



## COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH ON TUESDAY, 21ST NOVEMBER 2017 AT 5.00 PM

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#### PRESENT:

Councillor J. Bevan - Mayor  
Councillor M. Adams - Deputy Mayor

#### Councillors:

Mrs E. Aldworth, C. Andrews, A. Angel, P.J. Bevan, C. Bezzina, L. Binding, A. Collis, S. Cook, D. Cushing, C. Cuss, W. David, D.T. Davies, M. Davies, N. Dix, C. Elsbury, K. Etheridge, M. Evans, A. Farina-Childs, J.E. Fussell, A. Gair, Ms J. Gale, C. Gordon, R.W. Gough, D.T. Hardacre, L. Harding, D. Harse, D. Havard, A. Higgs, A. Hussey, M. James, L. Jeremiah, Mrs B. Jones, S. Kent, G. Kirby, Mrs A. Leonard, Ms P. Leonard, C.P. Mann, Mrs P. Marsden, B. Miles, S. Morgan, Mrs G. Oliver, B. Owen, T. Parry, Mrs L. Phipps, D.V. Poole, J. Pritchard, J. Ridgewell, J.E. Roberts, R. Saralis, Mrs M.E. Sargent, J. Simmonds, S. Skivens, J. Taylor, C. Thomas, A. Whitcombe, R. Whiting, L G. Whittle, T. Williams, W. Williams, B. Zaplatynski.

#### Together with:

C. Burns (Interim Chief Executive), C. Harrhy (Corporate Director – Communities), D. Street (Corporate Director - Social Services), L. Donovan (Acting Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development), R.M. Harris (Internal Audit Manager), S. Harris (Interim Head of Corporate Finance), D. Marr (Deputy Monitoring Officer, Cardiff City Council) 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.

A Member sought clarification on why the Chamber's electronic voting system is not currently being used during meetings of Council. The Interim Chief Executive explained that Members had previously trialled the system at several Council meetings but that some difficulties had been experienced with its use. He explained that the Democratic Services Committee is due to give consideration to the use of the system with a view to reintroducing it at Council meetings in the near future.

#### 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors K. Dawson, Mrs C. Forehead, Ms E. Forehead, N. George, V. James, G. Johnston, D.W.R. Preece, Mrs D. Price, J. Scriven, G. Simmonds and Mrs E. Stenner.

### **3. WELCOME**

Members gave a warm welcome to pupils from Bryn Primary School Senedd, who were observing part of the Council meeting during their visit to Penallta House to learn about democracy from their local Councillors.

### **4. BEREAVEMENT**

The Mayor referred to the recent passing of Assembly Member Carl Sargeant. All present stood in silence as a mark of respect and extended their condolences to the bereaved family.

### **5. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor referred to the many events and visits that he and the Deputy Mayor have undertaken since the last meeting. These included the reopening of St. David's Church in New Tredegar, together with the annual CLIC Sargent charity event at Islwyn Bowls Club and the Swiss Ambassador's Concert at the Welsh Royal College of Music and Drama in Cardiff.

### **6. ELECTION OF CAERPHILLY YOUTH CHAMPION**

The Interim Chief Executive referred to the recent election for the position of Caerphilly Youth Champion, which took place across a number of secondary schools and youth groups within the county borough. Councillor Donna Cushing and Councillor Mark Evans stood for election to represent the views of young people in the area, and Members were advised that following strong competition between the two candidates, Councillor Mark Evans was elected as the Youth Champion on Friday 17th November 2017.

Councillor Evans paid tribute to his fellow candidate and expressed his gratitude to all the young people who had participated in the democratic process. In turn, Councillor Cushing congratulated the new Youth Champion on his appointment and both Members acknowledged the intensive campaign process throughout the three-week pre-election period.

Members congratulated Councillor Evans on his achievement and Councillor Cushing on her efforts, and also acknowledged the contribution made by the previous Youth Champion (Mr Mike Prew) during his time in office.

### **PRESENTATION OF AWARDS**

#### **7. Bronze Award - Defence Employer Recognition Scheme**

Members were informed that the Council has recently achieved the Bronze Award as part of the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme, which recognises UK employers for their support and commitment towards the Defence and Armed Forces communities. The Bronze Award is given to those employers who seek to promote an Armed Forces friendly position, and are open to employing reservists and supporting their training and mobilisation commitments. Caerphilly was the first local authority to provide free swimming sessions for serving members and veterans of the Armed Forces, and the Council has also signed up to the Royal British Legion's 'Count Me in' campaign and supports Town Centre Marches for Armed Forces Day celebrations.

Councillor Alan Higgs (the Council's Armed Forces Champion) and Mrs Audrey Nealon (representing the Defense Employer Recognition Scheme) came forward to present the award to the Mayor.

## **8. Recognition of Caerphilly Council's Armed Forces Champion – Councillor Alan Higgs**

Members were advised that Councillor Alan Higgs will be stepping down as the Council's Armed Forces Champion at the end of the year and tributes were paid to his dedication and enthusiasm in carrying out this role over the past 5 years. It was explained that Councillor Higgs and the Corporate Policy Unit have worked hard to establish the Council's Armed Forces Forum, and his commitment has helped enable the public to acknowledge and better understand the issues affecting armed forces communities. Members noted the many successes of Councillor Higgs during this time, including finding a permanent home for the WW1 Pontlottyn commemorative plaque, enabling the South Wales Armed Forces Day to be held in Caerphilly over the last 2 years and, with support from the Leader, enabling the Armed Forces Forum to attend events such as Armed Forces Day and the Big Cheese Weekend.

Councillor Higgs came forward in order to be congratulated by Members on his achievements. He was joined by Captain Tom Doe, Captain Huw Williams, and Warrant Officer Alistair 'Kiwi' Bache from the Council's affiliated regiment, the 203 (Welsh) Field Hospital, who presented Councillor Higgs with a commemorative trophy in recognition of his tireless work and dedication as Armed Forces Champion.

## **9. PETITIONS**

The Mayor received the following petitions presented by Members on behalf of local residents and indicated they would be referred to the appropriate directorate for attention:

- (i) Demolish Flats at River Road, Pontlottyn - Cllr Mrs G.D. Oliver;
- (ii) Request for a full evaluation and amendment of the scheme in regard to Pentwyn Road - Cllr K. Etheridge;
- (iii) Highway Safety – Sunnybank Road - Cllr K. Etheridge;
- (iv) Pavement at junction of Woodbine Road and Woodbine Close – Cllr K. Etheridge.

## **10. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Clarification was sought from Councillors D.T. Hardacre and D. Cushing on whether they were required to declare an interest in Agenda Item 7 (Notice of Motion – Commitment to Work in Partnership with Dementia Friendly Initiative), having family members who are affected by the issues referred to within the report. The Interim Chief Executive confirmed that due to the nature of the report, there was no requirement for Members to declare a prejudicial interest and leave the meeting on that basis, but that the declarations could be recorded as a personal interest.

Councillor C. Andrews declared an interest in Agenda Item 8 (Notice of Motion – Joint Council for Wales Statement on Pay in Local Government in Wales) and during the course of the meeting, Councillors C. Bezzina and P. Marsden also declared an interest in this item. Details are minuted with the respective item.

The Interim Chief Executive referred to Agenda Item 10 (Internal Investigation of Senior Officer – Additional Financial Provision) and explained that as the report was seeking approval of an additional financial provision for legal costs (and did not address the investigation itself) there was no requirement for Members or Officers to declare a prejudicial interest and leave the meeting on that basis. However it was a matter for individual Members as to whether they wished to declare a personal and/or prejudicial interest.

Councillors M. Adams, A. Angel, C. Gordon, J. Simmonds and J. Taylor declared an interest in Agenda Item 10 (Internal Investigation of Senior Officer – Additional Financial Provision). Details are minuted with the respective item.

It was noted that with regards to Agenda Item No. 11 (Contract Arrangements of Interim Chief Executive and Continuation of Internal Management Arrangements), Chris Burns and Steve Harris would be required to declare an interest and leave the meeting, and that for Agenda Item No. 12 (Appointment of Deputy Monitoring Officer), Richard Harris and David Marr would be required to declare an interest and leave the meeting. Details are minuted with the respective item.

**11. COUNCIL – 10TH OCTOBER 2017**

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

Council held on 10th October 2017 (minute nos. 1-17).

**12. SPECIAL COUNCIL – 31ST OCTOBER 2017**

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

Special Council held on 31st October 2017 (minute nos. 1-7).

**REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

Consideration was given to the following reports.

**13. NOTICE OF MOTION – COMMITMENT TO WORK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH DEMENTIA FRIENDLY INITIATIVES**

Councillors D. Cushing and D.T. Hardacre declared a personal interest, having family members who are affected by the issues referred to within the report, and remained in the Chamber during consideration of the item.

Consideration was given to the report, which detailed the following Notice of Motion received from Councillor C. Cuss and supported by Councillors D. Poole, Mrs B. Jones and Mrs E. Stenner, in relation to the matter of dementia friendly initiatives. In accordance with Rule 11 (3) of the Constitution, the Mayor had agreed to allow the motion to be dealt with at Council, without being first discussed at an overview and scrutiny committee:-

“This Council confirms its commitment to becoming a Dementia Friendly Council through working in partnership with Dementia Friends to improve the lives of people affected by dementia. Council will support Dementia Friendly communities that empower people affected by dementia, to have high aspirations and feel confident, knowing they can contribute and participate in activities that are meaningful to them. Council will work with other public services, the private and voluntary sector, to raise awareness and promote the training on offer.”

In supporting the commitment, that Members appoint a Dementia Friendly Champion for the borough of Caerphilly and encourage all Council Members to undertake the Dementia Friends Training”.

Members considered the reasons for the Motion, and the information provided by the Member in support of the motion, and following due debate, it was moved and seconded that its content be supported. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

It was also moved and seconded that Councillor C. Andrews be appointed as the Dementia Friendly Champion for the borough of Caerphilly. By a show of hands, this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the report:-

- (i) the Notice of Motion and its request that the Council becomes a Dementia Friendly Council be supported;
- (ii) Councillor C. Andrews be appointed as the Dementia Friendly Champion for the borough of Caerphilly;
- (iii) all Members be encouraged to undertake Dementia Friends training.

Councillor C. Andrews thanked Members for their endorsement and expressed her commitment towards carrying out the role of Dementia Friendly Champion.

#### **14. NOTICE OF MOTION – JOINT COUNCIL FOR WALES STATEMENT ON PAY IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN WALES**

Councillor C. Andrews declared a personal interest, being a public sector worker for a neighbouring local authority and having a family member who works for Caerphilly Council, and remained in the Chamber during consideration of the item.

Councillor C. Bezzina declared a personal interest, being a trade union employee, and remained in the Chamber during consideration of the item.

Councillor P. Marsden declared a personal interest, being a lay official for a trade union, and remained in the Chamber during consideration of the item.

Consideration was given to the report, which detailed the following Notice of Motion received from Councillor D.V. Poole and supported by Councillors C. Gordon, Mrs B. Jones, S. Morgan and L. Phipps, in relation to the Joint Council for Wales statement on pay in local government in Wales. In accordance with Rule 11 (3) of the Constitution, the Mayor had agreed to allow the motion to be dealt with at Council, without being first discussed at an overview and scrutiny committee:-

“The following resolutions agreed by the Joint Council for Wales and Welsh Local Government Board be supported and as such,

- (i) the LGA be asked to effectively lobby Central Government to fund the implementation of the NJC Pay Spine Review caused by the direct effect of the National Living Wage.
- (ii) a letter be sent to Central and Welsh Governments to provide local government in Wales with the funding to ensure a fair, affordable and sustainable pay increase is made to the local government workforce in Wales.
- (iii) the WLGA be asked to work with the trade unions in pursuance of a fair funding deal for local government.”

Members considered the reasons for the Motion, and the information provided by the Member in support of the motion, and following due debate, it was moved and seconded that its content be supported. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the report the Notice of Motion be supported.

## 15. NOTICE OF MOTION – 5 YEAR LAND SUPPLY

Consideration was given to the report, which detailed the following Notice of Motion received from Councillor C.P. Mann and supported by Councillors A. Angel, J. Taylor, J.E. Fussell, L. Binding, L.G. Whittle, P.J. Bevan, Mrs T. Parry and R. Gough, in relation to the matter of a 5 year land supply. In accordance with Rule 11 (3) of the Constitution, the Mayor had agreed to allow the motion to be dealt with at Council, without being first discussed at an overview and scrutiny committee:-

“That this council urges Welsh Government Secretary, Lesley Griffiths, to suspend for the time being the need for a 5-year land supply in Caerphilly County Borough”.

It was noted that following the meeting of Council on 10th October 2017, the Council had written to Lesley Griffiths, the Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs to urge Welsh Government to place a moratorium on TAN 1 (i.e. the method upon which the 5 year housing land supply is calculated). Members referred to the pressures placed on the Council arising from the lack of a 5-year land supply, which have led to a number of successful planning appeals from housing developers in recent months, and urged the Council to maintain the momentum in lobbying Welsh Government on this matter.

It was moved and seconded that the Notice of Motion be supported. An amendment was proposed in that the Council request a formal meeting with Welsh Government regarding the TAN 1 issues, to be attended by a delegation of Members representing those wards most affected by these issues. The mover of the motion agreed that this could be incorporated into his motion.

Members were advised that the letter in respect of TAN 1 had only been sent to Welsh Government in the last ten days and that it might be premature to pursue the matter in view of the recent suspension of Assembly plenary business. It was suggested that Members could consider whether to request a meeting with Assembly officials regarding the issues surrounding TAN 1 if no response is received from WG by mid-December. The mover of the amendment confirmed that he was content with this suggested course of action and withdrew his amendment. Following due debate, the mover of the motion agreed that the suggested course of action could be incorporated into his motion.

Members were advised that a seminar will be held prior to the next Planning Committee on 6th December 2017 which will contain useful information on calculations surrounding the 5 year land supply, and all Members were encouraged to attend. A Member also commented that he had recently written to the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales to ask them to examine the short term gains versus the long benefits of those sites turned down for planning development, but had not yet received a reply.

Having moved and seconded the amended Notice of Motion, by a show of hands it was unanimously agreed that its content and the suggested course of action be supported.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the report:-

- (i) the amended Notice of Motion be supported;
- (ii) the Council approach Welsh Government to request a formal meeting in respect of TAN 1 issues if no response is received to the letter previously sent by mid-December.

## 16. INTERNAL INVESTIGATION OF SENIOR OFFICER – ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL PROVISION

Councillors M. Adams, A. Angel, C. Gordon, J. Simmonds and J. Taylor declared a personal and prejudicial interest as Members of the Investigating and Disciplinary Committee and left the meeting during consideration of the item.

The Interim Chief Executive reminded Members that there should be no discussion regarding the ongoing internal investigation referenced in the report.

Consideration was given to the report which sought approval of additional financial provisions in relation to the ongoing internal investigation of a Senior Officer. Members were reminded of the current interim arrangements in place within the Authority arising from the internal investigation of three Senior Officers and of the additional associated costs, which have been funded from provisions established using the General Fund Reserve as approved by Council.

Settlement agreements were approved in respect of two of the Senior Officers at a Special meeting of Council on 31st October 2017, and these settlements now draw matters to a close for these two individuals. However, it will now be necessary to engage a Designated Independent Person (DIP) in respect of the allegations that require formal investigation in respect of the remaining Senior Officer.

Based on financial estimates presented to Council on 31st October 2017, it is anticipated that the costs of undertaking the formal investigation for the one Senior Officer will be £60k for the Designated Independent Person and £187k for legal costs. It will also be necessary to establish a financial provision to meet the ongoing salary cost of the remaining Senior Officer whilst the formal investigation is being undertaken. At this stage it is recommended that this provision should cover the six month period from 1st January 2018 to 30th June 2018, totalling £93k. The salary costs of the Senior Officer for November and December 2017 are already covered by previously approved provisions.

These additional costs total £340k and will be partially met by a balance of £190k that remains from provisions previously approved by Council. Approval was therefore sought for a further financial provision of £150k to be funded from the General Fund Reserve as detailed in the report.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendation in the report be approved. By a show of hands (and in noting there were 13 against and 4 abstentions) this was agreed by the majority present.

RESOLVED that for the reasons set out in the report, and to ensure that sufficient funding is set aside to meet the potential costs of the ongoing investigation process, should matters not be concluded by 30th June 2018, a further financial provision of £150k be funded from the General Fund Reserve to meet these costs.

## **17. CONTRACT ARRANGEMENTS OF INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND CONSULTATION OF INTERNAL MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS**

Chris Burns (Interim Chief Executive) and Steve Harris (Interim Head of Corporate Finance) declared an interest (as they are directly affected by the report) and left the meeting during consideration of this item.

Members were reminded of the requirement by law for the Council to have a Head of Paid Service, and of the appointment of Chris Burns to the post of Interim Chief Executive on 22nd July 2014 on a fixed term contract for a period of 12 months. The interim contract has been extended on several occasions and is due to end on 31st December 2017. It is anticipated that the Designated Independent Person stage of the aforementioned internal investigation will reach a quicker resolution now that it only involves one of the Senior Officers. In the meantime it is necessary to consider the contract of the current Interim Chief Executive and whether or not this should be extended beyond 31st December 2017. Council were therefore asked to delegate the decision to extend the Interim Chief Executive's contract to the Leader in consultation with the two Deputy Leaders in order to provide ongoing continuity for the organisation.

Members were also reminded of the interim arrangements in place in relation to the Director of Corporate Services and the Head of Legal Services/Monitoring Officer, which are now substantively vacant as a result of the Council meeting on 31st October 2017. Council were therefore asked to delegate the decision to extend the interim contract arrangements for the Director of Corporate Services and the Head of Legal Services/Monitoring Officer to the Leader in consultation with the two Deputy Leaders, and also the decision with regards to the longer term permanent recruitment to these posts.

Members sought clarification on the meaning of the recommendations, particularly in relation to the longer term recruitment for the substantively vacant posts, and expressed a need for the appointment of these posts on a permanent basis to be made through full Council via the Appointments Committee. Officers explained that the second recommendation within the report was seeking approval to delegate the extension of interim contract arrangements for the Director of Corporate Services and the Head of Legal Services/Monitoring Officer, and that appointment of these posts would be subject to the agreed recruitment processes. It was confirmed that a further report on these posts would be brought back to Council at a future date and also that a special Council would be arranged in December to consider a report on the post of Interim Chief Executive.

It was moved and seconded that the recommendations in the report be approved. By a show of hands (and in noting there were 2 abstentions) this was agreed by the majority present.

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

- (i) the decision to extend the Interim Chief Executive's contract be delegated to the Leader in consultation with the two Deputy Leaders;
- (ii) the decision to extend the interim contract arrangements for the Director of Corporate Services and the Head of Legal Services/Monitoring Officer, together with the decision with regards to the longer term permanent recruitment to these posts, be delegated to the Leader in consultation with the two Deputy Leaders.

At this point Chris Burns and Steve Harris returned to the meeting.

## **18. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MONITORING OFFICER**

Richard Harris (Internal Audit Manager) and David Marr (Deputy Monitoring Officer, Cardiff City Council) declared an interest (as they are directly affected by the report) and left the meeting during consideration of this item.

Consideration was given to the report, which sought Members' approval for the designation of an acting Deputy Monitoring Officer for the Authority. Members were reminded of the requirement by law for the Authority to have a Monitoring Officer in place and for their function to be covered by an Officer who is able to deputise for them in their absence. The Authority does not currently have a Deputy Monitoring Officer and due to the current absence of the council's Interim Monitoring Officer it is necessary to make alternative arrangements to ensure that this function is adequately covered. It was noted that in most cases, councils tend to appoint their Head of Legal Services or another senior legal officer as Monitoring Officer, although there is no requirement for the Monitoring Officer to be a legal officer.

The report therefore proposed the designation of Richard Harris (Internal Audit Manager) as Deputy Monitoring Officer in a temporary capacity, and that he deputise in the absence of the Interim Monitoring Officer until such time as the Authority reviews the future structure of the legal service and is able to put in place permanent arrangements which should include provision for a deputy to act in the absence of the Monitoring Officer. In addition, the report

sought approval for the Council to enter into a service level agreement with Cardiff City Council, whereby their Deputy Monitoring Officer (Mr David Marr) will be available to provide advice to Mr Harris if required and to other Officers and Members if needed.

During the course of the ensuing debate, concerns were raised as to the potential costs that could be incurred through the service level agreement. Queries were received from Members as to the suitability of the proposed designation, whether the Internal Audit Manager would continue to undertake his substantive post in addition to that of Deputy Monitoring Officer, and whether there could be a potential conflict of interest between the two roles. A Member raised concerns over the diplomacy of the report in regards to Legal Services staff, sought clarification on the timescales and realm of the service level agreement with Cardiff City Council, and queried the intended length of the proposed temporary designation. The Member also asked whether consideration had been given to offering the post as a secondment opportunity to other local authorities and queried the rationale for selecting the service level agreement provider.

The Interim Chief Executive emphasised the urgency of the situation to Members and reminded them that the Council must have a Monitoring Officer in place in order to comply with relevant legislation. He also acknowledged the need for a permanent deputy and explained that it is anticipated that this temporary designation will only be for a very short period of time. He confirmed that Mr Harris would be taking on the role in addition to his current Audit duties, but that the role of Deputy Monitoring Officer includes a specific set of statutory duties and is not a separate full-time post. It was explained that consideration had been given towards offering the role as a secondment opportunity and that two authorities had been approached on this matter, but it was concluded that there was no need to offer a specific secondment opportunity due to the nature of the role.

Members were advised that it not possible to define how limited the service level agreement will be in nature, although it is not anticipated that a significant amount of hours will be accrued. Should the current situation continue into the New Year, then Council will be asked to consider a further report on the matter. It was explained that the specifics of the agreement have yet to be confirmed and it is only the hourly rate that has been agreed to date.

The Interim Chief Executive reiterated the temporary nature of the situation and the importance of ensuring that all statutory safeguards are in place to protect the Authority. It was confirmed that there would be no conflict of interest between the roles of Internal Audit Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer as the two roles complement each other and have similar functions. The Interim Chief Executive also referred to Mr Harris' significant experience as an Audit Officer and the high level of accountability associated with the Monitoring role, and explained that consideration had been given to appointing a member of staff from Legal Services to undertake the role. However, following consultation with staff within the section, it had been established that it would have been unfair to expect any particular member of staff to undertake this responsibility at the present time.

In response to a Member's query, it was confirmed that the cost of the service level agreement will be met from the Legal Services budget. Should the situation continue into the New Year, a further report will be presented to Council. The Interim Chief Executive also emphasised the value of these measures in relation to providing the necessary safeguards for the Council to ensure statutory requirements are met.

Members conveyed their best wishes to Mrs Gail Williams (Interim Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer) for a speedy recovery.

It was moved and seconded that the recommendations 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) Mr Richard Harris, Internal Audit Manager, be nominated as the Council's Deputy Monitoring Officer for a temporary period, and that he deputises in the event of the absence at any time of the council's existing Interim Monitoring Officer;
- (ii) The Council enter into a service level agreement with Cardiff City Council to provide support to Mr Harris, and to the Authority in general as required, to support this arrangement.

**19. QUESTIONS RECEIVED UNDER RULE OF PROCEDURE 10(2)**

There were no questions submitted under Rule of Procedure 10(2).

**20. MAYOR'S CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE**

In closing the meeting, the Mayor invited Members to his Christmas Carol Service, which will be held on Wednesday 29th November 2017 at Rhymney Comprehensive School.

The meeting closed at 6.25 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 23rd January 2018, they were signed by the Mayor.

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MAYOR