

NEATH TOWN COUNCIL – FULL COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the hybrid meeting on Thursday, 2nd March 2023 at 6pm

Present: Cllr. Mrs S. M. Penry (Mayor), Cllr. J. Warman (Deputy Mayor), Cllr. T. Cooze, Cllr. P. James Ms. M. P. Lloyd, Cllr. Mrs J. L. Lockyer, Cllr. J. Miller, Cllr. G. Morgan, Cllr A. Musaied, Cllr. A. Sims, Cllr. T. Pearson, Cllr. R. Price, Cllr. Mrs S. Price, Cllr. M. Protheroe, Cllr. A. Sims, Cllr. D. Thomas (Lilly Kayes – Youth Representative, Kathryn Charles - Town Clerk, Amanda Holmes – Finance Officer, Sara Wharmby - Admin Assistant)

Absent: Cllr. Ms L. Heard, Cllr. Mrs L. Jones, Cllr. P Sambrook

The Chair stated that all cameras must be turned on during the ‘Confidential’ section of the meeting.

FC2023/36 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. K. Finn.

FC2023/37 To receive any declarations of interest from Councillors in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct

There were no declarations of interest received.

FC2023/38 To provide an opportunity for any members of the public in attendance to address Councillor ask questions on any matters of concern in relation to agenda items (other than those proposed to be considered in private – see additional Public Participation guidance notes on website)

The Chair welcomed members of the public to the Meeting.

FC2023/39 To welcome Will John of NPT Police for an update

Inspector Sweeney was in attendance and gave an update to the Meeting on various warrants.

Members were also updated on various initiatives including the Safer Streets Funding.

Cllr. A. Musaied & Cllr. T. Cooze entered the Meeting.

A Member thanked Inspector Sweeney for the update and asked about the repeated vandalism taking place in Neath Castle grounds. Inspector Sweeney stated that they were aware of the incidents and that the Police now have keys for complete access to the Castle. Members were asked to report any incidents that take place. A Crime Prevention Officer would be in touch with NTC to try and suggest ways in which the area's security could be increased.

Members put forward questions and concerns regarding various incidents in the Neath areas.

Inspector Sweeney gave Members further information regarding the Safer Streets Funding as Councillors wished to be involved.

The Chair thanked Inspector Sweeney for attending the Meeting.

Inspector Sweeney left the Meeting.

FC2023/40 To receive and acknowledge the Civility & Respect Pledge for Neath Town Council

The Mayor signed the Civility & Respect Pledge on behalf of Neath Town Council.

FC2023/41 To approve as a true and correct record

a) Minutes of the following Council Meetings:

i. Full Council Meeting held on 2nd February 2023

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

ii. Estates Committee Meeting held on 9th February 2023

It was proposed, seconded and agreed unanimously to accept the minutes of the Estates Committee Meeting.

iii. Finance Committee Meeting held on 16th February 2023

These minutes are draft and are subject to agreement and change at the next Full Council meeting

It was proposed, seconded and agreed unanimously to accept the minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting.

iv. Personnel & Policy Committee Meeting held on 23rd February 2023

It was proposed, seconded and agreed unanimously to accept the minutes of the Personnel & Policy Committee Meeting

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

All Resolutions agreed.

FC2023/42 To receive the Clerk's Report on general matters arising

Members had received the report prior to the Meeting.

A Member updated the Meeting on the Tai Tarian compound in Cimla. The Member thanked the Clerk for contacting them which seemed to have made an impact as it was being cleared.

FC2023/43 To review and agree income & expenditure movement for the month

- a. Bills Awaiting Payment**
- b. BACS Payment Schedule**
- c. Barclays General Account**
- d. Inter Bank Transfers (Over 10K)**
- e. New Supplier BACS Authorisation**
- f. Payroll**
- g. Bank Statement Reconciliation**

All agreed.

FC2023/44 To review and consider Planning Applications

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

P2023/0067 – Huw Toghil – Plot 14 The Oaks, Adj to 15 The Oaks, Cimla, SA11 3RJ

P2023/0137 – Mr & Mrs Williams – 5 Westernmoor Road, Neath, SA11 1BJ

FC2023/45 To discuss any Member Issues and receive Reports from Members:-

a) on meetings they have attended on behalf of Neath Town Council

A Member expressed concerns on a potential Windfarm Development and the transportation of the turbines through Cimla. The Member highlighted major concerns and discussed potential damage to the roads, road closures that could affect emergency services and the further disruption within the community. The conversations also noted that the same disruption would happen when they are removed at the end of their life. Members discussed the issue in detail. **RESOLVED:** Cllr Terry Pearson to continue to gain information and provide feedback to each meeting.

A member confirmed that they had completed training.

b) on updates recommended for website, digital and social media platforms

There were no updates received.

FC2023/46 To receive an update from NTCs Youth Representative

The Youth Representative updated the Meeting on her visits to local youth groups. A Member suggested she contact the Police and work with them with their Youth Service van. **RESOLVED:** Agreed.

FC2023/47 To receive an overview of Health & Safety matters

Members were updated on the Fire Risk Assessments that had taken place.

FC2023/48 To receive items for the next Agenda

There were no items received for the next Agenda.

Lilly Kayes, Cllr. Mrs Sara Price, Sara Wharmby & members of the public left the Meeting.

FC2023/49 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.

**FC2023/50 To discuss and review any:-
a) Correspondence received**

Correspondence received for action		Resolutions
An email from Calon Hearts regarding their petition.	Do Members wish to sign this petition?	To be completed individually by Members.
An email regarding the Tidy Wales Awards.	Do Members wish to nominate? Closing date 6 th March.	To be completed individually by Members. Clerk highlighted the closing date.
An email from One Voice Wales regarding the consultation on the Outdoor Education (Wales) Bill.	Do Council wish to respond?	Members agreed to have maximum impact on this Consultation, they would respond individually. Members confirmed that they would explain major concerns of refocussing funding from mainstream education which was lost during the COVID-19 closures and redirecting it to outside school facilities was concerning. Members agreed that most schools already had outdoor education areas and £20m would be more beneficial to 'catch up' and support mainstream education which was lost during the pandemic.
An email from One Voice Wales attaching training sessions in February & March.	Do members wish to attend any training?	Noted.
An email from One Voice Wales regarding Membership Renewal.	To discuss.	Agreed to renew Membership.
An email from One Voice Wales regarding nominations for the Kings New Year 2024 Honours.	Do Council wish to nominate citizens?	To be completed and submitted individually by Members.
Correspondence received for information		
The Afon Nedd Ministry Area Parish Magazine – February 2023.		
An email from MAWW Fire & Rescue Service regarding an Experience Day on 25 th February.		
An email from Welsh Government regarding the Notification of draft Order – Deposit – A465 & A470 – 30mph speed limits at Cwmgwrach, Resolven & Swansea Roundabouts Order 202.		
An email regarding the meeting of the NPT Town/Community Council Liaison Forum and attaching the Budget presentation.		
An email from One Voice Wales attaching the presentation from the Cyber Awareness training for Councillors.		
An email from One Voice Wales regarding the Ministerial Review of Play Report and Background Paper.		

Additional Correspondence received for action		Resolutions
A website enquiry from Mrs Elaine Aveline regarding using Neath Castle grounds on 25 th May to hold a picnic to commemorate 80 years of Trefoil Guild UK and 4 th July for Neath Brownies.	Can Members confirm this is acceptable?	Agreed.
An email from Full Fat TV regarding their TV documentary The Problem With Debt and asking if any of the Warm Hub visitors would be interested in telling their stories.	Do Members wish to become involved in this?	Cllr Bob Price to make contact regarding Cimla Warm Hub.
An email from One Voice Wales regarding the new survey to measure economic and social value of adventure in Wales.	Do Members wish to respond to the survey?	To be completed individually by Members.
Additional Correspondence received for noting		
An email from Welsh Government regarding the vacancies in Team Band Rural Payments Wales Division. Closing date 8 th March.		
An email from NPTCBC regarding the Replacement Local Development Plan Consultation for comments by 22 nd March. Members noted Replacement LDP and would be monitoring potential use of 'green belt' areas within the Plan.		
Additional Correspondence received for information		
An email regarding the 20s Plenty for Us Campaign.		
An email from NPTCBC regarding this year's Palm Sunday Service of Remembrance at Margam Crematorium.		

b) Ongoing, Current and Future Commercial Contracts

i) To review and consider a quote for National Grid to connect 1-4 New Street

A quotation was provided in advance of the meeting. **RESOLVED:** Continue with utility connection. Clerk confirmed that Welsh Water were still be chased for a connection.

A full general report was provided by the Town Clerk in advance of the meeting and noted.

Updates included:-

1-4 New Street - Paint colour was agreed for the internal of both Units. **RESOLVED:** An update on the development was provided by the Clerk.

Seasons Café – A variation to Section 101 was explained in depth and then agreed by Members via a recommendation from NPTCBC. **RESOLVED:** Variation signed. T&FG to meet next week to discuss next steps in Review.

Neath Castle – proposal to 'gift' a section of a connecting wall to Neath Town Council from Neath Quakers was discussed. **RESOLVED:** This offer was rejected and would be dealt with by the Council's solicitors. Continued problems with youths at the Castle site. Police have been made aware of issues. Recent CADW site visit report to Estates Committee.

Neath Town Hall – British Gas have been contacted regarding new connection into Units 1&2.

FC2023/51 To receive an overview of any Staffing matters

The Clerk confirmed that Internship interviews would take place on 13th March.

The Clerk provided an update on a member of staff off on sick leave and an OHU appt which had taken place but report yet to be received. **RESOLVED:** To be discussed at P&P.

FC2023/52 To fix a date and agree an Agenda for the next Meeting

The Chair advised that the next meeting would be held on Thursday, 3rd November 2022. An agenda would be circulated in due course.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____