



## **RHONDDA CYNON TAF**

### **RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL**

Minutes of the meeting of the Twenty Fifth Annual General Meeting of the Council held on  
Wednesday, 16 September 2020 at 4.00 pm.

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

Councillor S Powderhill (Chair)

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

#### **Officers in attendance**

Mr C Bradshaw, Chief Executive  
Mr B Davies, Director of Finance & Digital Services  
Ms G Davies, Director of Education and Inclusion 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 A Wilkins, Director of Legal Services

**186 Declaration of Interest**

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, there were no declarations made pertaining to the agenda.

**187 Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors G R Davies, J Davies, J Elliott, E Griffiths, J James, M Fidler Jones, L Jones, S Morgans, S Pickering, M Weaver, M Tegg, C Willis and G Williams.

**188 Suspension to Standing orders**

The Deputy Leader made a statement in respect of moving the suspension of Council Procedure Rule 15.1 and advised that in order to facilitate the smooth running of the Council meeting through Zoom, Group Leaders have agreed in advance that where a vote is taken on any item, the individual Group Leader will exercise the vote on behalf of all their Members present for the item in question.

In order to implement the revised voting procedures the Deputy Leader moved the suspension of Council Procedure Rule 15.1, which states that a matter will be decided by a simple majority of those Members voting and present in the room at the time the question was put.

Following consideration of the matter it was **RESOLVED** to suspend Council Procedure Rule 15.1

**189 Elections & Appointments**

**To elect a Presiding Officer of the Council**

**RESOLVED** – that County Borough Councillor S Powderhill be elected as Presiding Officer for the 2020/21 Municipal Year.

County Borough Councillor S Powderhill resumed the Chair following his appointment.

**To elect a Deputy Presiding Officer of the Council**

**RESOLVED** – that County Borough Councillor G Hughes be elected as Deputy Presiding Officer for the 2020/21 Municipal Year.

**To receive an address from the Mayor of the Council 2019/2020**

The retiring Mayor took the opportunity to reflect on her term of office as Mayor of Rhondda Cynon Taf for the 2019/20 Municipal Year. County Borough Councillor De Vet confirmed that her full statement would be available on the Council website but added that, when finalised, her charity fund would have raised approximately £23,000. The outgoing Mayor extended her thanks on behalf of all her charities for the support and fundraising achieved during under

difficult circumstances.

In response Members paid tribute to the retiring Mayor who was commended for her efforts and hard work during what had been an unprecedented year.

**To elect a Mayor of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council for the Municipal Year 2020-2021.**

**RESOLVED** – to elect County Borough Councillor S Morgans as Mayor of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council for the Municipal Year 2020-2021

**(Note:** The Deputy Leader announced that County Borough Councillor S Morgans was not in attendance as her mother is seriously ill and she extended her best wishes to Councillor Morgans and her family on behalf of the Council).

In addition the Deputy Leader announced that Father David Jones of St Dunstan's Church would be the new Mayor's Chaplain for her year of office.

**To appoint a Deputy Mayor of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council for the Municipal Year 2020 – 2021.**

**RESOLVED** – to elect County Borough Councillor J Bonetto as Deputy Mayor of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council for the Municipal Year 2020-2021

**To appoint a Leader of the Council.**

**RESOLVED** – that County Borough Councillor A Morgan be appointed Leader of the Council for the 2020/2021 Municipal Year.

County Borough Councillor A Morgan extended his thanks to his Deputy Leader, members of the Cabinet, the Labour Group and the Opposition Members for their support during the last year which had brought with it many challenges. He thanked Members for supporting his appointment.

**190 Executive Functions**

**Executive Functions- Leader's Scheme of Delegation**

The Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A Morgan announced that the updated scheme of delegation would be published on the Council website.

He announced his Cabinet and their individual designations, as follows:-

- County Borough Councillor M. Webber, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Council Business

County Borough Councillor M Webber thanked the Leader for her nomination to Deputy Leader of the Council which she described as an honour. She stated that it had been a privilege to have worked alongside the Leader through some challenging times.

- County Borough Councillor R. Bevan, Cabinet Member for Enterprise Development & Housing
- County Borough Councillor A. Crimmings, Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure & Heritage Services
- County Borough Councillor G. Hopkins, Cabinet Member for Adult Community Services & Welsh Language
- County Borough Councillor M. A. Norris, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services
- County Borough Councillor J. Rosser, Cabinet Member for Education & Inclusion Services
- County Borough Councillor R. Lewis, Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities, Well-Being & Cultural Services
- County Borough Councillor C. Leyshon, Cabinet Member for Children's Services

## 191 The Political Balance of the Council

In his report, the Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication advised Members of the outcome of the review of the Political Balance of the Authority which is reported as part of the AGM business. Members were reminded that at the last meeting they were advised of a change to the Council's Political Balance following formation of the RCT Independent Group.

The Service Director clarified Section 4 of the report which sets out the available seats to be appointed to by the respective groups and in particular to 4.2 which sets out the amendments to the current political balance. He advised the Section 5 sets out the allocation of motions from the 2019-20 Municipal Year and sought Council's determination of the allocation for the forthcoming municipal year.

. It was **RESOLVED** –

1. To adopt the scheme for the allocation of seats to the different political groups and bodies to which Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 applies, as detailed in the Appendix to the report;
2. That the Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication be authorised to make appointments to politically balanced bodies upon receipt by him of notification of the wishes of the political groups subject to any subsequent requests for amendment of membership of Committees, being referred to Council;
3. To note that Members of the Cabinet are not eligible for appointment to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or Scrutiny Committees;
4. To note that at least one Member of the Cabinet can sit on the Audit and

Democratic Services Committees but the Council Leader is excluded from these positions; and

- 5 That the allocation of Notices of Motion for the 2020-2021 Municipal Year is as follows:-

Labour - 10  
Plaid Cymru - 6  
RCT Independent Group - 2  
Conservatives - 1  
Unallocated Member (x1) - 1

## 192 Appointment of Committees 2020-2021

Following consideration of the report of the Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication, it was **RESOLVED** –

1. To appoint the under-mentioned Committees for the 2020-2021 Municipal Year:-
  - Planning and Development Committee (x11 Members)
  - Licensing Committee (x11 Members)
  - Appointments Committee (x5 Members)
  - Appeals/Employee Appeals/Chief Officer Appeals Committee (x5 Members)
  - Overview and Scrutiny Committee (x14 Members)
  - Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee (x14 Members)
  - Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee (x14 Members)
  - Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee (x14 Members) plus Statutory Co-optees
  - Health and Well-Being Scrutiny Committee (x14 Members)
  - Audit Committee (x14 Members) plus 1 Lay Member
  - Democratic Services Committee (x14 Members)
  - Corporate Governance and Constitution Committee (x8 Members)
  - Pension Fund Committee (x5 Members)
2. To appoint x5 Members (and substitute Member) to the Cwm Taf Public Services Board Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Members of which are to be nominated from the membership of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
3. To appoint County Borough Councillors G Thomas and S Powderhill as the Member and substitute Member respectively to the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal (CCR) Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

## 193 Appointment of Chairs & Vice Chairs 2020-2021

In his report, the Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication sought consideration to the appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs to the Council's Committees for the Municipal Year 2020-2021, and it was **RESOLVED** –

1. To appoint the following Members to the posts of Chairs and Vice-Chairs to the Committees as listed below:-

| <b>Committee</b>                                     | <b>Chair</b> | <b>Vice-Chair</b> |
|--|--------------|-------------------|
| Planning & Development                               | S.Rees       | G.Caple           |
| Licensing  | A.S.Fox      | D.H.Williams      |
| Appointments   | D.Owen-Jones | M.Webber          |
| Appeals/Employee<br>Appeals/Chief Officer<br>Appeals | J.Bonetto    | S.Pickering       |
| Pension Fund   | M.A.Norris   | M.Griffiths       |

2. To appoint County Borough Councillor M Diamond as Chair of the Democratic Services Committee and County Borough Councillor M Webber as Vice-Chair of the Democratic Services Committee in accordance with the conditions laid down in the Local Government (Wales) Measure, 2011;
3. To note that under the requirements of the Local Government (Wales) Measure, 2011, the Chair of the Audit Committee is to be appointed by the Audit Committee;
4. To agree that the responsibility for the appointment of the Vice-Chair of the Audit Committee be delegated to the Audit Committee;
5. That the appointment of Chairs of the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee and the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee be allocated to the RCT Independent Group and Plaid Cymru Group respectively;
6. In accordance with the nominations received from the appropriate Political Groups, that the following Members be appointed as Chairs to the under-mentioned Scrutiny Committees:--

| <b>Committee</b>                                     | <b>Chair</b> |
|--|--------------|
| Overview & Scrutiny                                  | L. M .Adams  |
| Finance & Performance                                | M Powell     |
| Public Service Delivery,<br>Communities & Prosperity | S Bradwick   |
| Children & Young People                              | S Rees-Owen  |
| Health & Well-Being                                  | R Yeo        |

7. That the following Members be appointed as Vice Chairs to the under-mentioned Scrutiny Committees:-

| <b>Committee</b>                                     | <b>Vice Chair</b> |
|--|-------------------|
| Overview & Scrutiny                                  | W Lewis           |
| Finance & Performance                                | G Thomas          |
| Public Service Delivery,<br>Communities & Prosperity | T Williams        |
| Children & Young People                              | J Edwards         |
| Health & Well-Being                                  | S Evans           |

- 8 To note the appointment of the Presiding Member and Deputy Presiding Member as the Chair and Vice-Chair to the Corporate Governance and Constitution Committee;
9. To note that for the Municipal Year 2020-2021 the Chair of the Cwm Taf Services Board Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee ('JOSC') is appointed by the Committee at its next available meeting.

#### **194 Quasi-Judicial Bodies/Ad Hoc Committees 2020-2021**

The Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication sought the Council's consideration to the appointment of Members to sit on the Quasi-Judicial/Ad Hoc Committees listed in his report.

##### **RESOLVED –**

1. That the under-mentioned Members be appointed to the following politically balanced Quasi-Judicial Bodies/Ad Hoc Committees:-
  - Local Education Authority Governors (Appointments) Committee (x5 Members – 3 Labour, 1 Plaid Cymru and 1 RCT Independent Group) - County Borough Councillors J. Brencher, D. Owen-Jones, S. Rees-Owen, J. Rosser. and M. J. Powell
  - Voluntary Early Retirement/Redundancy Panel (x5 Members – 3 Labour, 1 Plaid Cymru and 1 RCT Independent Group) County Borough Councillors J. Bonetto, W. Treeby, M. Weaver and M. Webber. and M. J. Powell
2. To appoint County Borough Councillors A. Crimmings, R. Lewis, A. Morgan and M. Webber (4 Members) to the (non-politically balanced) Joint Consultative Committee.

#### **195 Members' Salaries & Allowances - The Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Annual Report**

The Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication informed Members of the current position regarding both Members' salaries and allowances in line with the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales' Twelfth Annual Report (the 'IRP Report').

The Service Director advised that, as directed by the IRP, and, as set out in section 3.2 of the report, it is important that council avoids the impression that this meeting is determining the levels of remuneration of Members, which is not within the Council's gift. However, determination is sought in respect of the areas where local discretion is afforded, that being up to a maximum of 19 senior salary posts for this local authority (as set out at Appendix 1 and 2 to the report).

The Service Director sought approval for Members' salaries and allowances for the Municipal Year 2020-2021.

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

1. To note the determinations of the IRP as set out in its twelfth annual report;
2. That in accordance with the Civic Salary remuneration bandings as detailed in paragraph 3.8 of the report, that the Mayor be remunerated but the post of Deputy Mayor not be remunerated for the Municipal Year 2020- 2021;
3. That the following qualifying post holders be paid a Senior Salary, the amounts of which are shown at Appendix 1 to the report for the 2020 – 2021 Municipal Year (subject to the senior salary of the Deputy Leader of the Council being £38,450 not the figure shown within the table):-
  - Leader of the Council
  - Deputy Leader of the Council
  - x7 Executive (Cabinet Members)
  - Chair of Planning & Development Committee
  - Chair of Licensing Committee
  - Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Committee
  - x4 Scrutiny Committee Chairs
  - Chair of Democratic Services
  - Leader of the main Opposition Group
  - Presiding Member
4. To determine that the Leader of another political Group (not the largest opposition group), which comprises not less than ten per cent of the membership of the Council, should not be remunerated at Band 5;
5. (i) To note that the Chair of the Audit Committee during the 2019-2020 Municipal Year (who is appointed by the Committee itself) was the Co-opted Lay Member of the Committee – hence no Senior Salary was paid for this post;  
  
(ii) To determine that this post holder should not be paid a Senior Salary for the 2020-2021 Municipal Year if the appointed Chair of the Committee is not the Co-opted Lay Member;
- 2.6 That payments to co-opted members continue to be capped at a maximum of the equivalent of 10 full days a year for each committee to which an individual may be co-opted and eligible to attend;
- 2.7 That undertaking constituency duties should not be included as an approved duty for the purpose of claiming travel allowances; and
- 2.8 To re-confirm that subsistence claims for official business which takes place in-county shall not be reimbursed by the Council.



Following consideration of the report of the Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication it was **RESOLVED** – that the under-mentioned Members be appointed to the following non-executive Joint Committees and Outside bodies for the 2020-2021 Municipal Year:-

2.1

- a) **Consortium Local Authority Wales (C.L.A.W.)** (1 Member) – County Borough Councillor M Norris.
- b) **Joint Council for Wales** (2 Members) – County Borough Councillors M Webber and D Williams.
- c) **Welsh Local Government Association** (5 Members) – County Borough Councillors Robert Bevan, Tina Leyshon, Andrew Morgan, Rhys Lewis and Maureen Webber.
- d) **WLGA Executive Board** (previously referred to as Welsh Local Government Association Co-ordinating Committee) (1 Member and 1 Substitute Member) - County Borough Councillor Andrew Morgan and Cllr Maureen Webber as the Substitute Member.
- e) **Wales Co-op Centre Board** (1 Member) – County Borough Councillor R Lewis.
- f) **Edward Thomas Charity** (4 Members) – County Borough Councillors A Fox, E George, R Lewis and S Pickering.
- g) **The Alliance** (3 Members) – County Borough Councillors J Brencher, G Jones and G Thomas.
- h) **Tower Colliery Liaison Committee** (3 Members) – County Borough Councillors H Boggis, K Morgan and G Thomas.
- i) **Valuation Tribunal Wales – Appointments Panel** (1 Member) – County Borough Councillor M Webber.
- j) **Age Concern Cymru** (1 Member) – County Borough Councillor G Hopkins.
- k) **Cynon Valley Indoor Bowls Committee** (1 Member) – County Borough Councillor A Morgan.
- l) **Community Chest** (3 Members) – County Borough Councillors - J Bonetto, A Crimmings and J Harries.
- m) **Welsh Brooks** (1 Member) – County Borough Councillor J Harries
- n) **Business in Focus** (1 Member) – County Borough Councillor D R Bevan
- o) **Trivallis** (1 Member) – County Borough Councillor M Griffiths

2.2 **POLICE CRIME PANEL 2020 – 2021**

Police Crime Panel (2 Representatives) – County Borough Councillors R Lewis and G Thomas.

## 2.3 NON EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEES

To appoint the Councils representatives to the following non-executive Joint Committees:

- a) **South Wales Fire and Rescue Authority** – (4 representatives)) County Borough Councillors S A Bradwick, J Harries, G Holmes, A Roberts
- b) **Brecon Beacons National Park Authority** – (1 Representative) County Borough Councillor G Thomas

### 197 Calendar of Meetings 2020-2021

Through his report, the Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication sought the approval of the Calendar of Meetings for 2020 – 2021 Municipal Year which was attached at Appendix.

In accordance with Section 6(2) of the Local Government (Wales), Measure, 2011, Members were informed of the results of the survey that was recently undertaken to assess Members' preferences regarding the future timing of meetings.

Following discussions and subject to minor alterations to be applied to the calendar, as raised in the meeting, it was **RESOLVED**:

1. To note the contents of the report; and in doing so note the responses to the Elected Members' Survey in respect of the Timing of Meetings, as outlined in paragraph 4.
2. That with the exception of the Planning and Development Committee, meetings will not be convened during School holidays, subject to urgent business needs;
3. To agree the proposed Calendar of Meetings for the Municipal Year 2020/2021, as attached as Appendix 1 to the report.
4. To note that the calendar is subject to change, based upon the demands of business over the coming municipal year. Any changes or additions will be undertaken in consultation with the appropriate committee chairs.

### 198 Audit Committee - Appointment of Lay Member

The Service Director, Democratic Services sought Council's ratification of the decision of the Appointments Committee, regarding the appointment of the selected candidate, Mr. Christopher Jones to the post of Lay Member to the Council's Audit Committee for a term of office commencing from the beginning of the 2020/21 Municipal Year until the next ordinary Local Government Elections in 2022.

Following consideration of the report, it was **RESOLVED** to ratify the recommendation of the Appointments Committee that Mr. Christopher Jones be

appointed to the post of Lay Member to the Audit Committee.

**199 Urgent Business**

The Presiding Officer, by reason of special circumstances, was of the opinion that a statement delivered by the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A Morgan in respect of the Coronavirus in Rhondda Cynon Taf should be considered as a matter of urgency.

The Leader of the Council announced that following a sharp increase in coronavirus (COVID-19) cases in Rhondda Cynon Taf, new restrictions would be introduced to reduce the spread of the virus and protect the health of people living in the area. The restrictions will come into force at 6pm on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2020 and will be kept under review but initially it would be for fourteen days.

The Leader advised that the increase in the number of cases had been caused by groups of people meeting indoors, not following social distancing guidelines and returning from summer holidays abroad with coronavirus.

The Leader commended the key officers leading the track and trace team for their work in identifying a large number of residents, over 1,500 in the last 12 days, who have been asked to self-isolate. Their work has identified patterns of positive cases and hot spots across the County Borough and enabled accurate positivity rates to be published. Capacity for testing had now been increased following earlier issues with the national UK system which had seen all testing capacity cut across all sites.

The enforcement teams have been visiting a large number of licensed premises and as a result a number have been served with 48 hour improvement notices. Additional staff have been recruited to assist with the enforcement activity across the County Borough. The Leader confirmed that visits to Care Homes remain restricted to end of life care.

Members were urged to consult the Welsh Government guidance which would be circulated to all Members as soon as it is published which would set out details of the local restrictions so that they can support their local residents.

**This meeting closed at 5.55 pm**

**Cllr S Powderhill  
Chairman.**