



## ANNUAL COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON THURSDAY, 13<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2021 AT 5.00PM

#### PRESENT:

Councillor C. Andrews - Mayor  
Councillor J. Gale - Deputy Mayor

#### Councillors:

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

#### Together with:-

C. Harray (Chief Executive), M.S. Williams ( Corporate Director Economy and Environment ), D. Street (Corporate Director Social Services), R. Edmunds (Corporate Director Education and Corporate Services), R. Tranter (Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer), S. Harris (Head of Financial Services and Section 151 Officer)

#### WEB-CASTING FILMING AND VOTING ARRANGEMENTS

The Chief Executive reminded those present that the meeting was being filmed but would not be live streamed, however a recording would be available following the meeting via the Council's website – [Click Here to View](#). She advised that decisions would be made by Microsoft Forms.

#### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J. Bevan, P. Bevan, C. Bezzina, B. Jones and D. Hardacre

#### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

**3. TO NOTE THAT THE MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR HAD BEEN APPOINTED UNTIL THE ANNUAL MEETING IN 2022 AND THE PAYMENT OF A SENIOR SALARY**

RESOLVED that the appointment of Councillor Carol Andrews and Councillor June Gale as Mayor and Deputy Mayor until the Annual Meeting in 2022 and the receipt of a senior salary payment be noted.

**4. MAYOR'S REMARKS**

The Mayor expressed her pride in being able to serve as Mayor of Caerphilly County Borough during such unprecedented times and thanked Members for their support as she continued in this role until May 2022.

The Mayor thanked the Chief Executive, Officer and staff for their continued efforts during these challenging times. Special thanks were expressed to Mrs Joy Thomas, who has supported the Civic Officer for a number of years but would be moving on to a new post as PA to the Cabinet and the Mayor wished her every success in her new role.

Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 restrictions there have been few Mayoral duties. Since September she had attended 2 face to face events which were a banner unveiling at Caerphilly Castle & the Santa Appeal photoshoot at Pontllanfraith LC and 2 virtual events, the Lord Lieutenant's Awards & 1<sup>st</sup> Abercarn Scouts AGM and recorded several video messages to accompany the 10 bouquets and cards delivered by Mark Harris, 4 of each diamond and golden anniversaries, plus 2, 100<sup>th</sup> birthdays.

The Mayor expressed her hope that as restrictions eased Mayoral duties will resume during the forthcoming months.

Finally, the Mayor extended her thanks to Cllr June Gale for serving as Deputy Mayor and who attended a Requiem Eucharist service at Newport Cathedral following the death of HRH Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh on her behalf.

In conclusion the Mayor looked forward to the year ahead and all the promise it brings with it.

**5. TO NOTE THE APPOINTMENT OF THE LEADER OF COUNCIL AND NOTE THE PAYMENT OF A SENIOR SALARY**

RESOLVED that the appointment of Councillor P. Marsden as Leader of Caerphilly County Borough Council and the receipt of a senior salary payment be noted.

**6. TO NOTE THE APPOINTMENT OF A DEPUTY LEADER AND THE PAYMENT OF SENIOR SALARY**

RESOLVED that the appointment of Councillor S. Morgan as Deputy Leader of Caerphilly County Borough Council and the receipt of a senior salary payment be noted.

**7. TO NOTE THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS TO BE APPOINTED TO THE CABINET, THE NAMES THE LEADER HAS CHOSEN TO BECOME MEMBERS OF THE CABINET AND THEIR PORTFOLIOS AND THE PAYMENT OF A SENIOR SALARIES**

RESOLVED that the appointments of 9 Cabinet Members by the Leader of Council their portfolios and their receipt of a senior salary payment be noted: -

Leader of Council – Councillor Philippa Marsden

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy, Enterprise and Infrastructure – Councillor Sean Morgan

Cabinet Member for Corporate Services – Councillor Colin Gordon

Cabinet Member for Customer, Performance and Property – Councillor Eluned Stenner

Cabinet Member for Learning and Leisure – Councillor Ross Whiting

Cabinet Member for Social Care – Councillor Shayne Cook

Cabinet Member for Sustainability, Planning and Fleet – Councillor Andrew Whitcombe

Cabinet Member for Housing – Councillor Lisa Phipps

Cabinet Member for Waste, Public Protection and Street Scene – Councillor Nigel George

Having listed her Cabinet, the Leader took the opportunity to thank Councillor John Ridgewell for all his hard work, commitment and support as he stepped away from his Cabinet role and welcomed Councillor Andrew Whitcombe to his new role.

**8. TO NOTE THE APPOINTMENT OF A LEADER OF THE MAIN OPPOSITION GROUP AND THE PAYMENT OF A SENIOR SALARY**

RESOLVED that the appointment of Councillor C. Mann as Leader of the Main Opposition Group and the award of a senior salary payment be noted.

**9. LEADERS STATEMENT**

The Leader addressed Council in this the second Annual General Meeting held in a virtual environment. Although she acknowledged that many Members preferred the traditional physical meeting, however the society shift in the way business is conducted as a result of coronavirus has been recognised and accepted by all and the technology embraced as a result is here to stay. Hopefully when conditions allow a few face to face meetings would be reconvened but only when it was safe to do so.

Reflecting on the year and the recent anniversary of the first national lockdown, the Leader took a moment to remember all those lost to this terrible virus.

The role that Public Services had played in the response to coronavirus was a matter of great pride. The effort made by staff at every level across the organisation was acknowledged and she thanked all staff on behalf of Council for their dedication and unwavering professionalism and commitment. The Leader placed on record her thanks to Elected Members for their support to residents and communities.

Members were asked to note the many areas of support provided during the pandemic from the start of the outbreak to today and advised Member of how much there was to be proud of.

Looking beyond the Coronavirus response there had been a number of amazing things achieved by this authority. The Council is progressing a major investment proposal totally £231M as part of the Placeshaping programme, signalling an exciting blueprint for the whole Borough. The next phase of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme, a zero cut Budget for 201/22, together with one of the lowest council tax rises in Wales.

The £200M Welsh Housing Quality Standard programme is nearing completion and a brand-new council house building initiative is being developed. Tenants have been supported in claiming additional income in excess of £2.5M. The Buddy Scheme is being transformed into a sustainable model called 'Caerphilly Cares' and the Council is recruiting 13 new Foster Carers with a further 19 applications in progress, the highest number for some years.

Members noted that our Libraries met all 12 of Welsh Government Core Entitlements for the first time. Regeneration masterplans have been endorsed, improvements made in sporting facilities and electric vehicle charge points installed at the 11 Council owned car parks.

Turning to the agenda for the next 12 months the Leader highlighted examples from the forward work programme including the strengthening of the Council's Senior Management Structure, implementing the Placeshaping Investment Programme, review of the Waste Strategy and extending the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools programme with 5 exciting projects to progress. The Leader was keen to emphasis the key projects that lay ahead and the challenge that would face Members going forward. Members were advised that there was so much positivity to be celebrated, as a local authority we have a big heart and big ambitions with strength in leadership, communities supported, and organisation reshaped and driven forward by innovation, transformation and high performance.

In conclusion, the Leader thanked all elected members for their support and commitment to the local community and expressed her pride in being Leader of this fantastic organisation. She hoped that we would all continue to work together for the good of all and further instil the amazing Team Caerphilly ethos in everything that we do.

## **10. REVIEW OF POLITICAL BALANCE**

Consideration was given to the report which reviewed the political balance across the authority and the allocation of seats to the political groups in accordance with Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

Members were asked to note composition of the Council as at the 29<sup>th</sup> of April 2021 and how the political balance rules under Section 15 were applied. It was confirmed that the total number of seats on Committees which are subject to the political balance requirements are 151. It was highlighted that following the decision of Council on the 13<sup>th</sup> April 2021 the membership of the Planning Committee had been reduced to 16.

Having considered the composition of the political balance the report was noted.

## **11. TO APPOINT THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR AND MEMBERS TO SERVE OF THE FOLLOWING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES UNTIL THE NEXT ANNUAL MEETING (IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLITICAL BALANCE, AS LISTS ATTACHED) AND TO NOTE THE SENIOR SALARY PAYMENT TO THE CHAIRS – EDUCATION**

**SCRUTINY COMMITTEE, SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY, POLICY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE/PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE, ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AND REGENERATION AND HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

It was moved and seconded that Members be appointed as the names provided to Committee Services and presented at the meeting, by way of Microsoft Forms and verbal confirmation and in noting there were 60 for, 0 against and 3 abstentions this was agreed by the majority present.

RESOLVED that the following Members be appointed and the payment of a senior salary to the Chair be noted: -

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| Education Scrutiny Committee                         | Councillor T. Parry (Chair)<br>Councillor C. Andrews (Vice Chair)   |
| Social Services Scrutiny Committee                   | Councillor D. Cushing (Chair)<br>Councillor C. Bezzina (Vice Chair) |
| Policy and Resources/Partnerships Scrutiny Committee | Councillor J. Pritchard (Chair)<br>Councillor G. Kirby (Vice Chair) |
| Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee    | Councillor D.T. Davies (Chair)<br>Councillor A. Hussey (Vice Chair) |
| Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee          | Councillor J. Ridgewell (Chair)<br>Councillor M. Adams (Vice Chair) |

12. **TO APPOINT THE CHAIR AND/OR VICE CHAIR AND MEMBERS TO SERVE ON THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES UNTIL THE NEXT ANNUAL MEETING AND TO NOTE THE SENIOR SALARY PAYMENT TO THE CHAIRS MARKED WITH \* (IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLITICAL BALANCED, AS LISTS ATTACHED) – APPEALS PANEL, APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE, \*GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE, INVESTIGATING AND DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE, \*LICENSING AND GAMBLING COMMITTEE/TAXI AND GENERAL COMMITTEE, \*PLANNING COMMITTEE AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

It was moved and seconded that Members be appointed to the Appeals Panel, Appointments Committee, Audit Committee, Democratic Services Committee, Investigating and Disciplinary Committee, Licensing and Gambling Committee/Taxi and General Committee, Planning Committee and Standards Committee as the names provided to Committee Services and presented at the meeting by way of Microsoft Forms and verbal confirmation and in noting there were 59 for, 0 against 3 abstentions and this was agreed by the majority present.

RESOLVED that Members be appointed as the names provided to Committee Services and presented at the meeting and the payment of a senior salary to the following Chairs be noted: -

Governance and Audit Committee  
Licensing and Gambling Committee/Taxi and General Committee  
Planning Committee

13. **TO NOTE THAT THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR OF THE GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT**

**COMMITTEE WILL BE APPOINTED AT THE FIRST MEETING FOLLOWING THE ANNUAL MEETING OF COUNCIL**

It was noted that the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Audit Committee will be appointed at the first meeting of the Audit Committee following the Annual Meeting of Council and that a senior salary payment will be made to the Chair.

**14. TO CONSTITUTE SUB COMMITTEES/WORKING PARTIES/PANELS/BOARDS AND MEMBERS TO SERVE ON THEM AND TO APPOINT/NOMINATE REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE ON OUTSIDE BODIES WHERE REQUIRED (LISTS ATTACHED).**

It was moved and seconded that the Sub Committee/ Working Parties/Panels/Board be constituted and Representatives to serve on Outside Bodies be appointed as list attached and names provided to Committee Services by way of Microsoft Forms and verbal confirmation and in noting there were 55 for. 0 against and 6 abstentions this was agreed by the majority present.

RESOLVED that the Sub Committee/ Working Parties/Panels/Board be constituted and Representatives to serve on Outside Bodies be appointed as list attached and names provided to Committee Services.

The meeting closed at 18:30pm

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 13th July 2021 they were signed by the Mayor.

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MAYOR