

Subject to approval as an accurate record at the next appropriate meeting of  
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

**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, 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2018.

**PRESENT**

County Borough Councillor M.Tegg – in the Chair

**County Borough Councillors**

L.M.Adams	M.Forey	W.Owen
D.R.Bevan	A.S.Fox	D.Owen-Jones
H.Boggis	H.Fychan	S.Pickering
J.Bonetto	E.George	M.Powell
S.Bradwick	D.Grehan	S.Powell
J.Brencher	M.Griffiths	S.Rees-Owen
A.Calvert	J.Harries	A.Roberts
G.Caple	G.Holmes	R.Smith
A.Chapman	L.Hooper	G.Stacey
A.G.Cox	G..Hopkins	E.Stephens
A.Crimmings	G.W.Hughes	G.Thomas
J.L.Cullwick	J.James	W.Treeby
G.R.Davies	P.Jarman	R.K.Turner
J.R.Davies	G.Jones	L.Walker
A.Davies-Jones	L.Jones	M.Webber
L.De Vet	R.Lewis	G.D.G.Williams
M.Diamond	W.Lewis	J.Williams
S.Evans	C.Leyshon	T.Williams
S.M.Evans	D.Macey	C.J.Willis
M.Fidler Jones	A.Morgan	R.Yeo

**Officers in Attendance**

Mr.C.Bradshaw – Chief Executive  
Mr.G.Isingrini – Group Director, Community & Children’s Services  
Mr.C.B.Jones – Director, Legal & Democratic Services  
Mr.B.Davies – Director, Financial Services  
Mr.C.Hanagan – Director, Cabinet & Public Relations  
Ms.J.Cook – Director, Planning & Regeneration  
Mr.R.Evans – Director, Human Resources  
Mr.R.Waters – Service Director, Highways and Streetcare  
Ms.K.May – Head of Democratic Services

**111 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors S.Belzak, K.Morgan, S.Morgans, S.Rees, M.Weaver, E.Webster and D.H.Williams.

**112 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**RESOLVED** – to note that in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct the following declarations of interest were made at the meeting pertaining to the agenda:

**(a) Agenda Item 11 – The Council's 2018/19 Pay Policy Statement**

- County Borough Councillor D.R.Bevan – “I have a Member of my family who works for the Authority – it is a personal and prejudicial interest and I will leave the room during the debate of this item”.
- County Borough Councillor P.Jarman – “I have been granted a dispensation by the Standards Committee to speak and vote on all matters for the duration and adoption of the 2018/19 budget process as a relative of mine lives with me and works for the Authority”. *The Director, Legal & Democratic Services informed Councillor Jarman that given the nature of the dispensation would cover this disclosure.*

**(b) Agenda Item 12 – Chief Officer VER and Redundancy Packages**

- County Borough Councillor R.Lewis – “I have a close personal association and I will leave the room during the debate as it is a personal and prejudicial interest”.

**(c) Agenda Item 15(b) – Notice of Motion**

- County Borough Councillor D.R.Bevan – “I am a member of the Board of Trivallis”.
- County Borough Councillor H.Boggis – “I have previously bought a property under the `Right to Buy` scheme”.
- County Borough Councillor A.Crimmings – “I have previously bought a property under the `Right to Buy` scheme.
- County Borough Councillor G.R.Davies – “I am a member of Rhondda Housing Association”.
- County Borough Councillor M.Griffiths – “I am a member of the Board of Trivallis”.
- County Borough Councillor S.Pickering – “I am a member of the Board of Trivallis”.
- County Borough Councillor E.Stephens – “I am a tenant of a Trivallis property”.

**113 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- (1) County Borough Councillor J.Harries wished to congratulate Maerdy Primary School in being the only school in Wales to achieve the award in `Quality Marks in Restorative Practice`. He wished to thank the Teachers, Pupils and Parents for their hard work over the past three years in working towards this award.
- (2) County Borough Councillor J.Brencher wished to congratulate the Teachers who are involved in the Partnership Overseas Network Trust (PONT) which includes a large number of schools which is in excess of 100 across the County Borough such as Llwynceilyn Infants, YGG Llwynceilyn, Pontypridd High, Ton Pentre Infants, Gwaunmiskin Primary and Tonyrefail Comprehensive that are twinned with schools in the Mbale region of Uganda for visiting partner schools in Uganda and for those who also attended the Teachers Conference. One of the benefits of PONT is that children receive a Global Education programme which has been recognised and acknowledged by Estyn.

**114 PETITIONS**

The following petitions were handed to the Mayor by the Councillors as shown below:-

- (1) County Borough Councillor E.Stephens on behalf of the residents of Ferndale requesting that the Cabinet reconsiders its decision to remove school transport provision for children living in Blaenllechau and Taff Street and also introduce transport provision for children attending YGG Llyn y Forwyn.
- (2) County Borough Councillor J.Williams on behalf of the residents of Porth requesting that the Council provide discretionary home to school transport for the children of the Birchgrove and Llwynceilyn areas of Porth, who will have to travel out of their communities to the new Porth Community School.
- (3) County Borough Councillor J.R.Davies on behalf of the residents of Penygraig requesting that the Council provide transport for the children from Penygraig Infants, Penygraig Juniors and Ysgor yr Eos who will be moved to Ysgol Nantgwyn in September, 2018 as it was felt to be an unfair distance for pupils to travel (especially the infants aged 3–7) and an unsafe route.
- (4) From County Borough Councillor A.Cox on behalf of the residents of Porth requesting that the Cabinet reverse its decision to withdraw the transport provision to Ysgol Gyfun Cymer and Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Llwynceilyn as it was felt that it would have an adverse effect on the uptake of Welsh Medium Education (WME) in the area as families may not be willing to let their child travel such a distance due to safety concerns.

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**115 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** – to approve as an accurate record the minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2018, subject to Councillor M.Diamond's name being recorded as voting in favour of the motion in respect of Minute No.103.

**116 STATEMENTS**

- (1) The Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A.Morgan wished to place on record his thanks to the staff who contributed and supported the Council's response during the period of inclement weather, many of which worked through the night and over the weekend. The Leader gave examples where staff went over and beyond `the call of duty`, some staff slept in residential homes to ensure that individuals were cared for; highways staff clearing the snow off the roads to enable funerals to proceed.
- (2) The Deputy Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor M.Webber stated that Sion Pennell of the Highways Department won the Apprentice of the Year Award at the APSE Apprentice Awards evening. .

**117 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

- (a) **From County Borough Councillor J.Williams to the Leader of the Council (County Borough Councillor A.Morgan)**

"Please could you outline what processes are involved in determining priorities for the introduction of traffic management, including parking restrictions in town centres and residential areas across RCT?"

**Response from County Borough Councillor A.Morgan**

"Members will be aware that we operate a traffic programme within the Authority and in addition to our own capital resources, we also get money from Welsh Government. Within our own resources, we started a review about four years ago and looked at schemes such as residential parking and the areas that were looked at were Pontypridd, Aberdare, Mountain Ash – Tonypany is the next area to be reviewed. Safe Routes and Communities Grant Funding which used to be called Safe Routes to School – we continue to target that funding and we also target areas that are linked to accidents, where consideration is also given to the type of vehicle that uses the roads such as HGVs which is taken into account for the scoring mechanism".

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

“You mention the scoring mechanism – when independent assessments are taken as part of the design, is it done as a desktop exercise or through local knowledge. I have an issue in my ward where an independent assessment says it is not needed – how was that assessment done?”

**Response from County Borough Councillor A.Morgan**

“Usually it is based on traffic survey data, for example, speeding, where we can look at the records from the South Wales Police. Quite often a desktop exercise is undertaken and a lot of work is done on the ground. There are two stages of consultation – informal and then statutory before we proceed to a public notice. If you supply me with the specific information within your ward then I will look into it”.

**(b) From County Borough Councillor S.Morgans to the Deputy Cabinet Member for Children & Young People (County Borough Councillor C.Leyshon)**

“Will the Cabinet Member provide an update on the Welsh Government’s Free Childcare initiative?”

**Note:** County Borough Councillor S.Morgans was not present at the meeting and it was agreed that a written response to the above question would be made by Councillor C.Leyshon.

**(c) From County Borough Councillor G.Caple to the Cabinet Member for Environment & Leisure (County Borough Councillor (A.Crimmings)**

“Can the Cabinet Member please make a statement on leisure facilities across Rhondda Cynon Taf?”

**Response from County Borough Councillor A.Crimmings.**

“We have come a long way with our leisure facilities. An additional £750,000 investment on top of the £3M previously agreed has been granted over a three year period to improve our leisure facilities. More and more people have become `Leisure for Life` members which has increased by 30% since December, 2016, which shows our programme is working and we are encouraging more members across the board to join, we are taking membership from ages 11 years up”.

**Supplementary Question from County Borough Councillor G.Caple**

“I am delighted to hear that extra investment is being made especially at Bronwydd Pool which will lead to an increase in user numbers”.

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**Response from County Borough Councillor A.Crimmings**

“You will be aware that we were looking at Bronwydd Pool as a closure. We are making improvements to some of the changing rooms in our leisure centres and Bronwydd is one of them. It will be opening on the 7<sup>th</sup> April. The £750,000 additional investment has enabled us to make such improvements. The Leisure for Life app is also beneficial for users of our leisure centres as they can, for example, book classes by using the App.

**(d) From County Borough Councillor P.Jarman to the Leader of the Council (County Borough Councillor A.Morgan)**

“Please would you make a statement on traffic movement in Mountain Ash East?”

**Response from County Borough Councillor A.Morgan**

“The roads are congested and we are waiting for the cross valley link. In terms of the history of this project, a year before we allocated capital funding, we looked at vehicle recognition numbers and we used the Canvass. The cross link is clearly taking traffic off the existing bridge. The A4059 should be opened a year October and we will look at further modelling of that location”.

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

“You are obviously aware of the chronic situation at all six of the junctions seeking to access the A4059, namely Mill Place by the Comprehensive School, the junctions at Indoor Bowls Hall, Seymour Street (No right turn but they do), Troedyrhiw Road, the CAT and also Strand/Mary Street, all within a half mile of each other. You will know that I have told you previously that many of my constituents feel like hostages because they wait for ages to exit these junctions and some have approached you directly quoting their own experiences. In January you told me you would ask Traffic to review these matters and update. When can I have some definitive feedback from that review? “

**Response from County Borough Councillor A. Morgan**

“I would hope that you had a reply from Officers and from the look on your face, I can see you didn't, I will get on to that tomorrow. The biggest issue now is the Bowls junction, the junction at Seymour Street and the Troedyrhiw junction. Until we deal with the issue of those lights as everyone is trying to get through those lights. We have to wait until a year October to see the impact. In the longer term there were plans for the northern cross valley link but that was over 30 years ago. Until we are confident of the existing project, we could end up in the future looking to signalise where the Bowls Hall is now but we need to know what the impact will be.

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We are in a difficult situation and things could get worse, a further assessment will be undertaken after a year October”.

**(e) From County Borough Councillor G.R.Davies to the Cabinet Member for Environment & Leisure (County Borough Councillor A.Crimmings)**

“Will you make a statement on recycling in Rhondda Cynon Taf?”

**Response from County Borough Councillor A.Crimmings**

“64% of our waste is recycled and we are amongst the top 10 performing Councils in Wales. Over a 1,000 tonnes of food waste is also recycled. As a past Chair of the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee, you will remember the door knocking campaign that was undertaken by Members of your Committee to encourage residents to recycle. There were also other campaigns informing people of the items that can be recycled. Those initiatives will help us achieve 70% by 2024/25 which is a Welsh Government initiative, however, this figure maybe revised and brought forward”.

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

“There is a lot of publicity in the media about the problems associated with recycling plastic, it is important that we find a solution to this problem. Recycling helps but we should try to stop using these products for single use. The Council purchase these items for the Meals on Wheels service and here in the Chamber this evening people are drinking from plastic cups which will only be used once. Has the Procurement Department been given any direction about single use items and using multiple use which would be a positive step for the environment?”

**Response from County Borough Councillor A.Crimmings**

“In the next one-to-one meeting between myself and the Chair/Vice-Chair of the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee I will be putting this item on the agenda”.

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**118 THE CARDIFF CAPITAL REGION CITY DEAL**

In his report, the Chief Executive sought the approval of the Cardiff Capital Region Joint Working Agreement Business Plan.

Following the observations made by the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council, it was **RESOLVED –**

1. To approve and adopt the draft Joint Working Agreement Business Plan (Cardiff Capital Region Strategic Business Plan) as shown at Appendix A to the report;



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2. To agree its inclusion in the Council's Capital Programme.

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

### **119 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY INCORPORATING INVESTMENT STRATEGY, PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS AND MRP STATEMENT FOR 2018/19**

In his report, the Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services set out details of the following for the Council's consideration:

- Treasury Management Strategy for 2018/19
- Investment Strategy for 2018/19
- Prudential and Treasury Indicators for 2017/18 (actual to date) and 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21; and
- Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement

and following consideration thereof, it was **RESOLVED –**

1. To approve the Treasury Management Strategy, Investment Strategy, Prudential and Treasury Indicators and the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement as set out in the report;
2. To grant the Section 151 Officer (or in his absence the Deputy Section 151 Officer) delegated powers to exceed the fixed/variable limits, in the best financial interest of the Authority only, and if utilised, that this be reported to the next available meeting of the Council as referred to in paragraph 19.6 of the report.

## **REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, CABINET & PUBLIC RELATIONS**

### **120 DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS**

In his report, the Director, Cabinet & Public Relations advised Members of the recommendations of the Democratic Services Committee which met on the 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2018 in respect of the Document Management Proposals following the trial of `Paperless Committee Meetings` by the Cabinet through the use of the Modern.Gov app.

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

1. To note the feedback from the Democratic Services Committee following consideration of the Document Management Proposals report on the 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2018;
2. To agree to support further extension of the paperless approach to all Committees of the Council as detailed in the report presented at this

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evening's meeting and the report considered at the Democratic Services Committee on the 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2018, taking forward a phased approach to paperless Committee meetings in the first instance;

3. To note that consequential changes to the Council's Constitution will be required and that delegated authority be given to the Director, Legal & Democratic Services to make such consequential changes.

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

#### **121 STANDARDS COMMITTEE – APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER (AND RESERVE INDEPENDENT MEMBER)**

In accordance with Minute No. 78(5) of the Council meeting held on the 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2017, in his report the Director, Legal & Democratic Services reported on the recommendations of the Appointments Panel which met on the 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2018 to interview the two applicants for the Independent Member (plus reserve) vacancies of the Standards Committee.

#### **RESOLVED –**

1. To approve the recommendation of the Appointments Panel to appoint Mr.David J.J.Bowen as an Independent Member of the Standards Committee for a term of six years commencing 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2018;
2. To note that Council will need to re-advertise the post of reserve Independent Member in light of only one applicant being recommended by the Panel for the available vacant positions; and
3. To authorise the Monitoring Officer to place a further advertisement in respect of the reserve Independent Member vacancy (based on the established criteria for the post) and agree that the Appointments Panel (as constituted in paragraph 4.5 of the report) meets to consider applicants for those posts and that its recommendation be reported to Council at the appropriate time.

### **JOINT REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, HUMAN RESOUARES AND THE DIRECTOR, LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

#### **122 THE COUNCIL'S 2018/19 PAY POLICY STATEMENT**

In accordance with Section 38(1) of the Localism Act, 2011, the Director, Human Resources and the Director, Legal & Democratic Services attached to their joint report the Council's 2018/19 Pay Policy Statement and it was

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**RESOLVED** – to approve the Pay Policy Statement as shown at Appendix A to the report.

**Note:** County Borough Councillor D.R.Bevan, having declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the above matter earlier on in the meeting (Minute No.112(a) refers) left the meeting during the consideration and voting in respect of this matter.

## **JOINT REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND THE DIRECTOR, HUMAN RESOURCES**

### **123 CHIEF OFFICER VER & REDUNDANCY PACKAGES**

In their joint report, the Chief Executive and the Director, Human Resources sought the approval of Council for two Chief Officer severance packages following the recommendations made by the Voluntary Early Retirement/Redundancy Panel.

**RESOLVED** – that following the recommendations from the Council's VER Panel to approve the two Chief Officer severance packages, as detailed at Appendix 1 to the report, in accordance with the Council's approved 2017/18 Pay Policy statement.

**Note:** County Borough Councillor R.Lewis, having declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the above matter earlier on in the meeting (Minute No.112(b) refers) left the meeting during consideration and voting in respect of this matter.

## **JOINT REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND THE DIRECTOR, CABINET & PUBLIC RELATIONS**

### **124 WELSH GOVERNMENT – GREEN PAPER CONSULTATION DOCUMENT “STRENGTHENING LOCAL GOVERNMENT: DELIVERING FOR PEOPLE”**

**RESOLVED** – That two Working Groups be established of the Cabinet and of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the consultation document published by the Welsh Government in relation to the Green Paper – “Strengthening Local Government: Delivering for People” in order that the Council can receive comments from Members of both Working Groups at the meeting of Council on the 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2018 which will form the basis of the Council's response to be submitted by the 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2018.

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

### **125 CHANGE TO THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE APPEALS/EMPLOYEE APPEALS/CHIEF OFFICER APPEALS COMMITTEE**

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In accordance with the decision taken by Minute No.2(2.2) of the Council meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2017, the Director, Legal & Democratic Services reported that he had received notification from the Conservative Group of a change to its membership of the Appeals/Employee Appeals/Chief Officer Appeals Committee and it was **RESOLVED** – to note that County Borough Councillor J.James is to be nominated in place of County Borough Councillor K.L.Jones on the Appeals/Employee Appeals/Chief Officer Appeals Committee.

**126 NOTICE OF MOTION**

The following Notice of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillors A.Morgan, M.Webber, L.M.Adams, R.Bevan, H.Boggis, J.Bonetto, S.Bradwick, J.Brencher, A.Calvert, G.Caple, A.Crimmings, A.Davies-Jones, L.De Vet, J.Elliott, S.Evans, F.Fidler Jones, M.Forey, A.Fox, E.George, M.Griffiths, J.Harries, G.Holmes, G.Hopkins, G.W.Hughes, G.Jones, R.Lewis, W.Lewis, C.Leyshon, S.Morgans, M.Norris, D.Owen-Jones, S.Pickering, S.Powderhill, S.Powell, S.Rees, A.Roberts, J.Rosser, R.Smith, G.Stacey, M.Tegg, G.Thomas, W.Treeby, R.K.Turner, D.Williams, T.Williams. C.J.Willis and R.Yeo was considered:-

“This Council commits to supporting the UK100 Clean Energy Commitment and takes appropriate action in order to transition towards being a fully environmentally responsible Authority by 2050.

This Council acknowledges:

- The historic commitments made at the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris towards the future of renewable energy;
- Our responsibility to help secure an environmentally sustainable future for our residents and in relation to the global effects of man-made climate change;
- That air pollution increases the risk of lung cancer, it can worsen existing lung conditions and stunt the growth of children’s lungs;
- That climate action is not an inhibitor of economic growth but rather a driver of it, and additional benefits of the development of green industries include the potential to capitalise on the objectives of the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal, in creating well-paid, high skilled employment locally, regionally and nationally; better health and well being and financial savings to residents and businesses in the short and longer term.

In light of this, this Council therefore resolves to:

- Match the ambitions of the UK100 Agreement through pledging to achieve 100% clean energy across Rhondda Cynon Taf Council’s full range of functions by 2050;

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- Work in partnership with our residents and business community to deliver against the commitments made nationally and internationally at the 2015 Paris Summit;
- Turn these commitments into reality through developing a `route map` to sustainable future, working together with local business, educational and residential communities as part of an integrated approach to a shared sustainable future”.

**RESOLVED** – to adopt the Notice of Motion.

**127 COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8 (DURATION OF MEETING)**

At this point in the proceedings, it was **RESOLVED** – to continue the meeting in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 8, to allow consideration of the remaining agenda item and continuation of Council business.

**128 NOTICE OF MOTION**

The following Notice of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillors J.James, L.Hooper, M.Diamond and K.L.Jones was considered:-

“This Council strongly disagrees with the decision made by the Welsh Labour Government, propped up by Plaid Cymru to remove the Right to Buy scheme from social housing tenants across Wales.

Since its introduction in 1981 by the then Conservative Government, the Right to Buy scheme has allowed approximately 130,000 people to buy their council/housing association homes across Wales. Not only has this given thousands of families the stability and certainty provided by owning their own home, but has also been a vehicle for social mobility.

This Council believes that no matter your background or where you live, you should be given the chance to own your own home. We deplore this retrograde step taken by the Welsh Government, which is indicative of its low aspirations for social housing tenants in Rhondda Cynon Taf and across Wales as a whole”.

Following a lengthy discussion, it was **RESOLVED** – not to adopt the Notice of Motion.

**Note:** The following Members wished to have their names recorded that they voted against the above Notice of Motion:-

County Borough Councillors L.M.Adams, D.R.Bevan, H.Boggis, J.Bonetto, S.A.Bradwick, J.Brencher, A.Calvert, G.Caple, A.Chapman, A.G.Cox, A.Crimmings, J.L.Cullwick, G.R.Davies, A.Davies-Jones, L.De Vet, S.M.Evans, M.Fidler Jones, M.Forey, A.S.Adams, H.Fychan, E.George, M.Griffiths, J.Harries, G.E.Hopkins, G.W.Hughes, P.Jarman, G.Jones,

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L.Jones, R.Lewis, W.Lewis, C.Leyshon, D.Macey, A.Morgan, D.Owen-Jones, S.Pickering, S.M.Powell, S.Rees-Owen, A.Roberts, R.Smith, E.Stephens, M.Tegg, G.Thomas, W.Treeby, M.Webber, J.Williams, T.Williamss and R.Yeo.

**Further Noted:** County Borough Councillors J.James and L.Hooper wished to have their names recorded that they voted in favour of the above Notice of Motion and County Borough Councillors M.Powell and L.Walker wished to have recorded the fact that they abstained from voting.

**M.TEGG  
MAYOR**

**The meeting closed at 8.03 p.m.**