



## **Minutes of the Full Council Meeting 18<sup>th</sup> December 2024.**

Present: Councillors H Llewellyn; C Andrews; R Carrol; P Collins; J Davies; M IngramJones; D IngramJones; J Bissex; C Bissex-Foster; J McCarthy;

Also Present: Police Officer Vicky CO484; Mrs H Williams (Town Clerk); Mr T Oliver (Deputy Town Clerk)

Meeting Chairperson: Councillor H Llewellyn (Mayor)

1. To receive a report from Gwent Police.

The Police were not present, so Members decided to continue the meeting and revisit item 1 if an Officer attended.

2. To receive Apologies for Absence.

Apologies of absence were received from Councillors R Price (ill health); Y Price (family commitments); S Hamer-Thomas (ill health); and Youth Representatives Miss E Jones; Miss E Harding.

3. To receive Declaration of Interests or dispensations on any item(s) on this Agenda, if appropriate.

Councillor C Andrews declared an interest regarding item 17.

4. Press and Public Participation Session.

There was no press or public participation.

Councillor J Bissex joined the meeting at this point.

5. To receive, approve and sign Minutes of the last Meeting of Full Council 20<sup>th</sup> November 2024

The Minutes of the last Meeting of the Full Council 20<sup>th</sup> November 2024 were received, approved and signed by the Chairperson.

The Police Officer joined the meeting at this point and the meeting reverted to item 1.

1. To receive a report from Gwent Police.

The Officer presented December's report to Members and highlighted:

- The slight rise in crime statistics with no notable patterns identified.
- A decrease in anti-social behaviour.
- Drug warrants have recently been actioned with several more planned in the next few months.
- The successful recruitment of new CSO's address the current shortage.

The Chairperson thanked the Officer, and she left the meeting at 6:12pm.

6. To receive a report from the Mayor on his recent Civic activities.

The Mayor reported on his recent Civic activities which included judging the Elf Trail window competition for Bargoed High Street Traders. He noted the great effort that was put in by businesses and that Barnardo's won the contest with the Continental Café in second place and Murrays in third place. The Mayor also attended St. Gwladys' Christmas party for Llamau beneficiaries. He highlighted that the event was very positive and impressive. The Deputy Mayor reported that he and Councillor Davies attended St. Peters Carol Concert in the absence of the Mayor.

7. To hear feedback from members who conducted a community engagement session at Morrison's supermarket and provide instruction on the next activity to be planned.

Councillors D Ingram-Jones; M Ingram-Jones; C Bissex-Foster; P Collins and R Carrol attended the community engagement session at Morrison's supermarket. They reported that it was difficult to get responses from customers and that the venue was not conducive for the survey. Members expressed that the engagement was not working well and that the survey should be on the Town Council website and promoted on specific Facebook groups.

8. To note the content of the draft unapproved minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee meeting 28<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

Members noted the content of the draft unapproved minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee meeting 28<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

9. To note the content of:

A) One Voice Wales: Community & Town Councils Digital Guidance.

B) Caerphilly People First: Christmas 2024 Newsletter.

The Deputy Clerk reviewed the two documents and emphasised the importance of cyber security.

10. To review diagrams on screen and provide feedback to CCBC in respect of proposals to update the Public Spaces Protection Orders in relation to dog fouling.

Members reviewed the diagrams and provided feedback in agreement with the new proposals.

11. To hear from Cllr Llewellyn and consider making representations to CCBC in respect of car parking enforcement in Bargoed Town Centre.

Councillor H Llewellyn received representation from a trader at the monthly food and craft market about parking enforcement and the lack of parking options. The trader noted that Morrisons car park has a 3-hour parking restriction and therefore traders are pulling out of the market due to the inability to park. In response to Councillor Llewellyn a Member applauded the free car park at the rear of Hanbury Road. However, Members agreed that more needs to be done to bring people into Town and instructed the Clerk to make representation to the regeneration team regarding the provision of traders parking.

12. To receive a verbal report from the Youth Representatives.

The Youth Representatives were unable to attend. The item was deferred to the next meeting.

13. To receive a verbal report from the clerk on community craftwork displays; remembrance displays and town council liability; review floral display services quotations and provide instruction to the clerk in respect of 2025 provision.

The Deputy Clerk gave a verbal update on the community craftwork displays, remembrance, and Town Council liability. He noted the recent quotation that has been received to maintain this work. Members raised concerns over the public perception that Aberbargoed Ward is treated less favourably than Bargoed during the annual remembrance displays and craftwork.

Members RESOLVED to confirm the contract for 2025-2026 with JS Lee and instructed the Clerk to seek out more quotations for craftwork and remembrance display quotations.

14. To receive items from the clerk as follows:

- A) Local Government Policy Division Report on the democratic health of community and town councils.

The Deputy Clerk reviewed the Local Government Policy Division Report on the democratic health of community and town councils with Members.

- B) Verbal request from the tractor run in respect of town council donation of £200.

Members RESOLVED to make the donation payable to Hospice of Valley.

- C) Verbal information from the events team at CCBC including the cancellation costs and suggestion for the 2025 music festival. Resolutions are required regarding 2025 budget, earmarking reserves and the theme suggested by CCBC team.

The Clerk presented the information from the events team at CCBC and Members explored various options for 2025 in light of the cancelled Winter Fair. They RESOLVED to include the £19,000 from the cancelled Winter Fair in earmarked reserves for future events.

- D) Members to confirm availability for photographer.

Members confirmed their availability for Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January at 2pm and instructed the Clerk to make arrangements with the photographer.

15. To consider a grant application from Bargoed & District Amateur Boxing Club.

Members RESOLVED to approve the £250 grant for Bargoed & District Amateur Boxing Club.

16. To note the appropriate sum for 2025-26 in respect of expenditure under the Local Government Act 1972 s137, with total electorate of 8,818 (Aberbargoed Ward 2879, Bargoed Ward 3764, Park Ward 648, Gilfach Ward 1527)

Members noted that the appropriate sum as £97,879.80.

Councillor C Andrews left the meeting at this point.

17. To hear from two CCBC Aberbargoed & Bargoed ward members about recent work undertaken in Aberbargoed and discuss Members opinions in the event that Aberbargoed library premises become available to the community.

Councillors C Bissex-Foster and D Ingram-Jones verbally reported on the recent interactions with Aberbargoed residents concerning the lack of community buildings for Members to hold surgeries and for community groups to meet in. They asked for the Council to consider the possibility of a Community Asset Transfer should the building become available and to work alongside a community group to establish a robust organisation to manage it. Councillors C Bissex-Foster and D Ingram-Jones presented budget running costs for the premises and Members debated the merits and drawbacks of making such a move and considered the financial implications. Some Members were concerned about the building being a potential drain on Town Council resources and that there were too many unknown factors at this stage of the discussion. They agreed to revisit the consideration when more information is disclosed by CCBC.

The Chairperson thanked Members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 7:38pm.