

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE SAFETY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, TREDOMEN ON MONDAY, 24TH FEBRUARY 2003 AT 10.00 A.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor P.J. Bevan - Chairman
Councillor A.J. Pritchard - Vice-Chairman

Councillors:

H.E. Styles and D.T. Wiltshire

Together with:

M. Davies (Chief Executive), R. Web (Director of the Environment), S. Delahaye (Chief Trading Standards Officer), M. Workman (Commercial Services Manager), P. Neale (Health, Safety and Welfare Officer), P. Griffiths (Senior Corporate Safety Officer), S. Morgan (Corporate Safety Officer), K. Meredith (Corporate Safety Officer), N. Powell, Ms E. Harry (IT Support Officer), D. Griffiths (Insurance & Risk Manager), G. Price (Admin Officer - Welfare and Central Support - Education and Leisure), T. White (Refuse and Cleansing Officer), Ms D. Llewellyn (Health, Safety and Back Care Adviser – Social Services), Ms E. Thomas (Personnel Manager), S. Greedy (Principal Housing Officer (Technical)), J. Rowlands (Corporate Safety Officer) and Mrs. K. Wall (Committee Services Officer)

Trade Union Safety Representatives

B. Barrowman, J. Reece, A. Jones, N. Short, A. Morton, R. Agg, J. Poole, D.A. Williams

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P.C.W. Bailie, Mrs M.E. Hughes and H. Price, B. Godsell (AEEU), Ms E. Davies (UNISON), M. Payne (GMB), J. Hogan.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman, Councillor P. Bevan welcomed representatives to the meeting and introductions were made.

2. SEMINAR - ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH MANAGING ASBESTOS

The meeting then received the following presentations:-

- Asbestos and Associated Problems - Mr John Evans (National Britannia Group)
- The Legal Perspective - Mr Stuart Charles (Health and Safety Executive)
- Managing Asbestos - The Survey - Mr Phil Griffiths (Senior Corporate Safety Officer - CCBC)
- The Survey Results - Mr Andrew Young (Building Surveyor, Property Group - CCBC)
- Managing Asbestos - The Way Forward - Mr Phil Griffiths (Senior Corporate Safety Officer - CCBC)

Following the presentations, the Chairman invited comments and questions from those present.

A Trade Union representative firstly thanked the Chairman for arranging a special meeting of the Committee to consider the issues associated with asbestos and for the information provided during the presentations and circulated at the meeting. He then expressed his concern that a member of staff with appropriate asbestos qualifications was only employed on a temporary contract.

Officers responded to the concern expressed and explained that the temporary nature of the post would be reviewed at a later date. Councillor A.J. Pritchard (Cabinet member for Modernisation, Personnel) also stated that any member of staff with specific concerns could meet him to discuss the issues further.

A query was raised about the inspection of common areas in public sector housing and it was reported that these areas were included in the Control of Asbestos at Work Regulations and would need to be inspected by May 2004. Officers also confirmed that this issue was being examined by Cris Davies (Chief Housing Officer) and Officers from the Corporate Safety Unit.

The survey of schools currently being undertaken was mentioned and Committee members emphasised the need to keep schools fully informed of the results of the survey.

Reference was then made to the Draft Document on the Management of Asbestos in Authority Owned Premises, prepared by the Corporate Safety Unit and it was agreed that copies would be provided to Senior Managers and Trade Union representations prior to consideration at the next Corporate Safety Committee meeting.

The Chairman thanked those present for contributing to the debate and closed the meeting.

The meeting closed at 12.25 p.m.