



COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH ON TUESDAY, 7TH AUGUST 2012 AT 5.00 PM

PRESENT:

Councillor Mrs. G. Oliver - Mayor
Councillor D.M. Gray - Deputy Mayor

Councillors:

M. Adams, Mrs. E.M. Aldworth, H.A. Andrews, Mrs. K.R. Baker, Mrs. G. Bevan J. Bevan, P.J. Bevan, L. Binding, Mrs. A. Blackman, D.G. Carter, Mrs. A. Collins, P. Cook, C.J. Cuss, H.R. Davies, D.T. Davies, R.T. Davies, K. Dawson, N. Dix, C. Durham, Mrs. D. Ellis, C. Elsbury, Mrs. C. Forehead, Ms E. E. Forehead, J.E. Fussell, Mrs. J. Gale. L. Gardiner, N. George, C.J. Gordon, R.W. Gough, Mrs. P. Griffiths, D.T. Hardacre, C. Hawker, A.G. Higgs, G.J. Hughes, K. James, M.P. James, S. Jenkins, G. Johnston, G. Jones, Ms. J.G. Jones, S. Kent, G. Kirby, A. Lewis, K. Lloyd, C.P. Mann, S. Morgan, Mrs. R. Passmore, D.V. Poole, D.W.R. Preece, Mrs. D. Price, J. Pritchard, J.A. Pritchard, D. Rees, K.V. Reynolds, J.E. Roberts, Mrs. M.E. Sargent, Mrs J. Summers, J. Taylor, L.G. Whittle, T.J. Williams, R. Woodyatt

Together with:

A. O'Sullivan (Chief Executive), N. Barnett (Deputy Chief Executive), A. Heaney (Corporate Director - Social Services), D. Perkins (Head of Legal Services and Governance), G. Williams (Principal Solicitor), T. Mayer (Assistant Director Planning and Strategy), B. Hopkins (Assistant Director Our Schools Our Future), D. Street (Assistant Director - Adult Services), N. Scammell (Head of Corporate Finance), L. Dallimore (Lead Collaboration Project Officer), R.J. Thomas (Committee Services Officer)

1. BEREAVEMENT - COUNCILLOR LES REES

The Mayor referred to the recent death of Councillor Les Rees and all present stood in silence as a mark of respect and extended their condolences to the bereaved family. Members referred to the late member's long and distinguished career in local government with Caerphilly County Borough and its predecessor authority 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 all Members, Officers and the community he represented.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Miss. L. Ackerman, A.P. Angel, D. Bolter, H.W. David, W. David, D. Havard, Mrs. B.A. Jones, M.J. Prew and R. Saralis.

3. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor referred to the many events and visits that she and the Deputy Mayor had undertaken since the last meeting and made specific reference to the launch of the Welsh National Mining Museum at Senghenydd, the impressive Caerphilly Schools' Olympic Event in Cyncoed, the Four Counties Youth Orchestra in the Millennium Centre (in which many of Caerphilly's young musicians took part), the Arts and Literacy Festival of Cauldrons and Furnaces, the visit by Ludwigsburg and Pisek twinning delegates (who gave generous praise to the Authority) and in closing, her own Civic Service held at the family church of St David's in Rhymney.

Personal thanks were also given to all who supported the Mayoral Day and the launch of her charities.

4. PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Members were advised of the achievement of three apprentices working in the Highways Team. The quality of the Council's Traineeship Scheme and the dedication and hard work of the apprentices was recognised at the recent National Construction College Awards held in Birmingham. Michael Davies, Max Nebe and Kyle Barnett were nominated for the General Construction Operatives Highways Award. After much deliberation, the judges presented this prestigious national award to Michael Davies. Praise was also given to officers Nathan Jones and Gareth Richards, who mentor the three apprentices.

Michael Davies, Max Nebe and Kyle Barnett came forward and, in recognition of their accomplishment, Members wished to place on record their appreciation for their fantastic achievement, hard work and dedication to the service.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

6. COUNCIL - 26TH JUNE 2012

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

Council held on 26th June 2012 (minute nos. 1 - 12 on page nos. 1 - 5).

MATTERS ARISING

7. Bereavement (minute number 2)

Councillor K. Reynolds expressed his sincere thanks and appreciation for all the expressions of sympathy that he had received.

REPORTS REFERRED FROM CABINET

Consideration was given to the following reports referred from Cabinet.

8. Village Green Application - Hawtin Park Fields, Pontllanfraith, Blackwood

Cabinet considered this report on 3rd July 2012 and recommended to Council that in accordance with the recommendation of the Inspector together with the reasons set out in his report dated 4th April 2012, the application to register land at Hawtin Park Fields, Pontllanfraith, Blackwood as a village green, be rejected.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the report:-

- (i) in accordance with the recommendation of the Inspector, for the reasons set out in his report dated 4th April 2012, the application to register land at Hawtin Park Fields, Pontllanfraith, Blackwood as a village green, be rejected; and
- (ii) having regard to the views expressed in paragraph 11.26, page 51 of the Inspector's report regarding the 'old bridleway' along the eastern edge of the present application site, consideration be given to investigating whether this route should be formally recorded or registered as a public right of way.

9. Provisional Outturn 2011 - 2012

Cabinet considered this report on 17th July 2012 and, in endorsing the recommendations set out under paragraph 7, referred the recommendation in relation to the proposal to transfer £1.2m of General Fund reserves for 21st Century Schools match funding provision to Council for approval.

RESOLVED that for the reason contained in the report, the recommendation from Cabinet that £1.2m of General Fund reserves along with £800k of Education reserves be transferred to the 21st Century Schools match funding provision, be approved.

10. Implementation of the Living Wage

Cabinet considered this report on 31st July 2012 and endorsed the recommendations contained therein. On 30th May 2012, the Welsh Government announced its commitment to encourage employers in Wales to introduce the Living Wage (£7.20 per hour outside of London). The main objective is to increase employees' wages above the poverty line. The Council is committed to improving the impacts of poverty within the county borough and this is integral to a number of its policies and plans.

During discussion on the report, assurances were given that front line services would be unaffected.

It was moved and seconded that:-

- (i) the funding proposals identified in section 6 of the report dated 31st July 2012, be approved; and
- (ii) the Living Wage proposals contained within the report dated 31st July 2012, be implemented with effect from 1st October 2012.

In accordance with Rule of Procedure 15.4 (1) a request was made for a recorded vote.

FOR THE MOTION

Councillors M. Adams, Mrs. E.M. Aldworth, H.A. Andrews, Mrs. K.R. Baker, Mrs. G. Bevan, J. Bevan, P.J. Bevan, L. Binding, Mrs. A. Blackman, D.G. Carter, Mrs. A. Collins, P. Cook, C.J. Cuss, H.R. Davies, D.T. Davies, R.T. Davies, K. Dawson, N. Dix, C. Durham, Mrs. D. Ellis, C. Elsbury, Mrs. C. Forehead, Ms E. E. Forehead, J.E. Fussell, Mrs. J. Gale, L. Gardiner, N. George, C.J. Gordon, R.W. Gough, D.M. Gray, Mrs. P. Griffiths, D.T. Hardacre, C. Hawker, A.G. Higgs, G.J. Hughes, K. James, M.P. James, S. Jenkins, G. Johnston, G. Jones, Ms. J.G. Jones, S. Kent, G. Kirby, A. Lewis, K. Lloyd, C.P. Mann, S. Morgan, Mrs. G. Oliver, Mrs. R. Passmore, D.V. Poole, D.W.R. Preece, Mrs. D. Price, J. Pritchard, J.A. Pritchard, D. Rees, K.V. Reynolds, J.E. Roberts, Mrs. M.E. Sargent, Mrs J. Summers, J. Taylor, L.G. Whittle, T.J. Williams, R. Woodyatt (63)

AGAINST THE MOTION

(0)

The motion was declared carried.

RESOLVED that, for the reasons contained in the report, the recommendations from Cabinet be adopted and as such:-

- (i) the funding proposals identified in section 6 of the report dated 31st July 2012, be approved; and
- (ii) the Living Wage proposals contained within the report dated 31st July 2012, be implemented with effect from 1st October 2012.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the following reports.

11. Annual Director's Report on the Effectiveness of Social Care Services

Consideration was given to the report and accompanying DVD that informed Members of the key messages identified in the preparation of the third Annual Director's Report on the Effectiveness of Social Care Services.

It was noted that the annual report is a summary outlining the effectiveness of how the county borough delivers Social Services to its citizens. It provides details on areas in which the Directorate does well, issues for further development and the key priorities for the Directorates' continued improvement into the future.

Members discussed the report and unanimously supported the Annual Director's Report. Officers were congratulated for their hard work, especially in the current economic climate, and additional thanks were given to staff and users for their help in the making of the DVD.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the report, the contents of the Annual Director's Report on the Effectiveness of Social Care Services be noted and the key priorities for action by the Corporate Director Social Services be approved.

12. South East Wales Education Achievement Service (EAS) Formerly Known as the Integrated Achievement Service (IAS)

Consideration was given to the report that provided an update to Cabinet Members on the development and implementation of the South East Wales Education Achievement Service (EAS), formerly known as the Integrated Achievement Service (IAS).

The company will be strictly regulated, and controlled, as the Collaborative Agreement requires unanimous approval of the five Local Authorities on a number of reserved matters. The exit arrangements for a Council wishing to withdraw from the EAS had also been updated.

Members were asked to note that the last two sentences of paragraph 4.15.3 within the report should be deleted, and clarification was given in regards to the Authority's representative on the EAS Board.

RESOLVED that for the reason contained in the report:-

- (i) the Council's commitment to the establishment of the South East Wales Education Achievement Service (EAS) be reaffirmed and Officers be authorised to progress the collaborative arrangement;
- (ii) the terms of the reserved matters as scheduled in the Collaboration Agreement set out in paragraph 4.8 of the report be noted and approved; and
- (iii) the changes to the Exit Arrangements as set out in paragraphs 5.8 and 5.9 of the report be approved.

13. CCBC 21st Century Schools Programme

The report provided an update on Phase 1 of the former St Ilan site and the development of the Welsh Medium secondary proposal and sought approval to plan the next phases of the development, together with commencing consultations with the other two priority bids.

Previously the Welsh Government had given no commitment to match fund any expenditure incurred by the Authority prior to 1st April 2014. Officers had now received assurances that match funding would be forthcoming, subject to approval of business cases. This will minimise the risks to any expenditure incurred.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the report:-

- (i) the progress on the 21st Century schools programme be noted; and
- (ii) it be agreed to commence the statutory processes in respect of the former St Ilan site Phase 1 development and to proceed with initial investigations in respect of the Rhymney 3-19 and secondary rationalisation projects.

14. QUESTIONS UNDER RULE OF PROCEDURE 10(2)

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

The meeting closed at 6.50 p.m.

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 9th October 2012 they were signed by the Mayor.

MAYOR