

NEATH TOWN COUNCIL – FULL COUNCIL
Minutes of the hybrid meeting held on Thursday 7th April 2022 at 6pm

Present: Cllr S M Penry (Chair), J Evans, K Finn, J Harle, Mrs J Lockyer, B MacCathail, Mrs S Miller, G Morgan, A Musaid, R Price, Mrs S Price, M Protheroe, A Sims (Kathryn Charles - Town Clerk, Amanda Holmes - RFO, Sara Wharmby - Admin Assistant)

7052 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Ms. T. Davies, Cllr. J. Harle. Cllr. Mrs L. Jones, Cllr. A. McGrath, Cllr. J. Warman and Lilly Kayes (Youth Representative).

7053 To receive declarations of interest from Members

Cllr. M. Protheroe in respect of item 7 on the Agenda.

7054 To welcome Inspector Lindsey Sweeney, Local Policing Inspector of Neath & Pontardawe to the meeting who will provide an update on issues being addressed in Neath

Inspector Sweeney was unable to attend the Meeting. Members asked that she be invited to a future Meeting.

7055 To welcome Members of the public to the meeting and receive any queries relevant to the Agenda

There were no members of the public present.

7056 To approve as a true and correct record

a) Minutes of the following Council meetings:

i. Full Council – 3rd March 2022

It was proposed, seconded and agreed unanimously to accept the minutes.

ii. Estates Committee – 10th March 2022

It was proposed, seconded and agreed unanimously to accept the minutes.

iii. Events Sub-Committee – 10th March 2022

It was proposed, seconded and agreed unanimously to accept the minutes.

iv. Finance Committee – 17th March 2022

It was proposed, seconded and agreed unanimously to accept the minutes.

v. Special Full Council – 24th March 2022

It was proposed, seconded and agreed unanimously to accept the minutes.

vi. Personnel & Policy Committee – 24th March 2022

It was proposed, seconded and agreed unanimously to accept the minutes.

Cllr. P. James disconnected from the Meeting

b) Resolutions recommended by Committees as set out in the minutes

Agreed.

7057 To receive the Clerk's Report - General

Councillors had received a report prior to the Meeting.

A suggestion was put forward to split all incoming correspondence, continue to separate them into 'for action' and 'for noting' via the Online Member's Area.

RESOLVED: This was proposed, seconded and agreed unanimously.

The Meeting discussed the Jubilee and Party in the Park events taking place in Victoria Gardens. Members put forward suggestions for acts.

*Cllr. M. Protheroe entered the Meeting
Cllr. J. Evans disconnected from the Meeting*

7058 Correspondence

Correspondence received for action		Resolutions
An email from Steve Bowen regarding being locked in Neath Castle grounds.	For review.	Members discussed the email and the response.
An email from Cllr. Wayne Curtis giving notice of his resignation as a Town Councillor.	For noting.	Noted and accepted.
<i>Cllr. J. Evans returned to the Meeting</i>		
The Neath Town Council Accounting Statements for 2020-21.	Council to note Audit Completion Outcome.	Noted.
An email attaching a letter from Reverend Canon Lynda Newman regarding the homeless problem at St David's Church.	For noting and assistance?	Members discussed the letter. Councillors agreed to write a letter to the Police supporting the Church.
An email from Katrin Radtke attaching an invitation to the presentation of Honorary Citizenship wit Wolfgang Drexler	Do Council wish to respond?	Members agreed to acknowledge the invitation but decline. A Member suggested responding with a German translation.
<i>Cllr. P. James entered the Meeting</i>		
An email from Lisa Gordon regarding storage at Neath Community Centre.	To be discussed.	The Meeting discussed the request. RESOLVED: It was proposed, seconded and agreed to decline the request due to lack of space.
Correspondence received for noting		
An invitation for the Mayor to attend Neath Little Theatre's production of Death Knell.		
An invitation for the Mayor to attend the Neath Borough Cup Final on Sunday, 17 th April.		
The Parish of Neath Magazine – March 2022.		
An email from Jenny of Girls Friendly Society regarding volunteer opportunities for supporting girls.		
An email from MAWW Fire & Rescue Service attaching a link to the Spring 2022 Magazine.		
An email from MAWW Fire & Rescue Service attaching a link to their Spring Safety campaign.		
An email from NPTCVS regarding a Bowel Cancer Awareness Talk on 12 th April.		
An email from Nicola Ferron regarding the behaviour of SWP and a legal dispute with a building owner in Neath Town Centre.		
An email from Post Office Ltd regarding changes to Penrhiwtyn Post Office.		
Safer Neath Port Talbot Business Crime Reduction Partnership Newsletters.		
An email from NPTCBC with information for registering a business or organisation to help refugees from Ukraine coming to Wales.		
An email from One Voice Wales regarding the My Tree, Our Forest scheme launched by Welsh Government.		
An email from One Voice Wales attaching Local Elections (Miscellaneous and Consequential Amendments) (Wales) Regulations 2022.		
An email from One Voice Wales regarding Community Asset Transfers.		
An email from One Voice Wales regarding the Ukrainian Refugee Crisis.		
An email from One Voice Wales regarding April training dates.		
An email from One Voice Wales regarding the Co-ordinating Volunteers to respond to emergency situations on Wales focus group.		
An email from One Voice Wales regarding Senior Legislative Counsel & Assistant Legislative Counsel vacancies.		
An email from One Voice Wales attaching a link to the 'How to measure the inclusion of migrants in Wales' consultation.		
An email from One Voice Wales regarding the new 'Innovation Strategy for Wales' Open Space event on 6 th April.		
An email from One Voice Wales attaching a flyer for the Welsh Government Apprenticeship Scheme 2022.		
An email from One Voice Wales regarding 'Smarter working: a remote working strategy for Wales'.		

7058 To review and agree draft Annual Investment Strategy for 2022/23

Agreed.

7059 To receive an agree the draft Annual Report for 2022/23

A Member suggested updating the information regarding Neath Castle restoration.

A Member queried the growth at the back of the Castle. The Town Clerk gave an update.

A Member informed the Meeting that a school that was currently learning about Welsh Awareness wanted to visit the Castle grounds and would get in touch with the Town Clerk to arrange.

A Member stated that the Café name needed to be changed to Tymhorau/Seasons since it rebranded.

RESOLVED: It was proposed, seconded and agreed to accept the Annual Report with the amendments.

7060 To review and agree Income & Expenditure movement for the month

- a. Bills awaiting payment
- b. BACS payment schedule
- c. Inter Bank Transfers (Over £10k)
- d. Petty Cash
- e. New Supplier BACS authorisation

Members had received the report in the Meeting. **RESOLVED:** It was proposed, seconded and agreed to contact the Finance Officer if they had any queries regarding the report.

7061 To discuss and review Bad Debt

The Finance Officer went through the report. **RESOLVED:** It was proposed, seconded and agreed to accept the provision of bad debt and to follow the situation on a monthly basis.

7062 To receive and consider Planning Applications

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

P2022/008	V Evans	110 Old Road, Neath, SA11 2BU
P2022/0142	James Dainton	132 Cimla Crescent, Neath, SA11 3PF
P2022/0163	Peter Walters	2 Pen Y Bryn, Cimla, Neath, SA11 1JE
P2022/0214	Tom Head	36 Windsor Road, Neath, SA11 1LU
P2022/0191	Lidl GB Ltd	Castle Retail Park, Briton Ferry, Neath
P2022/0242	Gill Bain, Ethos	Garth Mor Court, Briton Ferry, Neath

7063 To discuss the Council's social media content

The Town Clerk stated that a Spring Newsletter was being created and will be published post Elections, as planned.

A Member gave an update on the work of the Youth Representative.

7064 To discuss Members issues and receive reports from Members on meetings they have attended on behalf of Neath Town Council

There were no reports received.

7065 To receive items for the next Agenda

- Annual Council Meeting and Full Council
- Inspector Sweeney

The Town Clerk informed the Meeting that Link Cymru Housing had been in touch regarding the work due to take place on the building behind the Council Office and had asked to present to a future meeting. **RESOLVED:** It was proposed, seconded and agreed to invite them to the June Full Council Meeting.

7066 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.

7067 To discuss and review:-

- a) Investment property leasing matters**
- b) COVID arrears repayment matters**

A&B collective update was provided in advance of the meeting. **RESOLVED:** All recommendations by RJ&P were accepted. Members accepted the document and thanked the Clerk for presenting it in a clearer format.

- c) Ongoing, current and future commercial contracts**

Contract for Units 1 & 2, 1-4 New Street was being finalised with a start date.

7068 To receive an overview of staffing matters

Clerk updated the meeting on a member of staff who was returning from annual leave then COVID and another which was at the start of long term sick leave. Both had been covered with P&P.

7069 To receive an overview of any Health & Safety matters

Site visit by KSG on Friday, 8th April was planned.

7070 To fix a date for the next meeting

The Chair advised that the next meeting would be held on Thursday, 12th May 2022. This would include the Annual Meeting of Council and then Full Council. An agenda for both would be circulated in due course.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____