

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING UNDER THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES
(CORONAVIRUS) (MEETINGS) (WALES) REGULATIONS 2020
ON THURSDAY, 7TH JANUARY 2021 AT 6PM**

PRESENT: CHAIRMAN: CLLR. R. PRICE

COUNCILLORS:
W. CURTIS
MS T. DAVIES
J. EVANS
P. JAMES
MRS L. JONES
MRS J. L. LOCKYER
B. MACCATHAIL
A. MCGRATH
MRS. S. MILLER
G. MORGAN
A. MUSAIED
MRS S.M. PENRY
M. PROTHEROE
A. SIMS
J. WARMAN

**ABSENT: COUNCILLORS: G. L. EVANS
D. FLYNN**

**IN ATTENDANCE: KATHRYN CHARLES
BEN HUGHES
SARA WHARMBY**

A minutes silence was held for a past Mayor, George Gammon of Neath Town Council who had recently passed away.

6767 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

6768 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS

Declarations of interest were received from Cllr. R. Price and Cllr. M. Protheroe in respect of item 8 on the Agenda and from Cllr. A. Sims in respect of item 6 on the Agenda.

6769 TO AGREE AND CONFIRM THE PRECEPT FOR 2021/2022

RESOLVED: It was proposed, seconded and agreed to approve the 2021/2022 Council Precept at £400,000.

6770 TO RECEIVE A COPY OF THE UPDATED NEATH TOWN COUNCIL CONSTITUTION FOLLOWING THE ANNUAL MEETING OF COUNCIL (OCTOBER 2020)

Members put forward slight amendments to the Constitution.

RESOLVED: Updated paper copies to be sent to Councillors.

6771 TO APPROVE AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD

A) MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL MEETINGS:

i. FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 3RD DECEMBER 2020

Members discussed the Free Child's Meal initiative that was currently running until 8th January. **RESOLVED:** It was proposed, seconded and agreed to extend the initiative until the schools reopened.

Cllr. G. Morgan entered the Meeting at 6.16pm.

It was proposed, seconded and agreed unanimously to accept the minutes of the Full Council Meeting.

B) RESOLUTIONS RECOMMENDED BY COMMITTEES AS SET OUT IN THE MINUTES

All Resolutions agreed.

6772 TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT

A. GENERAL MATTERS

Members were updated on the completion of the External Audit.

The Meeting discussed the Christmas Lights and were pleased with the 2020 installation.

Members were informed that they had received a request from Social Services to use one of the community centres during the current lockdown. **RESOLVED:** It was proposed, seconded and agreed to allow the booking if confirmation and approval for this booking is received from NPTCBC.

B. CORRESPONDENCE

| <i>Correspondence Received</i> | <i>Actions</i> | <i>Resolutions</i> |
|---|---|--|
| Understanding Welsh Places http://www.understandingwelshplaces.wales/en/compare/W38000135/?#inter_relationships | Please click on this link to review Neath on 'Understanding Welsh Places'. I have provided information on the town 'stats' and it is a very informative site. | The Clerk confirmed that this survey would be distributed in the next 2 weeks. Cllrs could respond individually, the Clerk would also respond on behalf of Neath Town Council. (Survey now live) |
| An email from the Community Health Council regarding the Orthopaedic Patient Experience Survey. | For information. | - |
| An email from the Community Health Council regarding the priorities letter and questionnaire. | Do Council wish to respond? | Councillors to respond individually. |

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| An email from One Voice Wales wishing everyone a Merry Christmas. | For information. | - |
| An email from One Voice Wales attaching the presentation made by Kyle Robinson of the HM Land Registry at the recent meeting of the NPT Area Committee. | For information. | - |
| An email from The Purple Lights for pancreatic cancer team thanking everyone for lighting up landmarks purple in November. | For information. | - |
| A letter from Relate Cymru requesting funding for Relationship Support. | For information - Providing Grant Aid forms for 2021. | - |
| An email from One Voice Wales regarding remote training sessions taking place in January. | Do Councillors wish to attend any online training? | The Clerk urged Cllrs to attend online training. |

| <i>Additional Correspondence Received</i> | <i>Actions</i> | <i>Resolutions</i> |
|---|--------------------------------|--|
| An email from the Auditor General for Wales regarding the Neath Town Council Audit. | For information. | Noted. |
| An email from One Voice Wales attaching November's electoral newsletter from Welsh Government. | For information. | - |
| An email from Wales Air Ambulance regarding their Appeal and attaching their Financial Report and Accounts. | For information. | - |
| Cllr. A. Sims declared an interest and left the Meeting at 6.32pm. | | |
| The Neath BID booklet and ballot papers. | How does Council wish to vote? | Members discussed the booklet (under confidential contracts). RESOLVED: After debate and discussion, a vote was reached. |

Cllr. A. Sims returned to the Meeting at 6.45pm.

6773 TO REVIEW AND AGREE INCOME & EXPENDITURE MOVEMENT FOR THE MONTH

a. BILLS AWAITING PAYMENT

Agreed.

A Member asked if the maintenance staff could cover some of the work to be carried out on Bus Shelters which may help reduce costs. **RESOLVED.**

b. BACS PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Agreed.

c. INTER BANK TRANSFERS (OVER 10K)

None.

d. PETTY CASH

None.

e. NEW SUPPLIER BACS AUTHORISATION

None.

f. ADDITIONAL ITEMS

Agreed.

6774 TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were no objections to the following planning application(s):

P2020/0771

P2020/1061

P2020/1097

| Meeting: Full Council January 2021 | Planning Schedule | | | | Date sent: 11.12.20 |
|---|-------------------|---|--|---------------------|------------------------|
| No. of Application | Applicant | Proposal | Location | Planning Officer | Recommendation |
| P2020/0771 | Mark Williams | Change of Use from Sui Generis (railway maintenance engineering depot) to B1/B2 light industrial and offices mixed use including refurbishment of existing buildings including alterations to external appearance and new parking layout (Amended Site plan, Transport Study and Interim Travel Plan -REc 18/11/20, Additional Information rec 20-11-20 and Amended site location plan rec 7-12-20) | Former Railway Buildings On Land Adjacent To Neath Station, Windsor Road, Neath SA11 1BY | Helen Bowen | No objections |
| P2020/1061 | Mr Ian Anthony | Works to the following trees protected by Neath Town Centre Conservation Area Status, some of which are also covered by Tree Preservation Order T16: 4 x Corsican Pine - 981 - Reduce 3 large branches by 2 to 2.5 metres on west side which overhang building. - 984 - Remove all major deadwood, remove 2 lower branches directly above tree 983, and reduce 1 branch on north side near building by removing one lower lateral. - 992 - Remove deadwood. - 994 - Reduce 1 large branch on west side and 2 large branches over building on south side by 2 to 2.5 metres. Remove deadwood. | St Thomas Church Church Place, Neath | Daisy Tomkins | No objections |

| Meeting: Full Council January 2021 | Planning Schedule | | | | Date sent: 18.12.20 |
|---|-------------------|-------------------------------------|---|----------------------|------------------------|
| No. of Application | Applicant | Proposal | Location | Planning Officer | Recommendation |
| P2020/1097 | Mr Karl Lewis | Recessed balcony within loft space. | Amana, Crynallt Farm Road, Cimla SA11 3RL | Russell Borthwick | No objections |

6775 TO DISCUSS THE SOCIAL MEDIA CONTENT FOR NEATH TOWN COUNCIL

A) CLLRS TO PROVIDE SHORT BIOGS TO SUPPORT 'COUNCILLOR CORNER' AS PART OF NTC'S CONTINUING ENGAGEMENT WITH THE COMMUNITY

The Town Clerk stated that Councillors information was needed for the 'Councillor Corner'.

A Member suggested Code of Conduct Training become mandatory for Councillors. **RESOLVED:** It was proposed, seconded and agreed that Code of Conduct Training would be mandatory for Councillors, and it would be added to the Constitution from May 2021.

6776 TO DISCUSS ANY MEMBER ISSUES AND RECEIVE REPORTS FROM MEMBERS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED ON BEHALF OF NEATH TOWN COUNCIL

Cllr. A. Musaiid updated the Meeting on a One Voice Wales conference he had attended and asked about applying for a grant for loss of revenue.

Cllr. Musaiid disconnected from the Meeting.

The Meeting discussed grants that were available.

A Member asked about the defibrillator that they had agreed to fund. **RESOLVED:** Town Clerk to contact alternative Defib companies.

Members were updated on the Free Child's Meal initiative that was currently running. The Town Clerk asked if a hot drink could also be provided. **RESOLVED:** Agreed. The Meeting discussed delivering meals to people who were unable to get to the Café which would be covered by Cllrs.

6777 TO RECEIVE ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

None.

6778 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS – TO CONSIDER PASSING A RESOLUTION UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 1(2) OF THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960, IN VIEW OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE BUSINESS ABOUT TO BE TRANSACTED, IT IS ADVISABLE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST THAT THE PRESS AND PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED FROM THE REMAINDER OF THE MEETING

The resolution was duly passed.

6779 TO DISCUSS AND REVIEW ANY:-

A) INVESTMENT PROPERTY LEASING MATTERS

The Clerk stated that there was currently no update on the Grant Application for 1-4 New Street.

B) ONGOING, CURRENT AND FUTURE COMMERCIAL CONTRACTS

(From Correspondence above) Members reviewed the information provided by Neath Inspired regarding the re-ballot and based their vote on this booklet. **RESOLVED**. A decision on a vote was reached.

Cllr. Musaied returned to the Meeting.

Members discussed an offer that had been received from a potential tenant. **RESOLVED**: It was proposed, seconded and agreed to reject the offer. A Member proposed that the property rent should be around £7000. This was seconded and agreed.

The Finance Officer updated the Meeting on the water issue at Neath Castle. Members were informed that the water bill had been received from the tenant and they were happy for Neath Town Council to pay 25%. **RESOLVED**: It was proposed, seconded and agreed to pay 25% of the water bill while the current tenants were leasing the property.

Members asked for Water Butts to be installed in the Neath Castle site which would help with water recycling for the summer months. **RESOLVED**.

6780 TO RECEIVE AN OVERVIEW OF ANY STAFFING MATTERS

Members were updated on the staff rotas due to the current pandemic.

6781 TO RECEIVE AN OVERVIEW OF ANY HEALTH & SAFETY MATTERS

There were no issues to discuss.

6782 TO FIX A DATE AND AGREE AN AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING

The Chair advised that the next meeting would be held on Thursday, 4th February 2021. An agenda would be circulated in due course.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed.