



## **CABINET AS TRUSTEES OF BLACKWOOD MINERS' INSTITUTE**

### **MINUTES OF THE REMOTE MEETING HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON WEDNESDAY, 27TH JANUARY 2021 AT 11:00AM**

#### **PRESENT**

Councillor P. Marsden – Chair

#### **Councillors:**

S. Cook (Social Care), N. George (Waste and Public Protection), C. Gordon (Corporate Services), S. Morgan (Economy and Enterprise), L. Phipps (Homes and Places), J. Ridgewell (Environment and Infrastructure), E. Stenner (Performance and Customer Services) and R. Whiting (Learning and Achievement).

#### **Together with:**

C. Harrhy (Chief Executive), R. Edmunds (Corporate Director – Education and Corporate Services), D. Street (Corporate Director – Social Services and Housing) and M.S. Williams (Interim Corporate Director – Communities).

#### **Also in attendance:**

A. Bolter (Visitor Economy and Destinations Manager), R. Kyte (Head of Regeneration and Planning), S. Harris (Head of Financial Services and S151 Officer), R. Tranter (Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer) and C. Evans (Committee Services Officer).

### **RECORDING AND VOTING ARRANGEMENTS**

The Leader 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**

There were no apologies for absence.

#### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

#### **3. CABINET AS TRUSTEES OF BLACKWOOD MINERS' INSTITUTE MINUTES – 29TH**

## **JANUARY 2020**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 29th January 2020 be approved and signed as a correct record.

### **4. BLACKWOOD MINERS' INSTITUTE ANNUAL REPORT AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2019/2020**

The report advised Cabinet as Trustees of the Blackwood Miners' Institute (BMI) of the operational activities and financial position of Blackwood Miners' Institute for the financial year ending 31st March 2020.

It was noted that Blackwood Miners' Institute was conveyed as a charitable trust to Islwyn Borough Council, (and subsequently to Caerphilly County Borough Council), and was registered as a charity on 13th November 1990.

The local authority, acting as sole corporate trustee has a legal duty to operate the charity in accordance with the governing document and has a legal obligation to account for the charity's finances in accordance with the Charity Act 2011.

A report to Cabinet as Trustees of Blackwood Miners' Institute was considered on the 27th July 2016 advising Members of the statutory requirements relating to the charitable status of Blackwood Miners' Institute, including a set of recommendations to ensure compliance with charity law in relation to the submission of annual reports and financial statements, the ongoing management of the Blackwood Miners' Institute and the Council's and Cabinet's responsibilities as Trustees.

The annual report and audited statement of accounts for 2019/2020 were included as an appendix to the report.

Cabinet as Trustees of Blackwood Miners' Institute (BMI) were required to consider the accounts prior to the annual report and accounts being submitted to the Charity Commission as part of the annual return, in compliance with the requirements of the Charity Act 2011.

Cabinet thanked the Officers for the report and discussion ensued.

It was noted that as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic, many of the events and performances have been cancelled and the Blackwood Miners' institute temporarily closed, and staff redeployed to other duties, therefore the updates are limited. Discussions took place around the plans for reopening and the plans for broadening the attendees, as well as increasing attendance. Officers explained that there are plans in place for the re-opening, not just of this venue but of other key attractions, which are detailed within the Roadmap to Tourism Recovery Plan. A marketing plan has also been devised, for the tourism venues and other attractions but due to the closure of the sector, it has not been possible to conduct market research with users of the venue. However, it is hoped that late summer to early autumn, recovery plans can be implemented and some events, even outdoor can take place. Officers explained however that this will all be subject to government guidelines and lockdown regulations, the unlocking of which are uncertain at present.

Discussions took place around financial assistance and it was noted that the venue has been awarded the Welsh Government lockdown grants and was also able to secure funding from the Arts Council Wales. A further letter has been received, and subject to review, it is hoped that further funding will be available from the Arts Council Wales for the coming year. Cabinet were also asked to note that the team work very hard to secure additional grant funding from a variety of sources for a number of events such as community projects.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that, the recommendation in the report be approved. By way of electronic voting this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officers Report the content of the Annual Report and audited Statement of Accounts for Blackwood Miners' Institute for financial year 2019/2020 be accepted.

The meeting closed at 11.19am.

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CHAIR