



COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON TUESDAY, 12TH APRIL 2022 AT 5.00PM

PRESENT:

Councillor C. Andrews - Mayor

Councillors:

M. Adams, E.M. Aldworth, C. Bezzina, C. Bishop, A. Collis, D. Cushing, C. Cuss, W. David, M. Davies, T.D. Davies, C. Elsbury, K. Etheridge, M. Evans, A. Farina-Childs C. Forehead, E. Forehead, A. Gair, N. George, C. Gordon, R. Gough, L. Harding, A. Hussey, V. James, G. Johnston, S. Kent, G. Kirby, A. Leonard, P. Leonard, C. Mann, S. Morgan, B. Owen, T. Parry, D. Poole, D. Preece, J. Pritchard, J. Ridgewell, J. Roberts, R. Saralis, J. Simmonds, E. Stenner, C. Thomas, A. Whitcombe, R. Whiting, L. Whittle, T. Williams, B. Zaplatynski.

Together with:-

C. Harrhy (Chief Executive), R. Tranter (Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer), D. Street (Corporate Director Social Services and Housing), M.S. Williams (Corporate Director Economy and Environment), R. Tranter (Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer), L. Lane (Head of Democratic Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer), E. Sullivan (Senior Committee Services Officer)

RECORDING, 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.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J A. Angel, J. Bevan, P. Bevan, K. Dawson, N. Dix, J.E. Fussell, D. Hardacre, D. Harse, D. Havard, A. Higgs, M. James, L. Jeremiah, B. Jones, P. Marsden, B. Miles, G. Oliver, L. Phipps, D. Price, M.E. Sargent, J. Scriven, G. Simmonds, S. Skivens, J. Stone, J. Taylor, W. Williams and R. Edmunds (Corporate Director Education and Corporate Services).

2. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Due to the Pre-Election Period the Mayor made no announcements.

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

There were no petitions.

4. PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

There were no awards.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

6. MINUTES - COUNCIL – 16th MARCH 2022

RESOLVED that the minutes of Council held on 16th March 2022 (minute nos. 1-15) be approved as a correct record.

7. MINUTES – SPECIAL COUNCIL – 24TH MARCH 2022

Subject to it being noted that Councillor E.M. Aldworth had been omitted from the Apologies for Absence

RESOLVED that the minutes of Special Council held on 24th February 2022 (minute nos. 1-3) be approved as a correct record.

8. TO RECEIVE AND TO ANSWER QUESTIONS RECEIVED UNDER RULE OF PROCEDURE 10(4)

There were no questions received.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

9. MEMBERS INDUCTION PROGRAMME 2022

Consideration was given to the report which outlined the proposed induction programme for newly elected and returning Councillors following the local government elections in May 2022.

Council noted that the Induction Programme had been considered by the Democratic Services Committee at its meeting on the 17th March 2022, who unanimously recommended its approval.

Members noted that the role of a Councillor is complex and challenging and the political, legislative and local landscape in which they work is changing constantly. The proposed induction programme would enable Councillors to quickly become familiar with how the Council works, the rules and procedures under which it operates and the complexities of the elected member role.

Members noted the dates of Mandatory Training elements and queried if there would be opportunities for additional sessions to be organised to take into account Members pre-existing holiday or family commitments. Members were advised that Officers hoped to be able

to record sessions but would work with individual members to provide training on a 1-2-1 basis if required.

A Member proposed that the Induction Programme would benefit from the addition of six-month performance review mechanism, the outcomes from which could be considered by the Democratic Services Committee. Indicators could include attendance, training history etc.

A Member felt that this information was already accounted for within the Members Annual Report.

A Member also expressed concern as to the establishment of a set of indicators for Elected Members performance and what role the Democratic Services Committee could take in terms of reviewing outcomes. As individual Members work in a variety of ways, balancing work, life and constituency demands it was felt that these could not be reflected or measured within static data sets. The Member felt that the ultimate evaluation of a Councillors performance was with constituents and the electorate to judge.

The recommendations contained within the Officers' report were moved and seconded and an amendment was then moved and second that proposed that the Induction Programme be amended to include a six-month performance review mechanism for Elected Members to the Democratic Services Committee.

By way of Microsoft Forms and verbal confirmation and in noting there were 8 For, 36 Against and 2 Abstentions the amendment was declared lost by the majority present.

By way of Microsoft Forms and verbal confirmation and in noting there were 45 For, 1 Against the motion was declared carried by the majority present.

RESOLVED that: -

- (i) The comments of the Democratic Services Committee be noted.
- (ii) The updated Member Induction Programme 2022 (Appendix 1) be approved.

10. CHANGES TO THE FAMILY ABSENCE PROTOCOL FOR MEMBERS OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Consideration was given to the report which advised Council of the changes to the Family Absence Protocol for Members of Local Authorities, which increased the amount of paid absence a Members is entitled to in respect of adoption leave and sought approval from Council to incorporate the amended Protocol within the Constitution.

Council noted that the report had been considered by the Democratic Services Committee at its meeting on the 17th March 2022 and they had unanimously supported its recommendation to Council.

It was moved and seconded that the recommendations contained in the Officer's report be approved and by way of Microsoft Forms this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that: -

- 1. The content of report and changes made to the Family Absence for Members of Local Authorities Protocol as set out in Appendix 1 be noted.

2. The Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer be authorised to amend the Constitution by substituting the existing Protocol with the amended version.

In concluding the meeting, the Mayor paid tribute to all Councillors for all their hard work over the last five years and for the support she had received during her time as Mayor of Caerphilly County Borough Council. The Mayor formally placed on record her thanks to Deputy Mayor Councillor June Stone for her support and to Officers for their hard work and dedication in such unprecedented times.

These sentiments were shared by the Political Group Leaders present and by retiring Members who expressed their thanks to all Councillors for their hard work and commitment and wished them every success for the future.

The Chief Executive took the opportunity to wish all Councillors the very best for all their future endeavours and thanked them on behalf of the communities of Caerphilly County Borough Council for all their hard work.

The meeting closed at 17:40 pm

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 7th June 2022 they were signed by the Mayor.

MAYOR