

## **RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL COUNCIL**

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Wednesday, 10 April 2019 at 5.00 pm at the The Council Chamber, The Pavilions, Cambrian Park, Clydach Vale, Tonypandy, CF40 2XX.

## County Borough Councillors - Council Members in attendance:-

## Councillor S Powderhill (Chair)

## Officers in attendance

Mr C Bradshaw, Chief Executive Mr B Davies, Director of Finance & Digital Services Mr R Evans, Director of Human Resources Mr C Hanagan, Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication Mr G Isingrini, Group Director Community & Children's Services Mr N Wheeler, Group Director – Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services Mr J Whitehurst, Graduate Officer - Cabinet & PR Mr A Wilkins, Director of Legal Services

## 136 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, the following Declarations of Interest were made pertaining to the agenda:

## Agenda Item 5 - Public Questions

- County Borough Councillor M Webber declared the following personal interests in respect of the matter - " I am on the Governing Body of Heol Y Celyn Primary School but my interest is not prejudicial because of the exemption contained within paragraph 12(2) (a)(iii) of the Members Code of Conduct."
- County Borough Councillor M Fidler Jones declared the following personal interests in respect of the matter - " I am on the Governing Body of Heol Y Celyn Primary School but my interest is not prejudicial because of the exemption contained within paragraph 12(2) (a)(iii) of the Members Code of Conduct."
- County Borough Councillor H Fychan declared the following personal interests in respect of the matter - " I am on the Governing Body of YGG Evan James School but my interest is not prejudicial because of the exemption contained within paragraph 12(2) (a)(iii) of the Members Code of Conduct."
- County Borough Councillor R Lewis declared the following personal interests in respect of the matter - " I am on the Governing Body of YGG Abercynon but my interest is not prejudicial because of the exemption contained within paragraph 12(2) (a)(iii) of the Members Code of Conduct."

## Agenda Item 8 – Notice of Motion (B)

- County Borough Councillor R Yeo declared the following personal interest and remained in the meeting when the item was voted upon – "My wife works for Cwm Taf University Health Board, within Prince Charles hospital"
- County Borough Councillor M Forey declared the following personal and prejudicial interest and left the meeting when the item was voted upon – "I was the Elected Member representative of Cwm Taf UHB when the South Wales programme was considered including the decision taken on consultant led maternity services"
- County Borough Councillor R Smith made the following personal interest and refrained from partaking in debate or the vote – "I am the Elected Member representative on the Cwm Taf UHB".
- County Borough Councillor J Elliot declared the following personal and non-prejudicial interest: "My sister in law works for the Cwm Taf UHB"
- County Borough Councillor K Morgan declared the following personal and non-prejudicial interest: "I work for Cwm Taf UHB"
- County Borough Councillor S Evans declared the following personal and non-prejudicial interest: "I work for the NHS"
- County Borough Councillor G Williams declared the following personal and non-prejudicial interest: "My wife works for Cwm Taf UHB"

## 137 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors S. A Bradwick, A Calvert, M Diamond, S.M.Evans, G Holmes, G Jones, W Owen, S Rees, R K Turner, and T Williams.

## 138 ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Mayor advised Members that County Borough Councillor Bradwick was currently in hospital and that the well wishes of the Committee be sent to the Member.
- The Mayor took the opportunity to congratulate County Borough Councillor A Davies-Jones on the new arrival of baby Sullivan.
- The Mayor along with County Borough Councillor P Jarman, offered condolences to the family of former County Borough Councillor S Gregory. Councillor Jarman also paid tribute to the former Councillor on his work over his many years as a Councillor.
- County Borough Councillor L De Vet took the opportunity to congratulate Aberdare school who had won through to the Welsh rugby school final which was taking place on 1st May at the Principality Stadium, Cardiff . The Member added that this was fantastic news for the team, pupils and the families involved and wished the team every success at the final.
- The Mayor advised Members of a Velindre Cancer Centre pin badge and collection box that was being circulated within the Chamber. The Mayor advised of the fundraising being taken forward by Mr Wayne Griffiths for the 'Rhian Griffiths Forget Me Not' Fund, set up in memory for his daughter who sadly passed away from cancer, adding that the gentleman had raised over £400k for Velindre to date. The Mayor added that any donations received would be provided to this just cause.
- County Borough Councillor D Owen Jones took the opportunity to thank the Mayor for the warm welcome he and groups of his residents had received after a recent visit to the parlour. The Member spoke of the inspirational and uplifting visit and thanked the Mayor for his kind hospitality.
- County Borough Councillor D Grehan referred Members to the 'Tonyrefail Skate Park' newsletter that was currently being distributed across the Tonyrefail area. He advised of the funds raised since the skate park campaign had commenced and the applications taken forward in respect of lottery funding. The Member advised Members of a future 'Duck Race' being undertaken to raise further funds for the campaign and asked Members to kindly contribute to the campaign through a purchase of a duck.
- The Mayor took the opportunity to thank members of the Plaid Cymru Group for their kind donation towards the Mayors Charity.

## 139 MINUTES

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the 27th March, 2019 as an accurate reflection of the meeting subject to the amendment of Minute 126 (penultimate bullet point') to read 'Megan Sass'.

## 140 STATEMENTS

Statement from the Leader of the Council in respect of Apprenticeship and graduate programme.

The Leader advised that the next round of applications for apprenticeships and graduates was open, with 24 places available for apprenticeships and 9 for graduates. He advised that since the last election the Council had received 81 apprenticeships and 31 graduates and the Council were on target for the 150 places over the 5 year term. The Leader asked Members to share details of the applications as wide as possible to further promote the opportunities available. Members were advised that the applications were available on the Council website.

The Leader added that between 2012 and 2016, 100% of the Council's Apprentices and Graduates had achieved their full qualification framework, 92% securing employment once their scheme finished, with over 80% of these securing employment within the Council, while others went into further learning.

Statement from the Deputy Leader of the Council in respect of the Big Weekend.

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The Deputy Leader was pleased to confirm that one of the UK's leading events company was bringing back Ponty's Big Weekend this summer.

She added that Orchard Live recently announced that multi-million record sellers Ocean Colour Scene would be the headline act at this year's edition of the event, which would take place on Saturday, 17th August at Ynysangharad War Memorial Park. She was also pleased to confirm that the Bluetones and South Wales' very own Goldie Lookin Chain would be performing at the event.

The Deputy Leader continued by advising that the Council were supporting Orchard in the delivery of the event, and it was hoped that the return of the Big Weekend would prove to be the first success in a long line of exciting events that the Council have lined up over the next few years.

It was kindly asked that all Councillors promote the event within their respective communities and Members were informed that tickets would be available from Friday, 12th April at 9am and could be purchased online at Ticketmaster, in person at one of the theatres, and a suitable venue to be confirmed within the Pontypridd area.

## Statement from Cabinet Member for Education & Lifelong Learning in respect of the School Holiday Enrichment Programme (SHEP)

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The Cabinet Member for Education & Lifelong Learning was pleased to confirm that the School Holiday Enrichment Programme (SHEP) would once again be extended in 2019. The Member advised that the programme aims to remove the stigma around FSM entitlements by inviting all 5-11 year olds to participate in the pilot, and not only provides participating pupils with breakfast and lunch, but also allows them to participate in sports and education activities and to strengthen friendship groups. Members were advised that in the first year only three schools were involved in the programme and advised that the programme had now been extended and included both English, Welsh and faith schools. It was added that 12 sessions would be run throughout three weeks of the summer holidays, adding that the activities were still to be finalised however, she advised of the involvement of parents in some of the activities to promote healthy eating and lifestyle at home. The Cabinet Member concluded that the children would receive a graduation ceremony following the conclusion of the programme.

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## Statement from Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure & Heritage Services:

The Cabinet Member confirmed that the National Lido of Wales, Lido Ponty, would be re-opening for 2019 on Saturday, April 13th, in time for the Easter Holidays, adding that once again the prices had been frozen to retain free swimming for all children under 16.

Members were advised that since opening in 2015, the Lido has welcomed over 266,000 people from all across the world, and last year's fourth season saw a record breaking 91,000 visitors coming through the doors.

Investment in the Council's tourist destinations had paid off with the Welsh Mining Experience at the Rhondda Heritage Park achieving its most successful year to date after the £600k investment delivered with an increase of over 38% to visitor attraction numbers.

The Cabinet Member informed Members that the Council were currently working on two respective bids for funding under the Valleys Taskforce's Valleys Gateway programme which would deliver transformative improvements to Dare Valley Country Park and Ynysangharad War Memorial Park. She added that the Council were also working with Welsh Government to reopen the Rhondda and Abernant Tunnels to improve outdoor active adventure offer, which would hopefully complement the Zip World development, which will soon be subject to planning approval, after the Council has been in discussion with the company and the Council Leader who have been working closely on this for the last 12 months.

## 141 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

### 1. Question received from Ms L Chinnock-Davies to the Cabinet Member for Adult Community Services & Welsh Language County Borough Councillor G. Hopkins:

"Would the Cabinet Member with responsibility for the Welsh language please make a statement in relation to how the Council is supporting children in north Pontypridd to access Welsh medium education within their community."

## Response from Cabinet Member for Adult Community Services & Welsh Language County Borough Councillor G. Hopkins:

The Cabinet Member thanked Ms Chinnock-Davies for her question and advised that the Council has, since 2012, provided additional capacity in schools throughout the County Borough and was also committed to increasing the quality and availability of early year's Welsh medium provision. He advised that improved facilities were programmed for YGG Evan James and YGG Abercynon along with additional provision on the Heol y Celyn site if the proposal proceeds along with additional 90 pupil places.

The Cabinet Member continued by informing Ms Chinnock-Davies that the Council had a proud record of planning for school places, ensuring that there were sufficient school places to meet local need and parental choice for Welsh medium provision. In all of the Council's Welsh Medium schools across the County there was capacity for parents to choose what school they attend. He added that there was capacity in the North of Pontypridd currently and that the Council's current policy was that learners attending the nearest Welsh Medium School receive free transport in accordance with the Council's agreed policy on walking distance and safe routes.

### Supplementary question from Ms Chinnock-Davies:

"Ms Chinnock-Davies referenced the Cabinet meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> March and questioned whether the Member still accepted that it was right for children to access Welsh education from outside the Community. Ms Chinnock-Davies referenced the Welsh Government intention to increase welsh medium provision adding that the recent decision taken by the Cabinet created barriers for the children, parents and families. She queried whether the member though that moving welsh education provision away from YGG Pont Sion Norton, Gilfach Goch and Ynysybwl was preventing families from accessing welsh medium education and stopping the Welsh Government plan to grow. The public speaker concluded by adding that the decision taken was only allowing Welsh medium education for the privilege and not open to all."

### **Response from Cabinet Member G Hopkins:**

The Cabinet Member referenced the many detailed and lengthy discussions taken forward at both the Cabinet meeting and the recent Call In meeting. He added that the decision was subject to the statutory process period and advised that he was unable to comment any further on the matter.

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 Question received from Ms S Herniman to the Cabinet Member for Education & Lifelong Learning, County Borough Councillor J Rosser – As the Member of the public was not in attendance at the meeting a written response to the question would be provided.

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3. Question received from Mrs C.M Chinnock to the Deputy Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor M Webber:

"Could Cabinet Member, Maureen Webber, please clarify whether there have been objections to the current proposals for the Heol y Celyn site by residents concerned about the increased volume of traffic that will be travelling down the narrow street, namely Holly Street, where the school is situated and around the Rhydyfelin area?"

## Response from County Borough Councillor Webber

The Member advised that some concerns had been raised through queries and questions however no direct objections had been received. The Cabinet Member advised that she lives directly adjacent to the school and therefore travelled on the roads mentioned constantly. The Cabinet Member concluded by reiterating that no formal objections had been received.

### Supplementary question by Mrs C.M Chinnock:

Mrs Chinnock commented that one of the arguments by Cabinet to justify the decision made was in respect of the actual mileage to and from the school, which would be less per day. However she added that if the same rule applies to Heol Y Celyn to that of YGG Pont Sion Norton that the bus must drop off and pick up on the school side of the road then the journey required would be longer and subject to more congested traffic. Mrs Chinnock queried whether this added congestion would be an issue and to confirm would the route be longer?

#### **Response from County Borough Councillor Webber:**

The Cabinet Member advised that with any school proposals a traffic impact assessment would be undertaken and would address any concerns raised.

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#### 142 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

### 1. From County Borough Councillor J. Harries to the Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure and Heritage Services (County Borough Councillor A. Crimmings):

"How is the Council responding to instances of fly-tipping across the County Borough?"

#### **Response from County Borough Councillor A Crimmings :**

The Cabinet Member advised that council continues to tackle any fly tipping incidents with a dedicated Fly Tipping Officer in place who searches for any evidence within the tipped material which might lead the Council to the person responsible, so that prosecution and hopefully conviction could be obtained. She continued by adding that unfortunately, there were many incidents where no evidence could be found. All incidents where evidence is present are now investigated fully and, where this evidence is sufficient, offenders will be prosecuted. To demonstrate the Councils tough approach with fly tipping the Cabinet Member advised that the Fixed Penalty Notice charges had recently been increased to £400 for small-scale fly tipping offences.

**Supplementary question from County Borough Councillor J Harries:** The Member asked if the Cabinet Member could provide detail on the number of offenders that the Council has taken action against over the course of the 2018/19 financial year across the County Borough.

## **Response County Borough Councillor A Crimmings:**

The Cabinet Member advised that she didn't have the information to hand but would respond in writing. The Cabinet Member did advise that 2 individuals from the Rhondda had recently pleaded guilty to fly tipping offences and are currently awaiting sentence by the Crown Court.

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## 2 From County Borough Councillor D. Owen-Jones to the Leader of the Council County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:

"Can the Leader please outline the next steps for the key dualling of the A4119 scheme between Ynysmaerdy and Coed Ely?"

### **Response from County Borough Councillor A Morgan:**

The Leader advised that the dualling of the A4119 (known locally as Stinkpot Hill) between Ynysmaerdy and Coed Ely is at the end of the preliminary design stage. Ecological surveys commenced on site in 2018 and will continue in 2019 to determine any impacts on the flora and fauna as a result of the proposed project. He added that the preliminary design and modelling had indicated significant benefits for the removal of the Fire Station roundabout and the new access to the Fire Station has commenced detailed design.

The Leader continued by detailing the next steps for the dualling:

- Detailed design of Fire Station access and the A4119 dualling itself
- Purchase of third party land by negotiation or via a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO)
- Agreement with Natural Resources Wales of any mitigation required for any significant flora / fauna identified
- Approval of new Fire Station access from South Wales Fire Service board (agreement in principle already obtained)
- Submission of planning application for new Fire Station access, Dualling was not subject to planning permission as this was permitted development.
- Tendering exercise for Fire Station access and separately for A4119 dualling
- Construction of both the Fire Station access and A4119

### Supplementary question from County Borough Councillor D Owen-Jones:

The Member queried whether there was any possibility of having a filter lane from approaches to the dualling from Coedely Village left of the Roundabout as there was plenty of area to accommodate. He added that users from nearby Coedely, Nant Melyn and Thomastown fear a Junction at this point would further add problems to gain access to this very busy network. Queuing traffic presently at peak extended into the village well over 500m and disallows movement by the locals. The wait to leave for Smeilog Lanes and upwards to Rhondda was also frustrating and unacceptable. The Member questioned whether that the plans had been vetted and tested to avoid and not transfer the present situation to Coedely Roundabout, of traffic embarking at speed to a single lane in an upward direction to Tonyrefail, Gilfach Goch and the Rhondda?

### **Response from County Borough Councillor A Morgan:**

The Leader advised that a wider assessment of the traffic impact would be undertaken adding that there was the potential for a filter lane on the A4119. He referenced the traffic on the junction at Coed Ely commenting that he did not see any negative effects. The Leader also referenced the design review stages that would need to be taken forward and the road safety assessments to assess any adverse effects.

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## 3 From County Borough Councillor D. Grehan to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A Morgan:

"Can the appropriate Cabinet Member please tell me of the efforts being made to increase parking in Tonyrefail?"

## Response from County Borough Councillor A Morgan:

The Leader advised that there were no plans at this instance to increase the parking, although a number of reviews had been undertaken previously with consideration for parking on the former school site but some had suggested that this was too far away from the village Centre location. The Leader also advised of a potential social housing development being taken forward on this previously suggested land. The Leader concluded by advising that the Council currently did not have any land to develop a cap park on.

# Supplementary question from County Borough Councillor D Grehan:

Councillor Grehan commented that the problem with parking was not new to the village and that the attempts to find land close to the village had been going on for years. The Member agreed with the Leader that the Council had lost a good opportunity on the piece of land at the former school site, adding that this location would have been a perfect location for additional car parking. The Member queried whether the development of more houses on the fore-mentioned location would exacerbate the parking situation, especially with the problem with parking due to the theatre. Councillor Grehan questioned whether the Council could work with the developer to see if parking could be provided for both its residents and the community and also asked the Leader if he would be willing to meet with him in Tonyrefail to witness the problems with the car parking in certain streets who struggle with car parking spaces.

## **Response from the County Borough Councillor A Morgan:**

The Leader noted that as the development was subject to a planning application he would be mindful of his comments. The Leader added that the Council had already looked at the site in relation to the High Street as an opportunity for car parking but alternative views were that this location was too far away to provide accessible car parking. The Leader added that if the option was put forward to the developers in respect of community parking then this may make the site unviable to the developer. The Leader concluded that if appropriate land that was workable for the village and was affordable became available then the Council would review the issue again adding that this was a long standing issue.

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# 4 From County Borough Councillor G. Hughes to the Leader of the Council County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:

"What steps is the Council taking to improve Active Travel opportunities across the County Borough?"

## Response from County Borough Councillor A Morgan:

The Leader advised that the Council had produced the Integrated Network Map following a 12 week public consultation during the summer of 2017. He added that the map was approved by Welsh Government in February 2018 and that the Council are now progressing a number of specific schemes across the County Borough. The Leader added that the Council were awaiting the formal announcements of a number of the Council's bids as to whether they had been successful, adding that confirmation should be provided in the next week.

County Borough Councillor G Hughes had no Supplementary question to the Member.

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5 Members were advised that apologies of absence had been received from Councillor T Williams due to illness and the Chair confirmed that the question would not be put to the Cabinet Member.

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## 143 URGENT EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

The Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication provided Members with an overview of the report which provided details of the urgent executive decisions taken forward during the period January – March, 2019. Members were advised that no urgent decisions had been taken by the Cabinet Committee or through Office Delegated decisions during this time period.

Members **RESOLVED** to note the information contained in the report.

## 144 NOTICE OF MOTION

(a) The following Notice of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillors P. Jarman, G.Davies, J. Williams, A.Cox, K. Morgan, H.Fychan, D.Grehan, E.Stephens, L.Jones, J.Davies, J.Cullwick, M.Weaver, S.Rees Owen, E.Webster, A. Chapman, S.M. Evans and D.Macey was received by the Proper Officer in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.1(b):- That future provision be made in the Committee structure of the Council for a Petitions Committee and that provision also be made to increase the number of Members questions at each Full Council Meeting from five to eight.

If agreed, this will require the Corporate Governance and Constitution Committee to meet urgently to consider recommending these changes to the Council Constitution at the Council's AGM in May 2019.

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** not to adopt the Notice of Motion.

(**N.B** - Members of the Plaid Cymru Group, the Conservative Group and members of the Alliance Group that were in attendance at the meeting, requested that their names be recorded that they voted in favour of the failed Notice of Motion).

(b) The following Notice of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillors L.M. Adams, R. Yeo, D.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, M Fidler Jones, A. Fox, E. George, M. Griffiths, J. Harries, G Hughes, G. Holmes, G. Hopkins, G. Jones, R. Lewis, W. Lewis, C. Leyshon, A. Morgan, S. Morgans, M.A. Norris, D. Owen-Jones, S. Pickering, S.M. Powell, S. Rees, A. Roberts, J. Rosser, G. Stacey, M. Tegg, G. Thomas, W. Treeby, R.K. Turner, M. Webber, D.H. Williams, T. Williams and C.J. Willis was received by the Proper Officer in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.1(b):-

This Council seeks to express its concerns at the practical implications, changes to maternity services in Cwm Taf are creating for residents in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

This Council calls upon the Local Health Board to review the newly implemented arrangements in Cwm Taf, to reflect upon the difficulties this set-up is causing residents.

As part of this review, we request that the Local Health Board, consider the significant housing development which has already taken place since the original decision in 2013. This review should also consider proposals for future housing, particularly in the South of this County Borough, North and Bridgend areas.

It is the view of this Council that these developments will place further pressure upon this new service arrangement and in turn cause further practical consequences for the residents of RCT, who need to access maternity & paediatric services, particularly in emergency situations.

At the meeting the Mayor announced that in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.4.1 the following amendment to the Notice of Motion had been received from County Borough Councillors P.Jarman, G.Davies, S.Rees Owen, M. Weaver, J.Williams, A.Cox, J.Davies, J.Cullwick, L.Jones, E.Stephens, H.Fychan, D.Grehan, K.Morgan, E.Webster, D.Macey, A.Chapman and S.M. Evans: This Council seeks to express its concerns at the practical implications changes to maternity services in Cwm Taf are creating for residents in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

This Council calls upon the Local Health Board to review the newly implemented arrangements in Cwm Taf, to reflect upon the difficulties this set-up is causing residents.

This Council further calls on the Minister for Health and Socialcare, Vaughan Gethin AM, to take the concerns of this Council into account when considering the review findings of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and the Royal College of Midwifery which is due to report back to the Minister shortly.

As part of this review, we request that the Local Health Board, consider the significant housing development which has already taken place since the original decision in 2013. This review should also consider proposals for future housing, particularly in the South of this County Borough, North and Bridgend areas.

It is the view of this Council that these developments will place further pressure upon this new service arrangement and in turn cause further practical consequences for the residents of RCT, who need to access maternity & paediatric services, particularly in emergency situations.

As a consequence, this Council further calls on the Future Generations Commissioner and the Public Service Board to consider the implications on the wellbeing of the affected communities. The consequences of such changes could not have been measured when the original decision for this service was taken by the then Cwm Taf University Local Health Board, six years previous to implementation of the new service arrangements.

Following a lengthy discussion on this matter, the vote was taken in respect of the amendment to the Notice of Motion and it was **RESOLVED** not to adopt the amendment.

Following further discussions on the original motion it was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Notice of Motion.

### N.B

- Members of the Plaid Cymru Group, the Conservative Group and members of the Alliance Group that were in attendance at the meeting, requested that their names be recorded that they voted in favour of the failed amendment to the Notice of Motion
- All Members in attendance at the meeting requested that their names be recorded that they voted in favour of the Original Notice of Motion noting however as referred in Minute 136, County Borough Councillor R Smith abstained from voting on this item.