



COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH ON TUESDAY 24TH APRIL 2012 AT 5.00PM

PRESENT:

Councillor Mrs. V. Jenkins - Mayor
Councillor Mrs. M.E. Sargent - Deputy Mayor

Councillors:

Miss. L. Ackerman, M. Adams, Mrs. E.M. Aldworth, H.A. Andrews, P.C.W. Bailie, Mrs. K.R. Baker, J. Bevan, P.J. Bevan, R. Bidgood, L. Binding, Mrs. A. Blackman, D. Bolter, D.G. Carter, J.B. Criddle, D. Cullen, H.W. David, W. David, D.T. Davies, M. Davies, R. Davies, R.T. Davies, N. Dix, C. Elsbury, J.O. Evans, J.E. Fussell, R.W. Gough, D.M. Gray, D.T. Hardacre, A.G. Higgs, C. Hobbs, G.J. Hughes, L. Hughes, K. James, S. Jenkins, G. Jones, S. Kent, K. Lloyd, C.P. Mann, M.H. Newman, Mrs. G. Oliver, M.G. Parker, D.V. Poole, Mrs. R. Potter, D.W.R. Preece, Mrs. K. Presley, M.J. Prew, A.J. Pritchard, J.A. Pritchard, D. Rees, L.R. Rees, K.V. Reynolds, J.E. Roberts, K. Smallman, J. Taylor, Mrs. B.M. Toomer, Mrs. M.A. Tucker, L.G. Whittle, Mrs. L. Williams, T.J. Williams, J.M. Wilson, R. Woodyatt

Together with:-

A. O'Sullivan (Chief Executive), N. Barnett (Deputy Chief Executive), S. Aspinall (Corporate Director - Education, Lifelong Learning and Leisure), A. Heaney (Corporate Director - Social Services), D. Perkins (Head of Legal Services and Governance), G. Williams (Principal Solicitor), J. Jones (Democratic Services Manager), N. Liversuch (Manager - Countryside and Landscape Services), A. Jones (Ecologist), H.C. Morgan (Senior Committee Services Officer)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A.P. Angel, Mrs. A. Collins, Mrs. P. Griffiths, M.P. James, Ms. J.G. Jones, Mrs. R. Passmore, Mrs. D. Price, R.J. Pugh and G.D. Simmonds.

2. BEREAVEMENT - COUNCILLOR ALLEN WILLIAMS

The Mayor referred to the recent death of Councillor Allen Williams and all present stood in silence as a mark of respect and extended their condolences to the bereaved family. Several Members referred to the late members long and distinguished career in local government with Caerphilly County Borough Council and paid tribute to the manner in which he had carried out his duties during his years of office and to the high esteem in which he had been held by Members, Officers and the community he represented.

3. MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor referred to the events and visits that she and the Deputy Mayor have undertaken since the last meeting and made specific reference to the World Indoors Bowls Championship held at Pontllanfraith and to the opening of the Titanic commemorative exhibition at the Winding House New Tredegar and the display at Gelligroes Mill, Pontllanfraith.

4. WELCOME - REPRESENTATIVES OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Mayor welcomed the Independent Members of the Standards Committee who were present to view proceedings.

5. RETIRING MEMBERS

In noting that this would be the last meeting of Council before 3rd May 2012, the Mayor referred to those Members who would not be seeking re-election and wished their work carried out on behalf of the county borough and their communities to be noted. They were wished well in their retirement from local government.

6. PETITIONS

The Mayor received the following petitions presented by Members on behalf of local residents and indicated they would be referred to the appropriate directorate for attention.

- (i) request for the erection of a fence around Gelligroes Flats, Pontllanfraith – Councillor M.G. Parker;
- (ii) regarding the unauthorised erection of a ventilation stack - Unit 3 Fairview Garage Pengam - Councillor J. Wilson;
- (iii) request for a skateboard park at the rear of Cwrt Coch Street, Aberbargoed - Councillor K.V. Reynolds;
- (iv) against the possible vehicular access from The Walk to the Cylla allotment site and any proposed car park within the site - Councillor D. Bolter.

7. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received at the commencement or during the course of the meeting.

8. COUNCIL - 13TH MARCH 2012

RESOLVED that the following minutes be approved as correct records and signed by the Mayor.

Council held on 13th March 2012 (minute nos. 1 -12 on page nos. 1 - 4).

REPORTS REFERRED FROM CABINET

Consideration was given to the following reports referred from Cabinet.

9. INTEGRATED ACHIEVEMENT SERVICE

Cabinet considered this report on 17th April 2012 and in endorsing its content recommended its acceptance by Council.

The background to the collaborative arrangement was set out in detail in the report to Council dated 1st November 2011. Since that date detailed consultation has been undertaken with stakeholders by the Project Manager and as a result an amended Outline Business Case has been produced (appendix 1 to the report to Cabinet dated 17th April 2012).

The report set out details of the revised financial implications as a result of the changes to the Outline Business Case and provided Members with an update in terms of the personnel implications arising from the proposed collaborative arrangement.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the report the final version of the Outline Business Case attached as Appendix 1 to the report be approved and Officers be authorised to progress the collaborative arrangements.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the following reports.

10. ABERBARGOED GRASSLANDS NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE DECLARATION

The report, which advised of the intention of the Countryside Council for Wales' to declare Aberbargoed Grasslands as a Special Area of Conservation and Site of Special Scientific Interest and as such the first National Nature Reserve in Caerphilly County Borough, was considered and endorsed by the Planning Committee on the 14th March 2012.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the report the proposals of the Countryside Council for Wales' to declare Aberbargoed Grasslands as a National Nature Reserve and the creation of Caerphilly's first National Nature Reserve be endorsed.

Members wished to place on record their appreciation to all those staff involved in the process.

11. STANDARDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

Consideration was given to the report which outlined the general functions of the Standards Committee and provided a summary of activities for 2010 and 2011.

Members noted the comments made with regards to the code of conduct training and stressed the importance that such training is undertaken by all Members. It was noted that when Members sign their declaration of acceptance of office they are also agreeing to observe the code of conduct and as such sessions are included within the induction programme that all Members will be required to attend.

Members wished to place on record their appreciation to the Standards Committee for their informative report.

RESOLVED that the Standards Committee Annual Report be noted.

12. MEMBERS REMUNERATION 2012/13

The report, which advised of the determinations of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales, detailed the impact upon member allowances and expenses and sought a decision on the proposal to allow for the reimbursement of travel allowances for Members undertaking constituency business, was considered by the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 17th April 2012.

Members noted the proposals contained therein and recommended that the proposal to allow for the reimbursement of travel allowances for Members undertaking constituency business should not be supported.

During the course of the debate reference was made to the decision of the Panel to replace the term 'allowance' with 'salary' and a query was raised as to the implications which may arise as a result of this change (pension entitlements/benefit claims). The Head of Legal and Governance confirmed that he has been advised that it is a terminology change only and as such should have no impact.

RESOLVED that subject to the proposal to allow for the reimbursement of travel allowances for Members undertaking constituency business being not supported, the changes to the Members remuneration scheme as outlined in the report be noted.

13. QUESTIONS UNDER RULE OF PROCEDURE 10(2)

There were no questions submitted under Rule of Procedure 10(2).

14. GWENT POLICE AUTHORITY MINUTES - 26TH JANUARY 2012

The minutes of the meeting of the Gwent Police Authority held on 26th January 2012 were received and noted. No questions had been submitted relating to any matter referred to in the minutes.

In noting the content of minute no. 6 reference was made to the Police Authority engagement and consultation activity and concerns were expressed that this appeared not to have been undertaken during 2011/12 as reported. It was noted that the Police Authority had been advised that decisions on operational issues can be made by the Chief Constable without reference to the Police Authority. The Chief Executive advised that he has received correspondence from the Chief Constable seeking to engage with Members on the reprovision of police stations and is awaiting confirmation of a date in order that a seminar can be arranged.

The meeting closed at 5.40pm.

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 26th June 2012 they were signed by the Mayor.

MAYOR