



COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON TUESDAY 2ND MARCH 2021 AT 5.00PM

PRESENT:

Councillor C. Andrews - Mayor
Councillor J. Gale - Deputy Mayor

Councillors:

M. Adams, E.M. Aldworth, C. Andrews, A. Angel, P. Bevan, C. Bezzina, L. Binding, A. Collis, S. Cook, C. Cuss, W. David, M. Davies, T. Davies, N. Dix, C. Elsbury, K. Etheridge, M. Evans, A. Farina-Childs, C. Forehead, J. Fussell, A. Gair, J. Gale, N. George, C. Gordon, R. Gough, L. Harding, D. Havard, A. Higgs, A. Hussey, V. James, L. Jeremiah, G. Johnston, B. Jones, S. Kent, G. Kirby, A. Leonard, P. Leonard, C. Mann, P. Marsden, B. Miles, S. Morgan, B. Owen, T. Parry, L. Phipps, D. Poole, D. Preece, D. Price, J. Pritchard, J. Ridgewell, R. Saralis, M.E. Sargent, J. Simmonds, G. Simmonds, S. Skivens, E. Stenner, J. Taylor, C. Thomas, A. Whitcombe, R. Whiting, L. Whittle, T. Williams, W. Williams, B. Zaplatynski.

Together with:-

C. Harry (Chief Executive), R. Tranter (Head of Legal Services & Section 151 Officer), R. Edmunds (Corporate Director Education and Corporate Services), M.S. Williams (Corporate Director Communities), K. Peters (Corporate Policy Officer) A. Cullinane (Senior Policy Officer) and E. Sullivan (Senior Committee Services Officer)

WEB-CASTING FILMING AND VOTING ARRANGEMENTS

The Chief Executive reminded those present that the meeting was being filmed but would not be live streamed, however a recording would be available following the meeting via the Council's website – [Click Here to View](#). She advised that decisions would be made by Microsoft Forms.

IN MEMORIAM

The Mayor with sadness advised that since the last meeting of Council, Gareth Evans, Library Services Manager had passed away. Council held a minute's silence as a sign of respect.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: J. Bevan, D. Cushing, K. Dawson, D. Harse and D. Street (Corporate Director Social Services)

2. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor advised that with regret due to the continuing restrictions there were no announcements on this occasion.

3. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS UNDER RULE OF PROCEDURE 28(3)

There were no petitions.

4. PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Council recognised Lauren Roberts-Orford, winner of the Caerphilly Cares Artwork Competition. Members were advised that her unique design has been hung in the Council Chamber to commemorate the moment in history when children painted rainbows, communities pulled together and everyone clapped for NHS and Key Workers. It was noted that Lauren's design is the very first piece of artwork to be hung in the Council Chamber.

Members joined in a round of applause to recognise Lauren's wonderful picture and outstanding achievement.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Clarification was sought by Councillor C. Bezzina, as an employee of Unison was she required to declare an interest in relation to Agenda Item No. 7 – Publication of the Pay Policy Statement 2021/22. The Monitoring Officer confirmed that as the Pay Policy Statement was a statement of fact, there was no requirement for her or Officers of the Council to declare an interest in this matter.

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

6. MINUTES – 19TH JANUARY 2021

Although not connected to the minutes of the 19th January 2021, Councillor S. Morgan with the agreement of the Mayor, referenced debate from Special Council on the 24th February 2021 in which he made an apology for misinterpreting comments made by Councillor J.E Fussell at the Joint Scrutiny Committee meeting on the 22nd February 2021. Having reviewed the Joint Scrutiny Committee meeting recording, Councillor Morgan stood by his understanding of the matter, withdrew his apology, and called on Councillor Fussell to now apologise for misleading Council.

Councillor Fussell confirmed that he would not comment further on the matter until he had the opportunity to review the recording and would neither retract nor offer an apology to Council at this time.

Councillor Mann who had also been called on for comment confirmed that he would reserve judgement on the matter until he too had reviewed the recording.

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

Council held on 19th January 2021 (minute nos. 1-15)

7. PUBLICATION OF THE PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2021/22

Consideration was given to the report which sought Council approval to publish the Authority's Pay Policy Statement 2021/22.

It was noted that the publication of the Pay Policy Statement is a legislative requirement and contains full details of the remuneration position for the Council for 2021/22.

It was moved and seconded that the recommendations in the report be approved. By way of Microsoft Forms and verbal confirmation and in noting that there was 1 abstention this was agreed by the majority present.

RESOLVED that: -

1. The Pay Policy Statement 2021/22 (Version 10) be published on the Council's website.
2. The payments of the Foundation Living Wage hourly rate of £9.50 with effect from 1st November 2020 be agreed.
3. All future nationally agreed increases to the Foundation Living Wage hourly rate be paid automatically.

8. CHANGES TO THE COUNCIL CONSTITUTION TO REFLECT THE INCLUSION OF THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY IN THE REPORT TEMPLATE

Consideration was given to the report which informed Council of the changes proposed to the Report Template because of the implementation of the Socio-economic Duty which would come into force on the 31st March 2021. Council approval was also sought for the Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer to amend the constitution to incorporate the updated report template.

Clarification was sought as to the overall aims of the new duty. Officers confirmed that this was to deliver better outcomes for those who experience socio-economic disadvantage by ensuring that those taking strategic decisions take account of evidence and potential impacts through consultation and engagement and understand the needs and views of those impacted by the decision.

Members noted what would be considered as strategic decisions in terms of the new duty and concerns were expressed as to the impact of the new assessment process. Reference was made Partnership Boards and how the decisions made there were not reported back to Local Authority Scrutiny until a much later date, something that had been a longstanding issue of concern.

Officers acknowledged that there was more work to be done however as further pieces of legislation came into effect the various elements would come together, making the process more robust and allowing greater opportunities for pre-decision scrutiny.

Following consideration of the report it was moved and seconded that the recommendation contained within the Officer's report be approved and by way of Microsoft Forms and verbal confirmation and in noting there was 1 abstention this was agreed by the majority present.

RESOLVED that the changes to the report template at Appendix 1 be noted and endorsed and the Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer be authorised to update the Constitution to incorporate the new template including the inclusion of the final version of the full Integrated Impact Assessment.

9. CAERPHILLY WELLBEING AND PLACESHAPING FRAMEWORK

Council noted the report that had previously been presented to Joint Scrutiny Committee on the 22nd February 2021 and endorsed by Cabinet on the 24th February 2021.

The Leader provided Council with a summary of the ambitious programme and projects that would be coming forward.

Members thanked the Leader for her statement and assurances were sought that serious consideration would be given to a cycle network and it was confirmed that this would indeed form part of the Active Travel Plan.

Clarification was then sought in relation to plans for Caerphilly Town Centre and a request made that adjoining wards should form part of the consultation process for all forthcoming proposals. The Leader confirmed that Local Ward Members would be a fundamental part of the process going forward and this would most definitely include adjoining Ward Members. The Member thanked the Leader for the reassurances given.

The report was noted.

The meeting closed at 17:50pm

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 13th April 2021 they were signed by the Mayor.

MAYOR