



COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH ON TUESDAY, 16TH APRIL 2019 AT 5.00PM

PRESENT:

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

Councillors:

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

Together with:-

C. Harray (Interim Chief Executive), M.S. Williams (Interim Corporate Director of Communities), R. Edmunds (Corporate Director Education and Corporate Services), D. Street (Corporate Directors Social Services and Housing), R. Tranter (Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer), R. Kyte (Head of Regeneration and Planning), L. James (Senior Planner), D. Lucas (Team Leader Strategic and Development Planning), C. Forbes-Thompson (Interim Head of Democratic Services), M. Jacques (Scrutiny Officer), E. Sullivan (Senior Committee Services Officer).

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. She advised that decisions would be made via the electronic voting system.

MINUTES SILENCE

Council stood for a minutes silence in remembrance of Carson Price, of Hengoed who tragically died in Ystrad Mynach Park on Friday 12th April 2019. Thoughts of condolence were expressed for his Parents, Family and Friends.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors L. Binding, D. Cushing, K. Dawson; Mrs C. Forehead, A. Higgs, G. Johnston, B. Miles, Mrs G. Oliver, B. Owen, T. Parry, Mrs D. Price, Mrs M.E. Sargent, W. Williams.

2. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor referred to the many events and visits that he and the Deputy Mayor have undertaken since the last meeting and made specific reference to the Muslim Council for Wales Interface and Training event, the Cwm Aber Primary School re-enactment of the mining disaster which was a very moving tribute and the 80th Birthday celebration for former Councillor and Mayor of Caerphilly County Borough Mr Michael Gray and referred to upcoming Mayoral engagements and duties over the course of the next few weeks.

3. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS UNDER RULE OF PROCEDURE 28(3)

There were no petitions to be presented.

4. PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

The Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services welcomed Members of the KLA Dance Group who achieved nationwide recognition by reaching the live final of the 'The Greatest Dancer' primetime BBC television show proving that they are a force to be reckoned with on the national dance stage.

In calling the KLA forward the Cabinet Member expressed the Councils pride in their success and acknowledged and congratulated Clara, Ariella, Ava, Izzie, Nellie, Halle-Mai, Emily and Hanna for their outstanding performance and for the way in which they superbly represented Caerphilly County Borough.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

6. SPECIAL COUNCIL – 21ST FEBRUARY 2019

Subject to an amendment in that Councillor S. Kent was noted as having given apologies for the meeting when he had been present, the minutes of the Special meeting of Council held on the 21st February 2019 be agreed as a correct record.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held on the 21st February 2019 be approved as correct records and signed by the Mayor.

7. COUNCIL – 5TH MARCH 2019

RESOLVED that the minutes of Council held on the 5th March 2019 be approved as correct records and signed by the Mayor.

8. TO RECEIVE AND TO ANSWER QUESTIONS RECEIVED UNDER RULE OF PROCEDURE 10(4)

There were no questions received.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the following reports.

9. REVIEW OF SCRUTINY

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Performance and Governance introduced the report which outlined the history and background of the scrutiny function in order to provide context to the recent Wales Audit Office report, 'Scrutiny Fit for the Future' and provided options and suggestions for areas of improvement.

Members referred to sections 3.3 and 3.12 of report in relation to Independent representation and asked that an Independent Member be considered for a Vice Chair role and a place on the Scrutiny Leadership Group. Concerns were also expressed in relation to decision made at scrutiny committees that are subsequently overruled by Cabinet. The Leader of Council advised that he would be happy to work with all Group Leaders with regard to representation and scrutiny process and confirmed that he would like to see scrutiny undertake more in-depth reviews of policy.

The Monitoring Officer advised Members that Scrutiny Committees are advisory and as such had no decision making powers they can only make recommendations to Cabinet for their consideration. In terms of the constitution the decisions being taken were functions of the executive and were therefore fully in compliance with the constitution and relevant legislation.

Members expressed their support for Option 3 as detailed within the report as it would provide some much needed balance to the scrutiny process; it was felt that some current committees were being overloaded.

Clarification was sought in relation to the webcasting of scrutiny committee meetings and the Interim Head of Democratic Services confirmed that this was something that she wished to progress. However this would be very much dependent on equipment, broadcast platform and contracts being fully explored and a sustainable resolution sourced.

Following consideration of its content and for the reasons given in the Officer's report it was moved and seconded that recommendations 3.1, 3.2, Option 3 at 3.3 and 3.4-3.13 be approved and by way of the electronic voting system and in noting there was 1 against this was agreed by the majority present.

Councillors J. Taylor and M. James wished it noted that they had been unable to register their vote had they done so they would have voted for the motion.

RESOLVED that: -

- (i) the names of the Education for Life and Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committees be changed to reflect the terms of reference for the respective scrutiny committee and no longer refer to the former Caerphilly Community Strategy;
- (ii) Option 3 as set out in 5.18 of the Officers report be approved;
- (iii) the increase in the number of scrutiny committees be reviewed 12 months after the change is implemented;
- (iv) the frequency of meetings continue on a six weekly basis;

- (v) the number of Members who sit on scrutiny continue to be 16;
- (vi) the Chairs and Vice Chairs be consulted on all reports to their respective scrutiny committees in a timely fashion where applicable, in order to allow them to ensure that the information requested by the scrutiny committee is included;
- (vii) public engagement with the scrutiny process be further developed by use of social media and utilising existing Council mechanisms, consideration also be given to the webcast of scrutiny committee meetings;
- (viii) scrutiny specific training as detailed in 5.25 of the Officer's report be further developed and monitored by the Scrutiny Leadership Group;
- (viii) the Cabinet Member statement be removed from Scrutiny Committee agendas with Cabinet Members presenting reports to Scrutiny Committee for their portfolio areas and answering questions on those reports, with the assistance of Officers to answer technical questions;
- (x) a specific agenda item for the Scrutiny Committees to carry out policy development work be added to Scrutiny Committee agendas;
- (xi) a scrutiny improvement action plan be developed to be monitored by the Scrutiny Leadership Group;
- (xii) the Monitoring Officer be given authority to amend the Council's Constitution to reflect the decisions taken in respect of committee structure, size and terms of reference.

10 THE USE OF ELECTRONIC VOTING DATA

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Performance and Governance introduced the report which sought to regularise the publication of electronic voting information after meetings of the Council.

It was noted that even though the Council holds the information on how each Member has voted current practice is that only the numbers of how Members voted are published. The names of the Members are only published where a recorded vote has been requested in the Chamber. Members were advised that if Members wish for a recorded vote to take place then it can still be requested if 10 Members support the proposal.

Following consideration of its content and for the reasons given in the Officer's report it was moved and seconded that the recommendation contained therein be approved and by way of the electronic voting system this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that the inclusion of Members' names on how they voted in the electronic voting information pack be published following each meeting of Council.

11. YSTRAD MYNACH MASTER PLAN

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy, Infrastructure and Sustainability introduced the report which detailed the main issues identified by respondents during the public consultation exercise on the Draft Ystrad Mynach Masterplan and sought the approval of Council to formally adopt the final Ystrad Mynach Masterplan.

The Cabinet Member formally placed on record his thanks to all the Officers who had been involved in producing the Masterplan.

Reference was made to the list on consultees on the report and that the Local Ward Members for Ystrad Mynach had not been listed as consultees to the report. The consultation process undertaken with Local Ward Members was then discussed and clarification given that both local ward members had been given extensive opportunities to be involved on stakeholder consultation meetings. Clarification was then sought in relation to the expansion of the Centre of Sporting Excellence proposed within the Masterplan. The Member felt that the consideration had not been given to the number of complaints by residents living adjacent to the facility, further to this the Member expressed disappointment that its use is limited to football or rugby and that the gymnasium equipment housed therein could only be accessed with the support of a qualified coach. The Member went on to reference the fact the Centre did not add to the economic value of the Town Centre and added to existing infrastructure difficulties primarily in relation to traffic generation and any expansion would only exacerbate these issues.

Officers confirmed that the Centre had been designed specifically for rugby and football and detailed an extensive list of local rugby and football teams that utilised its facilities. The current contract arrangements were outlined and operation times were detailed illustrating its availability for community use. In relation to the strength and conditioning suite, the Officer advised that due to the heavy weights involved appropriate supervision during their use was essential in order to ensure the health and safety of the user.

In terms of responses received during the consultation Members suggested that number of objections received should be featured rather than being grouped into similar themes and that positive responses should also be featured.

The Officer confirmed that the data referred to was available and could be circulated to Members following the meeting.

Members recognised the aspirational elements of the Masterplan but concerns were expressed with regard to the impact on the A472, as there were no plans to improve or revitalise this roadway. Reference was then made to the alleged negative impact of the recent culvert works on Ystrad Mynach Town Centre.

Officers acknowledged that the A472 as a strategic highway was subject to heavy traffic, however part of the wider strategic plan was to get people out of cars and off roads and reference was made to proposals for the train station which would increase accessibility. Members were advised that the Masterplan offered a holistic approach to regeneration including tourism, active travel and economic development, for instance proposals to expand local business opening hours to generate more income within the Town Centre.

A Member referenced the low response rate to the consultation process and expressed the concern that this could not be considered as truly representational. As set out under the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, Officers confirmed that there had been a lot of work with various stakeholders in advance, involving them in shaping the Masterplan, through seeking their views and these were then included in the Masterplan that was issued for consultation and would therefore have had an impact on response levels. It is also possible that people who were happy with the plan may not have thought to respond.

Following consideration of its content and for the reasons contained in the Officer's report it was moved and seconded that the recommendation contained therein be approved, by way of the electronic voting system and in noting there were 5 against and 1 abstention this was agreed by the majority present.

RESOLVED that: -

- (i) the representation received as part of the public consultation exercise be noted

and the Officer recommendation set out in the Report of Consultation be endorsed;

- (ii) the Ystrad Mynach Masterplan as Supplementary Planning Guidance to the Adopted Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan up to 2021, and as a tool for guiding regeneration activity in the wider Ystrad Mynach area be adopted.

The meeting closed at 18:05pm

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 4th June 2019 they were signed by the Mayor.

MAYOR