



ANNUAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE YSTRAD MYNACH ON THURSDAY 9TH MAY 2013 AT 6.00 PM

PRESENT:

Councillor Mrs. G. Oliver - Mayor
Councillor D.M. Gray - Deputy Mayor

Councillors:

Miss. L. Ackerman, M. Adams, Mrs. E.M. Aldworth, H.A. Andrews, Mrs. K.R. Baker, Mrs. G. Bevan, J. Bevan, L. Binding, Mrs. A. Blackman, D. Bolter, D.G. Carter, Mrs. A. Collins, Mrs. P. Cook, C.J. Cuss, H.W. David, W. David, H.R. Davies, D.T. Davies, R.T. Davies, K. Dawson, C. Durham, C. Elsbury, Mrs. C. Forehead, Ms E. E. Forehead, 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, 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, D. Rees, K.V. Reynolds, J.E. Roberts, Mrs. E. Stenner, Mrs. J. Summers, J. Taylor, L.G. Whittle, T.J. Williams, R. Woodyatt

Together with:-

N. Barnett (Acting Chief Executive), D. Street (Acting Director of Social Services), N. Scammell (Acting Director of Corporate Services), G. Williams (Monitoring Officer/Principal Solicitor), J. Jones (Democratic Services Manager), P. Evans (Head of ICT Services), G. Hardacre (Head of HR and Organisation Development), H. Morgan (Senior Committee Services Officer)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A.P. Angel, P.J. Bevan, N. Dix, Mrs. D. Ellis, J.E. Fussell, G. Johnston, R. Saralis and Mrs. M.E. Sargent.

2. RETIRING MAYORS REMARKS

The retiring Mayor, Councillor Mrs. G. Oliver, thanked fellow members and spoke of her numerous and varied activities during her year of Office and referred particularly to her chosen charities, Ty Hafan and Helping Hands Rhymney, for which over £11,600 will have been raised. She expressed her appreciation at the assistance given to her by Members and Officers, particularly those whose duties brought them into regular contact with her.

Members paid tribute to the way in which both she and her consort, Roy, have carried out their duties during the term of Office. Councillor L. Gardiner presented her with a Ty Hafan award.

3. ELECTION OF MAYOR

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

RESOLVED that Councillor D.M. Gray be elected Mayor of Caerphilly County Borough Council until the appointment of a successor at the annual meeting in May 2014 and it be noted that he will receive a civic salary payment.

Councillor D.M. Gray thanked his fellow members for the honour bestowed upon him and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Acting Chief Executive. He advised that his consort would be his wife, Ruth Gray.

4. ELECTION OF DEPUTY 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 Deputy Mayor of Caerphilly County Borough Council until the appointment of a successor at the annual meeting in May 2014 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 Acting Chief Executive. He advised that his consort would be his wife, Valentina Carter.

5. RISCA EAST WARD BY ELECTION

Members welcomed Ms Phillipa Leonard to her first meeting of Council following her election to the Risca East Ward.

6. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

During his announcements, the Mayor, Councillor D.M. Gray advised that his chosen charities for 2013/2014 would be Latch and the Alzheimers Society.

7. LEADER OF COUNCIL - COUNCILLOR H.A. ANDREWS

RESOLVED that it be noted that Councillor H.A. Andrews would receive a senior salary payment as Leader of Council.

8. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY LEADERS

RESOLVED that the appointments of Councillors G. Jones and K.V. Reynolds as Deputy Leaders of Caerphilly County Borough Council and their receipt of a senior salary payment be noted.

9. MEMBERSHIP OF CABINET

RESOLVED that the appointments by the Leader of Council as to the membership of the Cabinet and their receipt of a senior salary payment be noted: -

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| Community and Leisure Services | Councillor D.V. Poole |
| Corporate Services | Councillor K.V. Reynolds |
| 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 |

10. LEADERS STATEMENT/ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2008/09

Councillor Andrews provided Members with an overview of improvement projects over the last year, an update on some of the investment and outlined the projects planned over the coming months.

He reminded Members of the opening of the library and customer service facility in Risca, the development of Caerphilly library (which is scheduled for completion by the end of the year) and the success of the library at Hanbury Chapel, Bargoed. Aberbargoed library is due to re-open later this month.

Councillor Andrews then referred to the innovative Passport training and employment scheme which is aimed at ensuring young people have the right skills to find employment, and to the commitment to providing at least 150 work experience opportunities, 35 apprenticeships and 40 employment opportunities each year for the young people. Members were pleased to note that already more than 280 young people have benefitted from the project.

He was pleased to announce that the County Borough were the first council in Wales to implement the living wage, which has considerably benefitted more than 3,000 of the lowest paid employees who now earn a minimum of £7.45 an hour. Reference was then made to the progress that has been made towards achieving the Welsh Housing Quality Standard by 2019/20, the Community Improvement Fund and the number of environmental initiatives that have been introduced (including dog fouling, littering and exclusion of dogs from all enclosed children's play areas and multi use games areas). Over the last year, five of the county borough's parks have been awarded with coveted Green Flag awards, and in June, Aberbargoed Grasslands became the country's first National Nature Reserve in an urban setting.

Councillor Andrews then highlighted proposals for the development of Dyffryn House as a civic amenity facility and referred to other environmental initiatives and was pleased to announce that the Welsh Government have approved the Flood Risk Management Strategy and that the flood alleviation scheme in Risca is to be implemented. Reference was then made to the Caerphilly Catering Service which also continues to excel, and has become the first local authority in Wales to be fully Appetite for Life compliant.

With regards to future projects he advised that an extra investment of £1.2m is to be made within the social services provision over the coming year, consultation will be undertaken on the Community Infrastructure Levy and an action plan for the Single Integrated Plan will be developed. He advised that works are progressing well in Bargoed, with the Morrisons development scheme and proposals for the Odeon cinema and retail development, which will complement the vast amount of wider regeneration work which is currently transforming Bargoed town centre.

Members were reminded of the £6 million sporting development in Ystrad Mynach, the development of a Welsh-medium secondary school on the former St Ilan site in Caerphilly, the new state-of-the-art leisure facility to replace the town's current outdated facility and the additional £100,000 of investment that has been made to the youth service provision. More recently Members agreed to the signing of the Armed Forces Covenant and it has been announced that some major events are returning to Caerphilly again this year – including the BBC Proms in the Park, Tour of Britain and first ever Caerphilly 10k run which will be taking place in June.

With regards to future projects he requested that Members acknowledge and fully understand that these projects are set against a backdrop whereby the county borough must be proactive in meeting the financial challenges ahead, and look to find innovative and imaginative ways of making financial savings. This is the case for all Councillors, who will be consulted through the scrutiny programme in the autumn.

11. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN TO SCRUTINY AND OVERVIEW COMMITTEES

RESOLVED that the following members be appointed as Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the following Scrutiny Committees for the ensuing year and the receipt of a senior salary payment to the Chairmen be noted: -

Education for Life Scrutiny Committee

Chairman Councillor W. David Vice Chairman Councillor D.W.R. Preece

Health, Social Care and Well Being Scrutiny Committee

Chairman Councillor Ms. L. Ackerman Vice Chairman Councillor Mrs. B.A. Jones

Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee/Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee

Chairman Councillor H.W. David Vice Chairman Councillor Mrs. J. Summers

Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee

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

12. MEMBERSHIP ON OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

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 Acting 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

13. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN TO COMMITTEES

Mrs. Williams (Monitoring Officer) reminded Members that the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Audit Committee will be appointed at the first meeting of that Committee following the Annual Meeting of Council, and that the Chairman of the Investigating and Disciplinary Committee is appointed by that Committee

RESOLVED that: -

- (i) it be noted that the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Audit Committee will be appointed at the first meeting and that a senior salary payment will be made to the Chairman;
- (ii) it be noted that the Chairman of the Investigating and Disciplinary Committee will be appointed by that Committee; (note for information - please see the comments below, the appointment will be re-affirmed at the next meeting as there is an on going investigation).
- (iii) the following members be appointed as Chairman and Vice Chairman of the under mentioned committees for the ensuing year and the receipt of a senior salary payment to those Chairmen identified * be noted:-

Appeals Committee (Disciplinary/Grievance)

Chairman Councillor D.G. Carter

Appointments Committee

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

Democratic Services Committee

*Chairman Councillor C.P. Mann Vice Chairman Councillor D.T. Davies

Investigating and Disciplinary Committee

Chairman Councillor H. David, this appointment will re-affirmed at the next meeting of the Committee

Licensing Committee

*Chairman Councillors J. Bevan Vice Chairman Councillor D.M. Gray

Planning Committee

*Chairman Councillor D.G. Carter Vice Chairman Councillor W. David

Sustainable Development Advisory Panel

Chairman Councillors K. James Vice Chairman Councillor D. Havard

14. MEMBERSHIP ON COMMITTEES

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

Appeals Committee (Disciplinary/Grievance)(3 members/3 substitutes)
Appointments Committee (8 members)
Audit Committee (12 members)
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)
Sustainable Development Advisory Panel (11 Members)

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

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 Acting Chief Executive by the respective groups.

Bargoed Town Centre Management Group (local members and Cabinet member)
Blackwood Town Centre Management Group (local members and Cabinet member)
Bryn Compost Liaison Group (adjoining ward members and Cabinet member)
Cabinet Sub Committee (Welsh Housing Quality Standard)(3 Cabinet members)
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 (ward members and Cabinet member)
Community Council Liaison Sub-Committee (16 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 (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 (local members and Cabinet member)
River Rhymney Task Group (3 members)
Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (6 members)
View Point Panel (relevant Cabinet members)
Voluntary Sector Sub-Committee (15 members)
Ystrad Mynach Town Centre Management Group (local members and Cabinet member)

16. REPRESENTATION ON ASSOCIATIONS/OUTSIDE BODIES

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) it be noted that subject to Home Office approval, Councillor Mrs. C. Forehead replace Councillor K.V. Reynolds on the Gwent Police and Crime Panel, and, in the event that there is an increase in Membership of that Panel Councillor Mrs. G. Oliver be the nominated representative;
- (ii) Council be represented on associations and outside bodies by the following members and/or officers: -

Animal Welfare Scheme (Gwent Police)

Councillor J. Bevan

Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council

Councillors C. Hawker, Mrs. J. A. Pritchard, D. Rees

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 Housing, Corporate Services, Highways, Transportation and Engineering - Councillors G. Jones, K.V. Reynolds, T.J. Williams

Bus Pass Concessionary Travel Scheme Joint Member Forum - to be removed - no longer exists

Caerphilly Adoption Panel

Councillor Mrs. B. Jones

Caerphilly Foster Panel

Councillor Mrs. J. Gale

Caerphilly Groundwork Trust - Board of Directors

Councillors Mrs. D. Ellis, 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 D.T. Hardacre and K.V. Reynolds

Children and Young Peoples Partnership

Councillors Mrs. R. Passmore and R. Woodyatt

Child Poverty Champion

Councillor R. Woodyatt

Citizens Advice Bureau Trustee Board

Councillor Mrs. C. Forehead

Coleg Gwent Further Education Corporation

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

Coleg Harlech WEA North

Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning - Councillor Mrs. R. Passmore and Mrs. S. Aspinall (Corporate Director - Education, Lifelong Learning and Leisure)

Consortium of Local Authorities Wales (CLAW)

Councillors G. Jones and K.V. Reynolds

Equalities Champion

Mrs. D. Ellis

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 K.V. Reynolds, 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 Mrs. D. Ellis and C. Hawker

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 C.P. Mann and K.V. Reynolds – subject to Home Office approval Councillor Mrs. C. Forehead to replace Councillor K.V. Reynolds. In the event that an additional seat is allocated Councillor Mrs. G. Oliver to be nominated

Heads of the Valleys Joint Organics Project Joint Committee

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

Health Social Care and Well Being Partnership

Councillor R. Woodyatt

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

Joint Council For Wales

Councillors G. Jones and Mrs. C. Forehead

The Learning Centre (formerly Pupil Referral Unit)

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

Local Authority Action for Southern Africa (LAACTSA)

Councillor R. Saralis

Local Government Association

Councillors H.A. Andrews, 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 Gwyrd Joint Committee

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

Public Transportation Consortium of Non Metropolitan Authorities (Shires) - to be removed - no longer exists

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 Economic Forum - to be removed - no longer exists

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 C. Cuss

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 K.V. Reynolds 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 H.A. Andrews, G. Jones, D. V. Poole and K.V. Reynolds

Welsh Purchasing Consortium

Cabinet Member for Corporate Services - Councillor K.V. Reynolds

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

Ystrad Mynach College Board of Governors/Coleg Y Cymoedd Corporation (Shadow Board until 31st July 2013)

Councillors R.W. Gough and D.T. Hardacre

The meeting closed at 7.15 pm.

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting on 11th June 2013 they were signed by the Mayor.

Mayor