



## **SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE,  
YSTRAD MYNACH ON WEDNESDAY, 28TH SEPTEMBER 2016 AT 5.00PM**

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**PRESENT:**

Councillor Mrs D. Price - Mayor  
Councillor J. Bevan - Deputy Mayor

**Councillors:**

Miss L. Ackerman, M. Adams, Mrs E.M. Aldworth, A.P. Angel, K. R. Baker, L. Binding, Mrs A. Blackman, D.G. Carter, W. David, H.R. Davies, D.T. Davies, N. Dix, C. Elsbury, M. Evans, N. George, C.J. Gordon, R.W. Gough, Mrs P. Griffiths, D. Harse, D. Havard, G.J. Hughes, K. James, M.P. James, G. Johnston, Ms J.G. Jones, Miss L. Jones, S. Kent, A. Lewis, K. Lloyd, C.P. Mann, S. Morgan, Mrs. G. Oliver, D.W.R. Preece, M.J. Prew, J. Pritchard, K.V. Reynolds, J.E. Roberts, R. Saralis, Mrs M.E. Sargent, J. Simmonds, Mrs E. Stenner, L.G. Whittle

**Together with:-**

C. Burns (Interim Chief Executive), N. Scammell (Acting Director of Corporate Services), G. Williams (Interim Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer), S. Harris (Interim Head of Corporate Finance), A. Southcombe (Finance Manager - Corporate Finance), A. Dredge (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 publically available in live and archive form via the Council's website. He advised that decisions would be made by show of hands.

### **2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P.J. Bevan, D. Bolter, Mrs. P. Cook, C.J. Cuss, H.W. David, K. Dawson, Mrs C. Forehead, Miss E. Forehead, J.E. Fussell, Mrs J. Gale, L. Gardiner, D.T. Hardacre, C. Hawker, A.G. Higgs, Mrs B.A. Jones, G. Kirby, Ms P. Leonard, Mrs P. Marsden, D.V. Poole, J.A. Pritchard, A. Rees, D. Rees, S. Skivens, Mrs J. Summers, J. Taylor, T.J. Williams, R. Woodyatt.

### **3. BEREAVEMENT**

The Interim Chief Executive referred to the recent death of Lynton Jones, Former Head of I.T. Services. Members and Officers stood in silence as a mark of respect and extended their condolences to the bereaved family. Several Members referred to his long and distinguished career in local government with Caerphilly County Borough and its predecessor authority and paid tribute to the manner in which he had carried out his duties and to the high esteem in which he had been held by Members and Officers alike.

Councillor Jan Jones referred to the recent death of former Councillor, Colin Durham who passed away suddenly. She extended her condolences to his family and this was supported by the Members. The Interim Chief Executive stated that he would write to Mr Durham's family to relay the thoughts expressed by Members and staff who worked with Mr Durham during his time in office and this was also supported by the Members.

### **4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

### **REPORT OF OFFICERS**

Consideration was given to the following report.

### **5. FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS 2015/16**

Consideration was given to the report that sought Council approval of the audited 2015/16 Statement of Accounts. This would ensure that the accounts could be signed-off by the Wales Audit Office by the statutory deadline of the 30th September 2016.

The Interim Head of Corporate Finance informed Members that at its meeting on the 14th September 2016, the Audit Committee was presented with the External Auditor's ISA 260 Report on the audit of the 2015/16 financial statements. The auditor's report stated that it was the Auditor General's intention to issue an unqualified audit opinion on the 2015/16 financial statements. Appendix 3 of the ISA 260 Report provides details of misstatements identified during the audit process that have subsequently been corrected by management. It was stressed that these adjustments have no impact on cash or general fund balances. The 2015/16 Statement of Accounts incorporates all of the corrected misstatements identified in the ISA 260 Report.

Members were advised that the Council cannot realistically change anything in the Statement of Accounts, as any changes require the approval of the Auditor.

A Member raised a query in relation to surplus assets of £16.04 million that were held by the Authority as at 31st March 2015 and the fact that the closing balance as at 31st March 2016 was zero. Officers explained that the assets in this category had been reclassified during the financial year and were now included under other asset categories.

Clarification was sought in relation to the 2015/16 underspend for Education and Lifelong Learning. Officers explained that the 2015/16 Provisional Outturn Report presented to Cabinet in July 2016 contained details of underspends across Directorates which were a reflection of the Authority's prudent approach to financial management, in particular identifying savings in advance to support the Medium-Term Financial Plan. The Acting

Director of Corporate Services advised Members that the first 2016/17 Budget Monitoring Report relating to Education is available on the Members' Portal.

A query was raised in terms of compulsory redundancies and Officers confirmed the figures referred to within the report relate in the main to school based staff.

A Member made reference to the valuation for the Handball Court in Nelson. The Interim Head of Corporate Finance confirmed that this asset would have been valued for accounting purposes and agreed to forward details to the Member.

Members expressed their appreciation and thanks to the Acting Director of Corporate Services and the Finance Team for all their hard work in the preparation of the 2015/16 Statement of Accounts.

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

RESOLVED that the final audited 2015/16 Statement of Accounts be approved.

The meeting closed at 5.28 pm.

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 11th October 2016 they were signed by the Mayor.

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MAYOR