



COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH ON TUESDAY, 26TH JANUARY 2016 AT 5.00 PM

PRESENT:

Councillor L. Gardiner - Mayor
Councillor Mrs D. Price - Deputy Mayor

Councillors:

L. Ackerman, M. Adams, Mrs E.M. Aldworth, A.P. Angel, J. Bevan, L. Binding, Mrs A. Blackman, D. Bolter, Mrs P. Cook, C.J. Cuss, H.W. David, W. David, D.T. Davies, H.R. Davies, K. Dawson, N. Dix, M. Evans, Mrs C. Forehead, Miss E. Forehead, Ms J. Gale, N. George, C.J. Gordon, R.W. Gough, D.T. Hardacre, D. Havard, C. Hawker, A.G. Higgs, G.J. Hughes, K. James, Mrs B.A. Jones, Ms J.G. Jones, Miss L. Jones, S. Kent, G. Kirby, A. Lewis, K. Lloyd, C.P. Mann, S. Morgan, Mrs R. Passmore, D.V. Poole, D.W.R. Preece, M.J. Prew, J. Pritchard, J.A. Pritchard, A. Rees, D. Rees, K.V. Reynolds, Mrs M.E. Sargent, J. Simmonds, S. Skivens, E. Stenner, J. Taylor, T.J. Williams, L.G. Whittle, R. Woodyatt

Together with:

C. Burns (Interim Chief Executive), C. Harray (Corporate Director – Communities), D. Street (Corporate Director of Social Services), N. Scammell (Acting Director of Corporate Services and Section 151 Officer), G. Williams (Interim Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer) R. Kyte (Team Leader - Strategic and Development Planning), A. Wilcox (Senior Planning Officer) A. Price (Interim Deputy Monitoring Officer) and R. Barrett (Committee Services Officer)

1. WEB-CASTING FILMING AND VOTING ARRANGEMENTS

The Interim Chief Executive reminded those present that the meeting was being filmed and would be made publicly available in live and archive form via the Council's website. He advised that decisions would be made by a show of hands.

The Interim Chief Executive also explained that owing to a number of technical issues, the webcast for the meeting would be available in audio format only.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors H.A. Andrews, Mrs K.R. Baker, P.J. Bevan, D.G. Carter, C. Elsbury, J.E. Fussell, Mrs P. Griffiths, M.P. James, G. Johnston, Ms P. Leonard, Mrs G. Oliver, J.E. Roberts, R. Saralis and Mrs J. Summers.

3. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor referred to the many events and visits that he and the Deputy Mayor have undertaken since the last meeting. He referenced the many carol services that he had attended during the Christmas period and paid tribute to the high quality of singing talent across the county borough.

The Mayor expressed his gratitude for the kindness and generosity shown to his charity appeal over the Christmas period. The nominated charities (Ty Hafan Children's Hospice and MacMillan Nurses) have benefitted from donations in lieu of sending Christmas cards, and Members were advised that the total for this year currently stood at approximately £11,000.

4. PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Chartered Institute of Waste Management Sustainability and Resource Awards

Members were informed that the Council's Waste Management Team recently won a prestigious award at the Chartered Institute of Waste Management's Sustainability and Resource Awards. This is the second time the Team have won this award for its commitment to the Waste Hierarchy. The award recognises the achievements, innovations and contributions of the Council for its continuous hard work and recycling success. These awards are long-standing and well-respected and are only awarded for outstanding achievement in the sustainability, resource and waste industry.

Malcolm Smith, Tudor Lewis, Malcolm Kilby and Robert Lewis from the Waste Management Team came forward to receive the award from the Mayor. Members placed on record their congratulations to the staff in achieving this award.

RESOLVE National ASB Awards – Residents and Communities

Members were informed that Lisa Evans, a Council tenant from Gelligaer, has won a prestigious national award for the bravery she showed in helping to tackle anti-social behaviour in her community. Lisa was nominated in the Residents and Communities category of the RESOLVE National ASB (Anti-Social Behaviour) Awards by the Council's Tenancy Enforcement Team.

The Team nominated Lisa for her strength of character and determination when working with them to tackle neighbours who were causing anti-social behaviour in her community. The Safer Caerphilly Community Safety Partnership worked together and with Lisa to resolve the issues. The evidence Lisa gave resulted in a Closure Order being granted by the courts and the person causing the anti-social behaviour being removed from their property.

Lisa also won an award at the Council's Transforming Lives and Communities Awards in September 2015, which recognises people who have made a difference to the lives of Council tenants and the areas in which they live.

Lisa Evans came forward to receive the award from the Mayor and Members congratulated her on her achievement.

5. SHORT FILM PRESENTATION – "IT'S MY SHOUT"

Members were informed that Its My Shout Productions and Caerphilly County Borough Council Arts Development have partnered up to provide opportunities to young people within the film-making industry and create pathways into working in the industry.

It's My Shout recently worked in the county borough to create a ten-minute film entitled 'Russell and Jameela' that was subsequently broadcast on BBC2 Wales. It was filmed at Treceenydd in Caerphilly and is a modern-day adaptation of 'Romeo and Juliet', based on two feuding neighbouring families living within a South Wales estate.

Caerphilly resident and Trainee Bethan Brean won "Best Locations Trainee" at a recent high profile awards ceremony held at The Millennium Centre, Cardiff which celebrates the best trainees from around Wales.

It's My Shout partners with BBC, S4C, the Arts Council of Wales, and other organisations to produce 8 short dramas every year. The company offers opportunities to become a trainee in a number of specialised crew production areas. Over 10,000 trainees have been involved with the company in the last 15 years, with many having gone on to work in popular television programmes and box-office films.

Following the presentation of the film to Members, David Chamberlain and Kate Verity (CCBC Arts Development), Naomi Roberts (It's My Shout Productions), Bethan Brean (Best Locations Trainee winner), Richard Matthews (Set Runner and Script Supervisor Trainee) and actors Daniel Jeremiah and Abbie Jones (who play Russell and Jameela) came forward to have their photograph taken with the Mayor.

Members extended their congratulations to all those involved in the film's production and a short question and answer session took place regarding the making of the film. Officers outlined the partnership dynamic between BBC, S4C, the Arts Council of Wales and other organisations, together with the central role that local communities play in creating such productions, and also responded to general questions regarding casting requirements.

Mr Chamberlain and his colleagues were thanked for their entertaining film and Members were pleased to note the realm of talent evident in the film's production.

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

7. COUNCIL – 17TH NOVEMBER 2015

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

Council held on 17th November 2015 (minute nos. 1-18).

REPORT REFERRED FROM CABINET

Consideration was given to the following report referred from Cabinet.

8. PLANNING GUIDANCE FOR SMALLER SCALE WIND TURBINE DEVELOPMENT / CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY AND CAPACITY STUDY

The report, which was presented to the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 8th December 2015 and thereafter Cabinet on 20th January 2016, provided an update on technical work undertaken in respect of supplementary planning guidance for wind turbines and outlined the results of public consultation and representations received in respect of the Supplementary Planning Guidance for Smaller Scale Wind Turbine Development and the Caerphilly County Borough Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study.

At those meetings, comments were sought on the representations received and the minor amendments proposed to the guidance in respect of wind turbine development as a result, prior to its presentation to Council for approval as formal Supplementary Planning Guidance to the Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan (LDP) up to 2021.

Members were advised that concerns have arisen over the significant number of applications for single and multiple wind turbines being received in the area, and the cumulative impact arising from this. Landscape Officers felt there was insufficient guidance for local authorities or developers to allow consistent assessment of the potential impacts of these smaller scale developments. In response to this, Blaenau Gwent Council (on behalf of the Heads of the Valleys Authorities, including Caerphilly County Borough Council) commissioned a specialist company to undertake a study on this matter.

This work informed the new guidance, which has been prepared in two parts (Supplementary Planning Guidance for Smaller Scale Wind Turbine Development and the Caerphilly County Borough Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study). Details of the consultation process and the representations received in respect of the guidance were summarised within the report, together with a copy of the consultation reports included within the appendices.

During the course of the ensuing debate, reference was made to the volume of supporting documentation included in the printed agenda papers and it was confirmed that such was required in order for Members to make an informed decision, although this would be taken into consideration when presenting reports of this nature in future.

Following consideration of the report, it was moved and seconded that the recommendations from Cabinet as outlined in the report be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons set out in the report:-

- (i) the representations received as part of the consultations undertaken and the minor amendments proposed in Appendix 3 of the report with regards to the Supplementary Planning Guidance for Smaller Scale Wind Turbine Development and the Caerphilly County Borough Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study be noted;
- (ii) the guidance be approved as formal Supplementary Planning Guidance to the Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan up to 2021.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the following reports.

9. ESTABLISHMENT OF AUDIT AND RISK ASSURANCE COMMITTEE/PANEL FOR SOUTH EAST WALES EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENT SERVICE

Members were advised that the EAS was established as a limited company in July 2012, with its prime function being to raise education standards across the region. Newport, Caerphilly, Blaenau Gwent, Torfaen and Monmouthshire Councils commissioned the EAS to deliver school improvement service on behalf of each individual Authority and hence across the consortium. Since that time, the governance arrangements have been developed and reports presented to Members to approve and implement changes.

This report updated Members on changes to the Company arrangements/structure of the EAS and referred to the establishment of a new Audit and Risk Assurance Committee/Panel of the EAS (as approved by the EAS at its Board meeting held on 24th November 2015), comprising

of two non-executive Members from each of the five Authorities, and sought Member nominations to sit on the newly established Committee/Panel.

A copy of the report to the EAS Board, including the terms of reference of the new Committee/Panel, were appended to the report to Council, and set out the reasons for the establishment of the new Committee/Panel. The EAS Board considers that the new Committee/Panel will provide a crucial mechanism in ensuring adequate controls are in place to manage the risk obligations of the EAS Board. Further changes to the current governance structure of the EAS are under consideration and will be the subject of further reports to Members in the future.

Following consideration of the report, it was moved and seconded that the establishment of the new Audit and Risk Assurance Committee/Panel in relation to the EAS be noted. Nominations to the Committee/Panel were received for Councillors D. Havard, Mrs G.D. Oliver and C. Elsbury. As there were three nominations for two positions, a vote took place, and by a show of hands and the majority present, it was subsequently agreed that Councillors D. Havard and Mrs G.D. Oliver be nominated as the Caerphilly Council non-executive Members to the Committee/Panel. As such, it was

RESOLVED that for the reasons set out in the report:-

- (i) the establishment of the new Audit and Risk Assurance Committee/Panel in relation to the EAS be noted;
- (ii) the nominations of Councillors D. Havard and Mrs G.D. Oliver be submitted to the EAS as the two non-executive Caerphilly Members to sit on the Committee/Panel.

10. CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL RESPONSE TO THE DRAFT LOCAL GOVERNMENT (WALES) BILL

Chris Burns (Interim Chief Executive) presented the report, which sought the endorsement of Members on the proposed Caerphilly County Borough Council's response to the Welsh Government consultation on the Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill. The response is strongly based on the premise that the best outcome for local communities is that Caerphilly County Borough Council remains as a stand-alone Authority.

The objective of the Draft Bill is to complete the programme of Local Authority mergers and set out a new and reformed legislative framework for Local Authority democracy, accountability, performance, some elements of finance, and establish a statutory Public Services Staff Commission.

Discussion was held with the three Council political leaders on drafting the Caerphilly County Borough Council response to the consultation. It was emphasised that the starting basis of the response be that Caerphilly County Borough Council wishes to retain its position as a stand-alone Authority. Political Groups and individual Members are able to respond separately to the consultation, which closes on 15th February 2016.

The consultation document sets out the key aspects of the Draft Bill under eight parts and the report to Council outlined the corresponding responses to the consultation questions under the various parts.

The Interim Chief Executive summarised the key points of the proposed responses against each of these areas and the possible impact/issues identified against future local government arrangements as a result of local authority mergers. Particular reference was made to differentials in council tax between merger authorities; a need for Area Committees to be established within each merger authority and the impact of associated set up costs and issues

relating to regulatory/delegated powers; a need to broadcast all public council meetings and proposals surrounding performance duties of Members. Full details of the proposed responses were contained within the report presented to Council. It was noted that the Council's response corresponds very closely with that of the draft response from the Welsh Local Government Association.

During the course of the ensuing debate, Members emphasised the strong current position of Caerphilly County Borough Council and reiterated the need for it to be retained as a stand-alone Authority. Members also highlighted the key points contained within the proposed responses and supported the observations made by Officers. Particular reference was made to Part 4 of the Draft Bill, which questioned whether the Council had any comments on the proposal to give the Welsh Ministers a power to direct the Independent Review Panel for Wales to have regard to guidance when reviewing the remuneration framework for Councillors. Members emphasised that this particular proposal was not supported by local authorities across Wales in that it would undermine the independence aspect of the Review Panel.

Members expressed their thanks to Officers for their efforts in preparing the responses to the consultation questions, and also paid tribute to the work of staff within the county borough.

It was moved and seconded that the recommendation in the report be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons set out in the report, the proposed draft consultation response to the Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill be endorsed.

11. ELECTION OF CAERPHILLY YOUTH CHAMPION

Consideration was given to the report which sought the support of Council to extend the 2-year term (2014-2016) of the current Youth Champion and defer the election for the position of Youth Champion until after the Local Government Elections in May 2017.

The Youth Champion helps young people to understand the importance of engaging with the democratic process and promotes the priorities of the Youth Forum within the county borough. Full Details of the role and work of the Youth Champion were outlined in the report.

It was noted that at the borough-wide meeting of the Youth Forum on 21st January 2016, it was unanimously agreed that the role of the Youth Champion (which is currently held by Councillor Mike Prew) be extended for a further 12 months, until after the Local Government Elections in May 2017.

During the course of the ensuing debate, Members acknowledged the key role of the Youth Champion in promoting the right of young people to have their voices heard on issues that affect them and providing a link between elected Members and young people in the county borough. Members also expressed thanks to Councillor Prew for his continued efforts and hard work in his role as the current Youth Champion.

It was moved and seconded that the recommendation in the report be approved and as such, and in noting the contents of the report, it was

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the report, the term of the current Youth Champion be extended until May 2017, and that the work and development of the Youth Champion continue to be supported.

12. ANGHARAD PRICE – INTERIM HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND DEPUTY MONITORING OFFICER

The Interim Chief Executive announced that Angharad Price (Interim Head of Democratic Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer) would shortly be leaving the Authority to take up a position within Cardiff Council. He paid tribute to the professional way in which Miss Price had carried out her duties during a difficult period for the Authority, and Members wished her well in her future endeavours.

13. QUESTIONS RECEIVED UNDER RULE OF PROCEDURE 10(2)

Consideration was given to the following question received under Rule of Procedure 10(2). In accordance with the revisions to the Council's Constitution, the answers are also provided.

WELSH MEDIUM EDUCATION - to the Cabinet Member for Education from Councillor P.J. Bevan.

The growth of Welsh Medium education is the result of parental demand, and to date authorities have merely responded to existing demand. In doing so, they have only made additional provision as and when existing schools have reached capacity.

The Schools Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 however, requires local authorities to "promote" Welsh medium education. But while there is sufficient short term capacity in most of our Welsh medium schools in Caerffili County, the authority is satisfied that it meets demand. The definition of "promote" however, is to "encourage further advance" and this requires the authority to create demand if it is to satisfy the requirements of the 2013 Act.

Will the Cabinet Member for Education say what steps the authority is taking to achieve the legal demands of the Act, which is to "promote" Welsh medium education i.e. opening new schools in areas where demand has been identified.

RESPONSE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING - COUNCILLOR R. PASSMORE

Shortly after Local Government Reorganisation in 1996, CCBC had 7 Welsh Medium Primary schools and 1 Welsh Medium Secondary with the following numbers of students attending those schools, as follows:

School	Capacity	Number on roll
Y.G.G. Cwm Gwyddon	188	146
Ysgol Gymraeg Trelyn	171	164
Y.G.G. Bargod	256	190
Y.G.G. Caerffili	360	324
Y.G.G. Y Castell	300	134
Ysgol Ifor Bach	314	291
Ysgol Y Lawnt	169	148
Primary Total	1758	1397
Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni	908	897

Since that time, CCBC has established 4 additional Welsh medium Primary schools and increased capacity at all bar one with improved teaching and learning facilities. Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni's capacity has significantly more than doubled and is now located on 2 sites with facilities of the very highest standard.

The current analysis is as follows:

School	Capacity	Number on Roll
Y.G. Bro Allta	303	268
Y.G. Cwm Derwen	210	191
Y.G. Cwm Gwyddon	222	216
Y.G. Gilfach Fargoed	210	172
Y.G.G. Caerffili	385	314
Y.G.G. Y Castell	456	378
Ysgol Bro Sannan	206	190
Ysgol Gymraeg Trelyn	195	168
Ysgol Ifor Bach	240	231
Ysgol Penalltau	210	157
Ysgol Y Lawnt	231	185
Primary Total	2868	2470
Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni	2348	1500

You will note from the above that the capacity exceeds the present number on roll at each school. Annual pupil projections are undertaken having regard to live birth data and projected demand. The projections to 2021 forecast an increase to 2622 Welsh medium Primary pupils which is still considerably below the overall capacity of 2868. Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni's capacity is forecast to be sufficient at least until 2023.

The School Standards and Organisation Act 2013 makes provision to carry out an assessment of the demand among parents in its area for Welsh medium education for their children. CCBC has done this annually in recent years and this information is used to forecast future demand.

The Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan summarises this information on current and future demand.

The above clearly evidences that the Council is fulfilling its duty to provide sufficient Welsh medium school places. To create additional schools/places would not be prudent and would increase further surplus school places at a time when the Welsh Government is understandably seeking reductions. Such proposals would also be unlikely to be supported in the context of the 21st Century Schools initiative.

The meeting closed at 6.05 p.m.

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 8th March 2016, they were signed by the Mayor.

MAYOR