



COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH ON TUESDAY, 12TH MARCH 2013 AT 5.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

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

Councillors:

H.A. Andrews, Mrs. K.R. Baker, Mrs. G. Bevan J. Bevan, P.J. Bevan, Mrs. A. Blackman, D.G. Carter, Mrs. A. Collins, Mrs. P. Cook, C.J. Cuss, H.W. David, H.R. Davies, D.T. Davies, R.T. Davies, C. Elsbury, Mrs. C. Forehead, Ms. E. E. Forehead, J.E. Fussell, Mrs. J. Gale, L. Gardiner, N. George, C.J. Gordon, D.T. Hardacre, D. Havard, A.G. Higgs, G.J. Hughes, K. James, M.P. James, G. Johnston, Mrs. B.A. Jones, 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, Mrs. D. Price, J. Pritchard, J.A. Pritchard, D. Rees, K.V. Reynolds, J.E. Roberts, R. Saralis, Mrs. M.E. Sargent, Mrs. E. Stenner, Mrs. J. Summers, L.G. Whittle, T.J. Williams, R. Woodyatt

Together with:-

N. Barnett (Deputy Chief Executive), S. Aspinall (Corporate Director - Education and Lifelong Learning), D. Street (Interim Corporate Director - Social Services), P.S. Evans (Head of ICT and Customer Services), D. Perkins (Head of Legal and Governance), N. Scammell (Head of Corporate Finance), J. Bennett (Group Manager Business Enterprise Support), R. Kyte (Team Leader Strategic and Development Planning), D. Lucas (Principle Planner, Strategic and Development Plan Team), G. Williams (Principal Solicitor), R. Thomas (Committee Service Officer)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Miss L. Ackerman, M. Adams, Mrs. E.M. Aldworth, A.P. Angel, L. Binding, D. Bolter, W. David, K. Dawson, N. Dix, C. Durham, Mrs. D. Ellis, R.W. Gough, Mrs. P. Griffiths, C. Hawker, D.W.R. Preece, M.J. Prew and J. Taylor.

2. INTERIM MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

At the commencement of the meeting Mr. Nigel Barnett confirmed his role as the Deputy Chief Executive. During consideration of the report, and in accordance with legal advice, he withdrew from the Chamber, as he had a pecuniary interest in the matter.

The Head of Legal and Governance asked Members to note the revised agenda, which included a report requiring the establishment of interim management arrangements. He asked that Members restrict their comments and questions to this matter alone.

In addition, in relation to agenda item number 7(1), Casual vacancy - Risca East Electoral Division, he requested that Members also consider appointing Mr. Barnett as the Acting Returning Officer, while Mr Anthony O'Sullivan remained on suspension.

Members considered the report by Councillor H.A. Andrews, Leader of Council, which recommended with immediate effect, that Mr. Barnett be confirmed as the Authority's Acting Chief Executive for the duration of the Chief Executive's suspension.

RESOLVED that Mr. Barnett be designed Acting Chief Executive and Acting Returning Officer for the interim period.

In accordance with Rule of Procedure 15.5, Councillor Mrs. A. Blackman wished it recorded that she had abstained from voting.

3. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor advised there would be no announcements at the meeting, but called upon Members to make any appropriate references. None were made.

4. PERSONAL AWARD RECEIVED FROM THE ROYAL TOWN PLANNING INSTITUTE

Members were advised that Mr. Roger Tanner, Strategic Planning and Urban Renewal Manager, had received an award from the Royal Town Planning Institute in recognition of his service and achievements in regeneration in South Wales. The Chair's Special Award is made occasionally to an individual or organisation that deserves recognition of their services to planning in Wales, and the award recognised Mr. Tanner's achievements.

Members wish to place on record their congratulations and appreciation for all of the projects that Mr. Tanner had worked on that have transformed and regenerated communities throughout the county borough. In noting that he is due to retire at the end of the month, he was thanked for the valued advice and guidance he had given to Members over many years and for always dealing with matters in a professional and helpful manner. All Members wished him good health and happiness in the future.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Mr. Nigel Barnett, Acting Chief Executive, declared an interest in agenda item 1, Interim Management Arrangements, as he had a pecuniary interest in the matter. Details are minuted with the respective item.

6. COUNCIL - 29TH JANUARY, 26TH AND 27TH FEBRUARY 2013

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

Council held on 29th January (minute nos. 1 - 9, on page nos. 1 - 5), Special Council held on 26th February (minute nos. 1 - 4, on page nos. 1 - 4) and Special Council 27th February 2013 (minute nos. 1 - 9, on page nos. 1 - 9).

7. MATTERS ARISING

7.1 Council - 26th February 2013 - Prosiect Gwyrdd Appointment of Preferred Bidder (minute no. 4)

Members noted that each constituent authority had met and appointed Viridor as the preferred bidder.

REPORT REFERRED FROM CABINET

Consideration was given to the following report referred from Cabinet.

8. COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY - PRELIMINARY DRAFT CHARGING SCHEDULE - REPORT OF CONSULTATION

The report, which was considered and endorsed by the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 19th February 2013 and Cabinet on 5th March 2013, provided Members with a summary of the comments received as part of the consultation on the Council's Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule Community Infrastructure Levy and sought approval of the amendments proposed to the Charging Schedule and Infrastructure Assessment Report as a result of the consultation responses.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the report, the following recommendations from both the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet, be adopted:-

- (i) the proposed changes to the Community Infrastructure Levy documentation that are outlined in the Report of Consultation, be agreed;
- (ii) the amended Community Infrastructure Levy documents be agreed as a basis for statutory public consultation;
- (iii) the amended Community Infrastructure Levy documentation be the subject of consultation commencing Wednesday, 20th March 2013 and closing on Wednesday, 1st May 2013.

REPORT REFERRED FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

9. NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCIL TAX BENEFITS

Consideration was given to the Notice of Motion, as amended to reflect the Welsh Government's announcement that it would provide additional help to individuals facing a cut in their Council Tax support following the changes to be implemented by the UK Government.

The report informed Members that the amended Notice of Motion was fully supported by the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 30th January 2013.

RESOLVED that the following revised Notice of Motion be supported:-

Caerphilly CBC strongly opposes the UK Government's cut to Council Tax Benefit and expresses concern at the consequences of this cut on the Authority's finances and additional financial burden that will be forced upon thousands of council tax benefit recipients in this borough.

Caerphilly CBC welcomes the Welsh Government's recent announcement that it will fund the 10% funding shortfall caused by the UK Government's cut to Council Tax benefit for 2013/14, and notes that Welsh Government's action will help to alleviate likely financial hardship for low income households in Caerphilly County Borough.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the following report.

10. CASUAL VACANCY - RISCA EAST ELECTORAL DIVISION

The Head of Legal and Governance advised Members that the report had been withdrawn from the agenda following the receipt of a request from at least two electors from within the county borough, that an election be held. The election would now have to be held within 35 working days, on a date to be set by the Acting Returning Officer.

11. QUESTIONS UNDER RULE OF PROCEDURE 10(2)

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

The meeting closed at 5.25 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 23rd April 2013 they were signed by the Mayor.

MAYOR