



ANNUAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE YSTRAD MYNACH ON THURSDAY, 8TH MAY 2014 AT 6.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor D.M. Gray - Mayor
Councillor D.G. Carter - Deputy Mayor

Councillors:

Miss L. Ackerman, 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, Mrs P. Cook, C.J. Cuss, H.W. David, W. David, H.R. Davies, D.T. Davies, R.T. Davies, N. Dix, C. Durham, C. Elsbury, J.E. Fussell, Mrs J. Gale, L. Gardiner, N. George, C.J. Gordon, R.W. Gough, Mrs P. Griffiths, D.T. Hardacre, D. Havard, C. Hawker, 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, Ms P. Leonard, A. Lewis, K. Lloyd, C.P. Mann, S. Morgan, Mrs R. Passmore, D.V. Poole, D.W.R. Preece, M.J. Prew, Mrs D. Price, J. Pritchard, J.A. Pritchard, A. Rees, D. Rees, K.V. Reynolds, R. Saralis, S. Skivens, Mrs E. Stenner, Mrs J. Summers, J. Taylor, L.G. Whittle, T.J. Williams and R. Woodyatt

Together with:-

S. Rosser (Interim Chief Executive), S. Aspinall (Acting Deputy Chief Executive), D. Street (Director of Social Services), N. Scammell (Acting Director of Corporate Services), G. Williams (Interim Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer), H. Morgan (Senior Committee Services Officer)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A.P. Angel, D. Bolter, K. Dawson, Mrs. C. Forehead, Ms E. E. Forehead, Mrs G. Oliver, J.E. Roberts and Mrs M.E. Sargent.

2. RETIRING MAYORS REMARKS

In his opening comments, the retiring Mayor, Councillor D.M. Gray, welcomed Councillor Allan Rees to his first meeting of Council, congratulated Councillor H. David on achieving his PhD and extended his best wishes to Councillor Oliver for a speedy recovery.

He then thanked fellow members and spoke of his numerous and varied activities during his year of Office and referred particularly to his chosen charities, Latch and the Alzheimers Society for which the sum of £8,700 will have been raised. He expressed his appreciation at the assistance given to him by Members and Officers, particularly those whose duties brought them into regular contact with him.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

4. ELECTION OF MAYOR

It was moved and seconded that Councillor D.G. Carter be elected Mayor of Caerphilly County Borough Council. By show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that Councillor D.G. Carter be elected Mayor of Caerphilly County Borough Council until the appointment of a successor at the annual meeting in May 2015 and it be noted that he will receive a civic salary payment.

Councillor D.G. Carter thanked his fellow members for the honour bestowed upon him and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Interim Chief Executive.

5. ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

It was moved and seconded that Councillor L. Gardiner be elected Deputy Mayor of Caerphilly County Borough Council. By show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that Councillor L. Gardiner be elected Deputy Mayor of Caerphilly County Borough Council until the appointment of a successor at the annual meeting in May 2015 and it be noted that he will receive a civic salary payment.

Councillor L. Gardiner thanked his fellow members for the honour bestowed upon him and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Interim Chief Executive.

6. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor, Councillor D.G. Carter, announced that his chosen charities for 2014/2015 would be the Royal British Legion - Bargoed Branch and Caerphilly Homestart. He advised that his consort would be his wife, Valentina.

7. BLACKWOOD WARD BY ELECTION

Members welcomed Councillor Allan Rees to his first meeting of Council following his election to the Blackwood Ward.

8. RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR H.A. ANDREWS AS LEADER OF COUNCIL

Councillor Andrews tendered his resignation as Leader of the authority. He advised that the decision to retire has not been taken lightly and was made after much consideration and stated that 'the honour of being Leader of Caerphilly County Borough Council has been his proudest achievement in over 40 years in politics and that he has enjoyed the opportunity to lead what he believes is one of the best local authorities in Wales'.

He then took the opportunity to thank Officers for the way they have led this organisation through recent turbulent times in the face of unprecedented pressure and reflected on some of the achievements and improvements over the last year which have brought a range of benefits to the people across the county borough (improving tenants' homes, investing in libraries, transforming education, a cleaner and greener place to live, safer communities,

Improving highways network, caring for our community and the get fit and active initiative).

Members noted the resignation of Councillor Andrews as Leader of Council and paid tribute to the longstanding Member for the manner in which he has undertaken his duties during his term of office as Leader and referred to the high esteem in which he is held by Members, Officers and the community he represents.

9. LEADER OF COUNCIL - COUNCILLOR K.V. REYNOLDS

It was moved and seconded that Councillor K.V. Reynolds be nominated as Leader of Caerphilly County Borough Council. By show of hands this was agreed by the majority present.

RESOLVED that Councillor K.V. Reynolds be appointed Leader of Caerphilly County Borough Council and receive a senior salary payment.

10. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY LEADERS

The appointments of Councillors G. Jones and Mrs B. Jones as Deputy Leaders of Caerphilly County Borough Council and their receipt of a senior salary payment were noted.

11. MEMBERSHIP OF CABINET

In noting that the Leader of Council will assume responsibility for the medium term financial plan and strategic overview, the appointments as to the membership of Cabinet and their receipt of a senior salary payment be noted:-

Community and Leisure Services	Councillor D.V. Poole
Corporate Services	Councillor Mrs B. Jones
Education and Lifelong Learning	Councillor Mrs R. Passmore
Highways, Transportation and Engineering	Councillor T.J. Williams
Housing	Councillor G. Jones
Human Resources and Governance/Business Manager	Councillor Mrs C. Forehead
Performance and Asset Management	Councillor D.T. Hardacre
Regeneration, Planning and Sustainable Development	Councillor K. James
Social Services	Councillor R. Woodyatt

12. LEADER OF THE MAIN OPPOSITION GROUP

It was noted that Councillor C.P Mann will receive a senior salary payment as Leader of the main opposition group.

13. LEADERS STATEMENT

In his opening comments, Councillor Reynolds again paid tribute to Councillor Andrews. He advised that he was looking upon his new role as Leader of Council with great determination and vigour in moving forward. He also acknowledged that there are challenges to be faced and believed that with and talented workforce and the continued commitment of members and officers, we can meet these challenges head on, and continue to do what we are all ultimately here for - to deliver first class, value for money services to the residents of the borough.

In looking forward to the future he advised of his plan to sit down with his Cabinet colleagues and set out his aspirations for making further improvements to services and readily embraced the challenges that lie ahead.

14. CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

Consideration was given to the report which asks Members to note those matters that require consideration at the Annual General Meeting of Council in accordance with the Council's Constitution, proposes an amendment to the current Constitution to amend Standing Orders to permit certain meetings to extend beyond four hours and provides an update for members in relation to the All Wales Framework Constitution and future issues that will require a decision of Full Council.

Details of the requirement within the Rules of Procedure as they relate to the appointment of certain committees, terms of reference of committees, political balance (annual review), the scheme of delegation and the proposed amendment of Rule of Procedure 9 were outlined. With regards to the All Wales Framework Constitution it was noted that a recent update has indicated that the problems that were being experienced have been resolved and consequently the proposed adoption of the new framework will commence shortly. In relation to the issue of remote attendance, Welsh Government has recently issued guidance and a report will be presented to the next meeting of Council. The necessity for extending the duration of certain meetings was outlined for Members.

It was moved and seconded that the recommendations in the report be approved. By show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the report and in order to comply with the requirements of the Council's Constitution:-

- (i) as it is not proposed that any changes be made to the current arrangements in relation to the appointment of committees as detailed in the Constitution at this Annual Meeting (and the number of members allocated to each committee), the existing arrangements be noted;
- (ii) as there are no proposed changes to the terms of reference for any of the Committees, the existing Terms of Reference set out in Parts 2 and 3 of the Constitution be noted;
- (iii) as there have been no changes to the political balance of the Authority it be noted that the current allocations remain as present;
- (iv) as there is no proposal to vary the current Scheme of Delegation the existing Scheme set out at Part 3 of the Council's Constitution be noted;
- (v) subject to the requirement that the Committee take appropriate breaks to ensure the comfort of those participating in the meeting, the four-hour restriction be lifted in relation to meetings of the Planning Committee, the Investigating and Disciplinary Committee and Appeals Committee;
- (vi) the Council's Interim Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer be authorised to update the Constitution as appropriate.

15. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE - CHAIR TO SCRUTINY AND OVERVIEW COMMITTEES

It was moved and seconded that members be appointed as Chair and Vice-Chair of the following scrutiny committees for the ensuing year in accordance with the names presented at the meeting. By show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that the following members be appointed as Chair and Vice - Chair of the following scrutiny committees for the ensuing year:-

Education for Life Scrutiny Committee

Chair Councillor W. David Vice Chair Councillor J. Pritchard

Health, Social Care and Well Being Scrutiny Committee

Chair Councillor L. Ackerman Vice Chair Councillor Mrs P. Cook

Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee/Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee

Chair Councillor H.W. David Vice Chair Councillor S. Morgan

Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee

Chair Councillor D.T. Davies Vice Chair Councillor Mrs E. M. Aldworth

16. MEMBERSHIP ON OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

It was moved and seconded that in accordance with the political balance, sixteen members be appointed to serve on the following scrutiny committees in accordance with the names supplied to the Interim Chief Executive by the respective groups. By show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that in accordance with the political balance, sixteen members be appointed to serve on the following scrutiny committees in accordance with the names supplied to the Interim Chief Executive by the respective groups.

Education for Life Scrutiny Committee
Health, Social Care and Well Being Scrutiny Committee
Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee/Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee
Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee

17. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR TO COMMITTEES

It was moved and seconded that members be appointed as Chair and Vice Chair of the under mentioned committees for the ensuing year in accordance with the names presented at the meeting and that the receipt of a senior salary payment to the Chair of Licensing Committee be noted. By show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) it be noted that the Chair and Vice Chair of the Audit Committee will be appointed at the first meeting and that a senior salary payment will be made to the Chair;
- (ii) it be noted that the Chair of the Investigating and Disciplinary Committee will be appointed by that Committee;
- (iii) the following members be appointed as Chair and Vice Chair of the under

mentioned committees for the ensuing year and the receipt of a senior salary payment to the Chair of the Licensing Committee be noted:-

Appeals Committee (Disciplinary/Grievance)

Chair Councillor D.G. Carter

Appointments Committee

Chair Councillor Mrs C. Forehead Vice Chair Councillor W. David

Democratic Services Committee

Chair Councillor C.P. Mann Vice Chair Councillor D.T. Davies

Licensing Committee

Chair Councillor J. Bevan Vice Chair Councillor D.M. Gray

Planning Committee

Chair Councillor D.G. Carter Vice Chair Councillor W. David

Sustainable Development Advisory Panel

Chair Councillor K. James Vice Chair Councillor D. Havard

- (iv) it be noted that the nominated Chairs of Democratic Services Committee and Planning Committee are not in receipt of a Chairs senior salary payment.

18. MEMBERSHIP ON COMMITTEES

It was moved and seconded that members be appointed to serve on the listed committees in accordance with the names supplied to the Interim Chief Executive by the respective groups. By show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that Members be appointed to serve on the following committees in accordance with the names supplied to the Interim Chief Executive by the respective groups:-

Appeals Committee (Disciplinary/Grievance)(3 members/3 substitutes)
Appointments Committee (8 members)
Audit Committee (12 members/1 lay member)
Democratic Services Committee (16 members)
Investigating and Disciplinary Committee (7 members)
Licensing Committee (15 members)
Planning Committee (20 members)
Standards Committee (2 members/2 substitutes/5 lay members)
Sustainable Development Advisory Panel (11 members)

19. CONSTITUTION OF SUB-COMMITTEES/WORKING PARTIES/PANELS AND BOARDS

It was moved and seconded that members be appointed to serve on the following sub-committees/working parties/panels and boards in accordance with the names supplied to the Interim Chief Executive by the respective groups. By show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that Members be appointed to serve on the following sub-committees/working parties/panels and boards in accordance with the names supplied to the Interim Chief Executive by the respective groups:-

Bargoed Town Centre Management Group (6 local members and Cabinet member)
Blackwood Town Centre Management Group (5 local members and Cabinet member)
Bryn Compost Liaison Group (adjoining ward members and Cabinet member)
Caerphilly Community Safety Partnership Strategy Group (1 member)
Caerphilly Homes Task Group (Welsh Housing Quality Standard)(7 members)
Caerphilly Local Access Forum (Cabinet member)
Caerphilly Town Centre Management Group (9 ward members and Cabinet member)
Community Council Liaison Sub-Committee (16 members)
Constitutional Working Party (7 members)
Corporate Health and Safety Committee (7 members)
Education Achievement Service Board (1 member)
Education Achievement Service Joint Scrutiny Panel (2 members)
Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel (15 members)
Joint Consultative Committee (all Cabinet members)
Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal - Crumlin Arm Working Group (adjoining ward members and Cabinet member)
Newbridge Town Centre Management Group (5 local members and Cabinet member)
Pensions/Compensation Committee (8 members)
Prosiect Gwyrdd Joint Scrutiny Panel (2 members)
Rights of Way Cabinet Committee (5 Cabinet members)
Risca Town Centre Management Group (5 local members and Cabinet member)
River Rhymney Task Group (3 members)
Scrutiny Leadership Group (Chair/Vice - Scrutiny Committees/Democratic Service Committee and Audit Committee)
Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (6 members)
View Point Panel (relevant Cabinet members)
Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee (15 members)
Ystrad Mynach Town Centre Management Group (4 local members and Cabinet member)

20. REPRESENTATION ON ASSOCIATIONS/OUTSIDE BODIES

It was moved and seconded that Council be represented on the associations and outside bodies listed in the report in accordance with the names supplied to the Interim Chief Executive by the respective groups. By show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that Council be represented on associations and outside bodies by the following members and/or officers:-

Animal Welfare Scheme (Gwent Police)

Councillor Miss E. Forehead

Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council

Councillors J. Bevan, C. Hawker, J.A. Pritchard

Anti Poverty Champion

Councillor G. Jones

Army Benevolent Fund - Gwent

Councillor A.G. Higgs

Armed Forces Community Covenant Champion

Councillor A.G. Higgs

Arts Council For Wales - South East Wales Board

Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning - Mrs R. Passmore

Association of Public Services Excellence (formerly ADLO) - Welsh Regional Committee

Cabinet Members for Corporate Services, Housing, Highways, Transportation and Engineering - Councillors Mrs B.A. Jones, G. Jones, T.J. Williams

Caerphilly Adoption Panel

Councillor D. Havard

Caerphilly Foster Panel

Councillor Mrs J. Gale

Caerphilly Groundwork Trust - Board of Directors

Councillors Mrs P. Cook, Ms P. Leonard, C.P. Mann

Capital Regional Tourism Partnership

Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Planning and Sustainable Development - Councillor K. James substitute Councillor D.T. Davies

Carbon Reduction Group

Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Planning and Sustainable Development - Councillor K. James

Care and Repair - Caerphilly

Councillor G. Jones and Mr K. Williams (Private Sector Housing Manager)

Catalogue Supplies Joint Committee

Councillors Mrs B.A. Jones and D.T. Hardacre

Child Poverty Champion

Councillor R. Woodyatt

Citizens Advice Bureau Trustee Board

Councillor Mrs C. Forehead

Coleg Gwent Further Education Corporation

Councillor Mrs G. Oliver

Coleg Harlech WEA North

Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning - Councillor Mrs R. Passmore and Mrs S. Aspinall (Acting Deputy Chief Executive)

Coleg Y Cymoedd Corporation (formerly Ystrad Mynach College Board of Governors)

Councillor W. David

Consortium of Local Authorities Wales (CLAW)

Councillors G. Jones and K.V. Reynolds

Corporate Parenting Group

Councillors R. Woodyatt (Cabinet Member for Social Services), Mrs R. Passmore (Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning), D. Havard (Adoption Panel Member), Mrs J. Gale (Fostering Panel Member), Ms L. Ackerman and J.A. Pritchard

Equalities Champion

J. Pritchard

Fields in Trust (formerly National Playing Fields Association)

Councillor D.V. Poole

Glamorgan Archives Joint Committee

Councillors R.T. Davies and A.G. Higgs

Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund Management Group

Cabinet Member for Corporate Services Mrs B.A. Jones, Cabinet Member for Human Resources and Governance - Councillor Mrs C. Forehead and Councillor C.P. Mann

Greater Gwent Cremation Joint Committee

Councillors N. George and J. Taylor

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Councillors C. Hawker and J. Pritchard

Gwent Frailty Joint Committee

Cabinet Member for Social Services - Councillor R. Woodyatt

Gwent Archives Joint Committee

Councillors R.T. Davies and A.G. Higgs

Gwent Police and Crime Panel

Councillors Mrs C. Forehead, C.P. Mann and Mrs G. Oliver

Heads of the Valleys Joint Organics Project Joint Committee

Cabinet Members for Community and Leisure Services and Corporate Services - Councillors D.V. Poole and Mrs B.A. Jones.

Homeless Person Champion

Councillor G. Jones

Industrial Communities Alliance (formerly Coalfield Communities Campaign)

Cabinet Members for Education and Lifelong Learning and Regeneration, Planning and Sustainable Development - Councillors K. James and Mrs R. Passmore

Islwyn Bowls Club Management Board

Councillors G. Kirby and D.V. Poole

Joint Council For Wales

Councillors G. Jones and Mrs C. Forehead

The Learning Centre (formerly Pupil Referral Unit)

Chair of Education for Life Scrutiny Committee - Councillor W. David

Local Authority Action for Southern Africa (LAACTSA)

Councillor R. Saralis

Local Government Association

Councillors Mrs B.A. Jones, G. Jones, D.V. Poole and K.V. Reynolds

Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal Regeneration Partnership

Cabinet Members for Highways, Transportation and Engineering and Regeneration, Planning and Sustainable Development - Councillors K. James and T. Williams (substitute Councillor A. Lewis)

Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust

Councillor D. Havard

Older Persons Champion

Councillor Mrs C. Forehead

Penallta Community Park Forum

Councillors A. Angel, Mrs A. Blackman, G.J. Hughes and J.A. Pritchard

PFI Liaison Committee

Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning - Councillor Mrs R. Passmore

Prosiect Gwyrdd Joint Committee

Cabinet Members for Community and Leisure Services and Corporate Services -
Councillors D.V. Poole and K.V. Reynolds

Regional Technical Statement (Aggregates)

Councillor K. James

Reserve Forces and Cadets Association for Wales

Councillor A.G. Higgs

Rest Convalescent Home, Porthcawl

Councillor D.W.R. Preece

Safer Caerphilly Community Safety Partnership

Councillor D.V. Poole

Schools Admission Forum

Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning - Councillor Mrs R. Passmore

Schools Budget Forum

Cabinet Members for Education and Lifelong Learning and Corporate Services -
Councillors Mrs R. Passmore and K.V. Reynolds

Sight Support (Gwent Association for the Blind)

Councillor D.M. Gray

South East Area Environment Group

Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services - Councillor D.V. Poole

South East Wales Strategic Planning Group

Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Planning and Sustainable Development -
Councillor K. James

South East Wales Transport Alliance

Councillor D.G. Carter and Cabinet Member for Highways, Transportation and
Engineering – Councillor T.J. Williams

South Wales Fire and Rescue Authority

Councillors C. Elsbury, D.T. Davies and Mrs J. Jones

South Wales Regional Aggregates Working Party

Cabinet Member for Highways, Transportation and Engineering - Councillor
T.J. Williams

Sportlot Community Chest Panel

Councillors J. Bevan, Mrs D. Price, A. Lewis

St. Johns Cymru Wales

Councillor D.M. Gray

Urban Commission (Local Government Association)

Councillor D.V. Poole

Valleys Regional Equality Council

Councillor Mrs C. Forehead

Wales and National Nuclear Free Zone Forum

Councillor R.T. Davies

Wales Council for Deaf People

Councillor D.M. Gray - substitute C. Hawker

Welsh Books Council (3 years) and Wales Book Council Executive Committee (1 year)

Councillor H.R. Davies

Welsh Centre for International Affairs

Councillor R.T. Davies

Welsh Church Fund

Cabinet Member for Corporate Services - Councillor Mrs B.A. Jones, Substitute - Councillor Mrs J. Summers

Welsh Joint Education Committee

Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning - Councillor Mrs R. Passmore

Welsh Local Government Association

Councillors Mrs B.A. Jones, G. Jones, D.V. Poole and K.V. Reynolds

Welsh Purchasing Consortium

Cabinet Member for Corporate Services - Councillor Mrs B.A. Jones

Workers Education Association - South Wales District Committee

Councillor R.T. Davies

Youth Champion (appointed by Youth Forum)

Councillor M. Prew

Youth Forum

Councillors C. Cuss and J. Pritchard, Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning - Councillor Mrs R. Passmore and Young Peoples Champion

The meeting closed at 7.20 p.m.

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting on 10th June 2014 they were signed by the Mayor.

Mayor