

## **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, 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2016 at 5.00 p.m.

### **PRESENT**

County Borough Councillor C.Middle – in the Chair

#### **County Borough Councillors**

L.M.Adams	M.Griffiths	J.Rosser
(Mrs.)T.A.Bates	P.Griffiths	G.Smith
D.R.Bevan	(Mrs.)E.Hanagan	R.W.Smith
H.Boggis	G.Holmes	G.Stacey
J.Bonetto	G.E.Hopkins	B.Stephens
S.A.Bradwick	P.Howe	R.K.Turner
A.Calvert	J.S.James	G.P.Thomas
S.Carter	P.Jarman	L.G.Walker
(Mrs.)A.Crimmings	(Mrs.)S.J.Jones	P.Wasley
W.J.David	(Mrs.)C.Leyshon	M.J.Watts
A.L.Davies,MBE	R.B.McDonald	(Mrs.)M.Webber
C.Davies	A.Morgan	E.Webster
G.R.Davies	M.A.Norris	C.J.Williams
(Mrs.)M.E.Davies	I.Pearce	D.H.Williams
J.Elliott	M.J.Powell	T.Williams
S.M.Evans	K.A.Privett	C.J.Willis
M.Forey	S.Rees-Owen	R.Yeo
	(Mrs.)A.Roberts	

#### **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 – Director, Cabinet & Public Relations  
Ms.K.May – Head of Democratic Services

#### **70 CHAIR**

In the absence of the Mayor, County Borough Councillor R.Lewis, the Deputy Mayor, County Borough Councillor C.Middle took the Chair.

#### **71 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors P.Baccara, J.Bunnage, (Mrs.)A.Davies, J.Davies, (Mrs.)L.De Vet, S.M.Evans-

Fear, R.Lewis, S.Lloyd, K.Montague, B.Morgan, K.Morgan, S.Pickering, S.Powderhill, S.Rees, (Mrs.)M.Tegg, (Mrs.)J.S.Ward, M.Weaver and W.D.Weeks.

## **72 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

In accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, the following declarations of personal interests in respect of Agenda Item 10(1) – Notice of Motion were received from:-

- County Borough Councillor L.M.Adams – “My children are serving members of the Royal Navy”.
- County Borough Councillor R.B.McDonald – “I am declaring a personal interest as a gotmrt dolfirt in the Royal Engineers 1961-1967”.
- County Borough Councillor C.Middle – “I am currently a reservist”.
- County Borough Councillor S.Rees-Owen – “A member of my family is a veteran”.
- County Borough Councillor R.W.Smith – “I am the Vice-Chair of the British Legion”

County Borough Councillor P.Jarman also declared that she had been granted a dispensation by the Standards Committee to speak and vote on all matters for the duration and adoption of the 2016/17 budget process.

## **73 PETITION**

A petition was handed to the Deputy Mayor by County Borough Councillor G.Holmes on behalf of the residents of Maes Cefn Mabley, Llantrisant requesting “that the Council assist in bringing pressure to bear upon the builder, Persimmon Homes to undertake whatever works necessary so that the roads etc can be offered to RCT for adoption”.

## **74 ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Deputy Mayor stated that the Mayor who had submitted his apologies for absence at this meeting, wished to express his thanks to the Council for giving the Freedom of the Borough to the late D.Dower.

## **75 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** – to approve as an accurate record the minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2016.

**Note:** In response to a point of order raised by County Borough Councillor P.Jarman in respect of Minute No.64, the Director, Legal & Democratic Services stated that as the two Members were not in attendance to ask the questions as submitted then the questions had not been put and therefore no

written responses were required. However, this matter would be clarified at the Annual Meeting of the Council in May, 2017.

## **76 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

- (a) **From County Borough Councillor P.Jarman to the Cabinet Member for Council Business and Human Resources, County Borough Councillor M.Webber**

"Will you make a statement on your area of responsibility described in the Council's Constitution as Elections?"

### **Response from County Borough Councillor M.Webber**

"My area of responsibility is set out in Part 3 of the Leader's Scheme of Delegation which is published in the Council's Constitution and is further clarified in my Role Description. The conduct of elections is the responsibility of the ERO and is not part of any Members remit".

### **Supplementary Question from County Borough Councillor P.Jarman**

"Your main areas of responsibility for elections also extend to communications, legal, human resources etc which is wide ranging. The elections part of your response is to work with Officers and within your role description. Under your watch need to ensure that there is no breach of the Purdah rules relating to press and no arrangements to use corporate resources as it was the case for 2012. A matter that you may want to take up with the Returning Officer".

### **Response from County Borough Councillor M.Webber**

"I will work to the best of my ability in an appropriate manner and how my portfolio dictates".

- (b) **From County Borough Councillor K.Montague to the Cabinet Member for Prosperity, Well-Being and Communities, County Borough Councillor J.Rosser**

"Could the Cabinet Member please make a statement on Communities First?"

**Note:** In the absence of County Borough Councillor K.Montague, the Deputy Mayor informed Members that the question would not be put.

- (c) **From County Borough Councillor P.Griffiths to the Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning, County Borough Councillor E.Hanagan**

"Will the Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning make a statement on schools?"

### **Response from County Borough Councillor E.Hanagan**

“With our secondary schools achieving record results. We work with our schools and the Central South Consortium and keep our focus on the improvements that can be made at all key stages. The Council is progressing with its ambitious 21<sup>st</sup> Century schools and investing money in new schools more than any other part of Wales”.

### **Supplementary Question from County Borough Councillor P.Griffiths**

“Welcome that investment. You will not be surprised that I will focus on Y Pant. It is an astonishing school and was built in 1957 as a Secondary Modern. Over the years the number of pupils have multiplied three times over. The Conservative Party are talking about Grammar Schools. Could you give an update on the new building?”

### **Response from County Borough Councillor E.Hanagan**

“Grammar schools are fine but when it comes to exams, secondary schools progress well. The new build for Y Pant was to be opening the beginning of December but it is now planned for January. I take my hat off to the contractors and staff. I can’t wait to see those children walk in on the first day of lessons in the new school”.

- (d) **From County Borough Councillor G.R.Davies to the Cabinet Member for Prosperity, Well-Being and Communities, County Borough Councillor J.Rosser**

“Will you make a statement on child poverty in the County Borough?”

### **Response from County Borough Councillor J.Rosser**

“We are working with partners at tackling child poverty in our County the aim is to support families and getting people back into work”.

### **Supplementary Question from County Borough Councillor G.R.Davies**

“Child poverty is a scandal. In Wales 1 in 3 children suffer in poverty, where other parts of the UK, notably Scotland have improved whereas Wales remain depressingly high. It was intended to eradicate child poverty by 2020 and that is unlikely to be achieved. Thirty years of free child care and this is being piloted in RCT but disadvantaged children if parents not in employment, they are excluded from the scheme. Can you contact Welsh Government and highlight this anomaly and that it be recognised?”

### **Response from County Borough Councillor J.Rosser**

“I will look into that question”.

- (e) **From County Borough Councillor T.Williams to the Cabinet Member for Prosperity, Well-Being and Communities, County Borough Councillor J.Rosser**

“What work is the Council undertaking to tackle poverty?”

**Response from County Borough Councillor J.Rosser**

“As in my reply to the previous question, the Council is undertaking a range of work with partners but unfortunately there is no quick fix”.

**Supplementary Question from County Borough Councillor T.Williams**

“What discussions have the Council had with Welsh Government in respect of the Community First programme, so that the scheme is not lost?”

**Response from County Borough Councillor J.Rosser**

“Following the announcement in respect of ending the programme, the Leader wrote to the First Minister. We want to work with all organisations to ensure that all projects add value and that the objectives are sustainable. The work the Council is currently doing through the arts is an excellent programme”.

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

**77 2018 REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES IN WALES – INITIAL PROPOSALS**

Pursuant to Minute No.53 of the Council Meeting held on the 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2016, the Director, Legal & Democratic Services provided Members with feedback following the meeting of the Working Group that was established to deal with this matter and it was **RESOLVED** – that a corporate response be not made to the consultation document by the deadline of the 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2016 and that it be left to individual Members/Political Groups to respond as individuals would have varying and different opinions.

**REPORT OF THE CABINET**

**78 COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN – INVESTMENT PRIORITIES**

The Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services presented the report on behalf of the Cabinet which set out the position with regard to one-off resources which had become available following the completion of the audit process of the Council's 2015/16 Statement of Accounts, with regard specifically to the amended Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy which was agreed by Council on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2016.

It was reported that the Cabinet had carefully considered the options available around the use of the resources as identified in paragraph 4 of the report, a key consideration of which was the Council's Corporate Plan 2016-2020. The Cabinet were of the view that the best use of the one off resources was to

invest in infrastructure and to support the aspirations and priorities as identified in the Corporate Plan.

At the meeting, the Leader of the Council gave his observations on the following specific areas which had been identified by the Cabinet and which was proposed that Council agree could be invested in:-

- Redevelopment of the Former Taff Vale Precinct Site (£2.024M)
- Cynon Gateway South: Mountain Ash Cross-Valley Link (£2.000M)
- Structures (£3.500M)

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

1. To release from reserves and in-year underspend 2016/17 the funding (one-off) realised as a consequence of the amended MRP Policy, as detailed in paragraph 4 of the report;
2. That the funding released is used to fund the investment priorities as detailed in paragraph 5 (Table 1) of the report, which will then be incorporated into the Capital Programme.

## **REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR, CORPORATE & FRONTLINE SERVICES**

### **79 2016/17 MID YEAR TREASURY MANAGEMENT STEWARDSHIP REPORT**

In accordance with the requirements of both the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities, the Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services provided Members with information on:-

- The Council's Treasury Management activity during the first six months of 2016/17; and
- Prudential and Treasury indicators for the same period.

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

### **80 NOTICE OF MOTION**

Prior to the following Notice of Motion being considered, the Director, Legal & Democratic Services responded to queries raised by a Member in relation to the Motion being in accord with paragraphs 10.3.2 and 10.3.3 of Part 4 of the Council's Constitution in that the Mover of the Motion would alter the Motion with additional wording as shown in **bold**.

The following Notice of Motion (as altered at the meeting with additional wording as shown in bold below) standing in the names of County Borough Councillors R.Smith, B.Stephens, L.M.Adams, T.Bates, R.Bevan, H.Boggis, J.Bonetto, S.Bradwick, J.Bunnage, A.Calvert, P.Cannon, S.Carter, J.Cass,

A.Crimmings, W.J.David, A.Davies, MBE, A.Davies, J.Davies, M.E.Davies, L.De Vet, J.Elliott, S.Evans, M.Forey, A.S.Fox, M.Griffiths, P.Griffiths, E.Hanagan, G.Holmes, G.Hopkins, S.Jones, L.Langford, R.Lewis, C.Leyshon, S.Lloyd, R.B.McDonald, C.Middle, K.Montague, A.Morgan, B.Morgan, M.A.Norris, S.Pickering, S.Powderhill, K.Privett, S.Rees, A.Roberts, J.Rosser, G.Smith, G.Stacey, B.Stephens, M.Tegg, G.Thomas, R.K.Turner, J.S.Ward, M.J.Watts, M.Webber, D.Weeks, C.Williams, D.H.Williams, T.Williams, C.J.Willis and R.Yeo was considered:-

“As part of the Council’s commitment to support the Armed Forces Community and as part of the review of fees and charges, this Council will **in principle**, adopt **after a further report outlining details for** the cessation of burial or cremation fees charged for the funerals of veterans and service men and women”.

Following a discussion, it was **RESOLVED** – to adopt the Notice of Motion as amended and that a Working Group be established to assist in drawing up the criteria to be used and the findings therefrom be reported to a future meeting of the Council.

## **81 NOTICE OF MOTION**

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

“This Council is committed to ongoing engagement with our young people on a county wide level. The Council calls on the Welsh Government to develop opportunities for young people to engage at a Wales level through the introduction of a Youth Assembly”.

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

**C.MIDDLE  
DEPUTY MAYOR**

**The meeting closed at 6.40 p.m.**

These minutes are subject to approval at the next scheduled meeting