



CABINET

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN, ON WEDNESDAY, 7TH MAY 2014 AT 2.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor H.A. Andrews MBE - Chairman

Councillors:

D.T. Hardacre (Performance and Asset Management), K. James (Regeneration, Planning and Sustainable Development), G. Jones (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing), Mrs R. Passmore (Education and Lifelong Learning), D.V. Poole (Community and Leisure Services), K.V. Reynolds (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Corporate Services), T.J. Williams (Highways, Transportation and Engineering), R. Woodyatt (Social Services).

Together with:

S.A. Rosser (Interim Chief Executive), S. Aspinall (Acting Deputy Chief Executive), N. Scammell (Acting Director of Corporate Services & Section 151 Officer).

Also in Attendance:

S.M. Kauczok (Committee Services Officer).

357. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Mrs C. Forehead (HR and Governance/Business Manager) and Mr D. Street (Corporate Director Social Services).

358. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

MATTERS ON WHICH EXECUTIVE DECISIONS WERE REQUIRED

359. TRANSFER INTO REVENUE SUPPORT GRANT OF PUBLIC FACILITIES GRANT 2014/2015

Councillor Mrs A. Blackman addressed the Cabinet in respect of this item.

The Acting Director of Corporate Services and Section 151 Officer presented the report, which notified Members of a transfer of specific grant into the Revenue Support Grant for 2014/15 that as a consequence of its low value did not form part of the Welsh Government Settlement papers circulated in December 2013. The report sets out the recent history in respect of this grant and proposes interim arrangements in respect of funding for 2014/15 prior to the setting of the Council's budget for 2015/16.

In the last few years, Welsh Government have provided 100% grant funding in respect of payments to businesses who have made their toilet facilities available to the public. The grant totalled £17,000 in 2013/14 and comprised of 32 payments of £500 per business and one payment of £1,000. During late March 2014, Welsh Government announced that the grant would end from 1st April 2014 but that funds had been transferred to local authorities in the settlement from Welsh Government. Members were reminded that the budget had been set for 2014/15 on the basis that this grant funding would continue in the three areas that Council had agreed to close public conveniences i.e. Newbridge, Nelson and Fleur de Llys. It was noted that no grant payments were made in 2013/14 to any business in Fleur de Lys.

Following the Officer's presentation of the report Councillor Mrs A. Blackman addressed the Cabinet and referred to the impact that the closure of the public convenience in Nelson has had on the local community and the lack of suitable provision in the area for people with a disability.

Following consideration and discussion, it was proposed that given the importance of the public convenience to the residents of Nelson, as demonstrated by the local ward member at the meeting, the facility be offered to Nelson Community Council at a peppercorn rent and a public facilities grant of £500 be offered to the Community Council towards the running costs of the public convenience in 2014/15.

The recommendations in the report and those put forward at the meeting were moved and seconded. By a show of hands they were unanimously approved.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the officer's report: -

1. The sum of £2,000 be allocated in 2014/15 to those business in Newbridge and Nelson as shown in Appendix 1. In the event that a business does not wish to participate, funds will be offered to other businesses in that area.
2. A review be undertaken to determine whether the £12k is needed in full or part for further allocations of funding to businesses in 2014/15 and 2015/16. This review to consider criteria in respect of allocation and a further report be presented to Cabinet when the review is complete.
3. Having regard to the importance of the public convenience to the residents of Nelson, as demonstrated by the local ward member at the meeting, the facility be offered to Nelson Community Council at a peppercorn rent.
4. A public facilities grant of £500 be offered to Nelson Community Council towards the running costs of the public convenience in 2014/15.

The meeting closed at 2.20 pm.

After the meeting closed Cabinet Members paid tribute to the manner in which Councillor Harry Andrews had undertaken his duties during his term of office and for the support and guidance he had provided over the years. Councillor Andrews had contributed significantly to the achievements of CCBC during his prestigious career and had earned the respect of Members and Officers across the County Borough. Whilst retiring from the Cabinet, Councillor Andrews intended to continue in his role as Ward Member for Gilfach.

Approved and signed as a correct record subject to any corrections made at the meeting held on 21st May 2014.

CHAIRMAN