in the list of apologies for absence.

34 **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

From County Borough Councillor M.J.Powell to the Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Services (County Borough Councillor M.Forey)

“Can you explain how the department intends to address the issues of delayed transfers of care for residents who need further support at home upon leaving hospital?”

Response by the Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Services, County Borough Councillor M.Forey

“Thank you Councillor Powell for the question. I have prepared a detailed response. Over the last few years we have significantly increased the number of people who on discharge from hospital receive a short term package of care to support their independence and reduce the need for longer term care. Our intermediate care and reablement service is a partnership with Cwm Taf that now support about 80 people per month on discharge. Over 70% of these people need no further social care support following our initial involvement and nearly 50% are still independent a year later. Hospital discharge work accounts for 50% of the work of the reablement team, the other half coming from community referrals of which a number will mean that a hospital admission is avoided.

The intermediate care and reablement service is making a significant difference and is part of a range of services which Cwm Taf brand as '@ home services'. Whilst these services work well, there is a degree of separateness about them and agreement in principal has been reached with both Cwm Taf UHB and Merthyr Council about moving to a single point of access for community referrals. This will further ensure that people are signposted to the right services whether they are health, social care or third sector, and receive the right care and support to enable their continued independence. A project manager is being appointed to drive this work forward”.

Supplementary Question from County Borough Councillor MJ.Powell

“The Corporate Performance Report presented to the last meeting of this Council looked at priority plans and how they can be improved. One of the conclusions showed that at offering formal assessment to our carers, we were one of the worst Council's in Wales to do this and delayed transfers of care. A friend of mine spent over a week longer in hospital waiting for someone to assess her needs. This is not a one off but the norm. What are we going to do to make this a priority. The cost to the NHS for this bed blocking is

astronomical. I have read the report that is going to Cabinet and hopefully that will alleviate some of the problems?”

Response from the Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Services, County Borough Councillor M.Forey

“As a proportion of the number of unscheduled admissions to Royal Glamorgan and Prince Charles, delayed transfers represent a very small proportion and last year totalled less than 13 a month, this is compared with about 3400 unscheduled care admissions a month. Delayed transfers of care is a complex issue and last October, I met with Gio Isingrini, Mr.Drafkeford (Minister), and Alyson Williams (Chief Executive of Cwm Taf LHB) who is concerned about Winter preparedness and the possibility of large scale admissions

In March, we received a letter from the Chief Executive of Cwm Taf LHB commending the Authority of its preparations for the Winter. There is always room for improvement and we are always seeking to improve that”.

REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR, CORPORATE AND FRONTLINE SERVICES

35 2014/15 ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REVIEW

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

- The Council’s Treasury Management activity during 2014/15; and
- The actual Prudential and Treasury Indicators for 2014/15

Following a discussion, it was **RESOLVED** – to note the contents of the report.

REPORTS OF THE DIRECTOR, LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

36 CHANGES TO THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AND TO CWM TAF COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL

In accordance with the decision taken by Minute no.14(2) of the Council meeting held on the 20th May, 2015, the Director, Legal and Democratic Services reported that he had received notification from the Labour Group of changes in its membership on the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee and Minute No.20(6) of the same meeting, a vacancy had arisen on Cwm Taf Community Health Council as a result of County Borough Councillor S.Rees’ resignation.

RESOLVED –

1. That County Borough Councillors B.Morgan and (Mrs.)M.Tegg will replace County Borough Councillors (Mrs.)A.Davies and W.L.Langford on the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee with immediate effect.
2. That County Borough Councillor J.Elliott be nominated to sit on the Cwm Taf Community Health Council.

37 INTERIM REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY WORKING GROUP DEALING WITH `ZERO HOURS` CONTRACTS

Following the Notice of Motion that was presented to Council on the 4th March, 2015 in respect of `Zero Hours` Contracts, the Director, Legal and Democratic Services set out in his report the interim findings of the Scrutiny Working Group at its first meeting held on the 9th July, 2015.

Following consideration of the interim report of the Scrutiny Working Group it was **RESOLVED –**

1. To note the contents of the progress report of the Scrutiny Working Group.
2. That the final report and recommendations of the Scrutiny Working Group be presented to Cabinet in due course.

38 URGENT ITEM – URGENT NOTICE OF MOTION

(**Note:** Having previously declared an interest, Minute No.31 above refers, the Mayor, County Borough Councillor B.Stephens left the meeting for the following item and the Deputy Mayor, County Borough Councillor R.Lewis took the Chair)

In accordance with paragraph 10.5 of Part 4 of the Council's Constitution, the Deputy Mayor, agreed to the following Notice of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillors C.Leyshon, S.Bradwick, R.Lewis, S.Pickering, L.M.Adams, (Mrs.)T.Bates, D.R.Bevan, H.Boggis, J.Bonetto, (Mrs.)J.Bunnage, A.Calvert, P.Cannon, S.Cardter, J.Cass, A.Crimmings, W.J.David, A.Davies, MBE, (Mrs.)A.Davies, J.Davies, (Mrs.)M.Davies, (Mrs.)L.De Vet, J.Elliott, S.Evans, M.Forey, A.Fox, M.Griffiths, P.Griffiths, (Mrs.)E.Hanagan, G.Holmes, G.Hopkins, (Mrs.) S.Jones, L.Langford, 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, 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, being presented at this meeting, the reason or the urgency being that the next Council meeting is not until the end of September and the consultation period on the proposals ends on the 8th October:-

“This Council objects to the proposed closure of Pontypridd Magistrates Court and wider Ministry of Justice cuts which impact upon the residents of Rhondda Cynon Taf.

To serve the needs of victims of crime and those needing to give evidence against perpetrators of crimes, a County with the geographical size and population of Rhondda Cynon Taf needs Magistrate Services.

This Council believes the proposals are yet another attack on people’s access to justice, following significant restrictions on access to legal aid.

This Council believes Rhondda Cynon Taf should retain a Magistrates Court particularly following the closure of other facilities in 2010.

This Council will formally object to these proposals and other closures in neighbouring local authorities”.

Following a discussion it was **unanimously RESOLVED** – to adopt the Notice of Motion.

**B.STEPHENS
MAYOR**

**R.LEWIS
DEPUTY MAYOR**

The meeting closed at 6 p.m.