

NEATH TOWN COUNCIL – FULL COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes of the hybrid meeting on Thursday, 6th July 2023 at 6pm

Present: Cllr. J. Warman (Mayor), Cllr. P. James (Deputy Mayor), Cllr. T. Cooze, Cllr. Ms M. P. Lloyd, Cllr. J. Miller, Cllr. G. Morgan, Cllr A. Musaied, Cllr. Mrs S. M. Penry, Cllr. T. Pearson, Cllr. R. Price, Cllr. Mrs S. Price, Cllr. M. Protheroe, Cllr. A. Sims (Kathryn Charles - Town Clerk, Jenna Reed – Finance Officer, Sara Wharmby - Admin Assistant, Lilly Kayes – Youth Representative, Carys Hope – Community Engagement Officer)

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

A minutes silence was held for Mabli Hall.

FC2023/110 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. K. Finn, Cllr. Mrs J. L. Lockyer, Cllr. P. Sambrook and Cllr. D. Thomas

FC2023/111 To receive any declarations of interest from Councillors in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct

There were no declarations of interest received.

FC2023/112 To provide an opportunity for any members of the public in attendance to address Council or ask questions on any matters of concern in relation to agenda items (*other than those proposed to be considered in private*)

There were no members of the public in attendance.

FC2023/113 To welcome Will John of NPT Police for an update

The Town Clerk stated that the Police were unable to attend the Meeting, but had sent in an update for Councillors. The report was read out by the Chair. Members were informed that someone had been arrested for the broken shop windows in the Town Centre. Members were updated on drug arrests.

Members stated that they were disappointed the Police were unable to attend, but appreciated the report.

A Member wished to report the issue at the bus stops outside Neath Train Station, and that slabs had been stolen from St Illtyd's Church. The Town Clerk stated they would pass the information on to the Police.

A Member stated that antisocial motorbike riding was increasing in Cimla.

FC2023/114 To receive an update from NTCs Youth Representative

The Chair welcomed Lilly Kayes, the Youth Representative, to the Meeting. Lilly updated Councillors on her Meeting with the NPTCBC Youth Council Mayor.

FC2023/115 To receive an update from NTCs Community Engagement Officer

The Chair welcomed Carys Hope, the Community Engagement Officer, to the Meeting. Carys updated Members on her recent meeting with Age Connect which would be added to the programme of work.

Cllr. Ms M. P. Lloyd entered the Meeting.

Members were also updated on her Meeting with a Local Area Coordinator and Neath Brownies.

Carys stated that she would be sharing their photos and information of the groups she had met with on the Instagram page.

Members were informed that Carys was trying to arrange a meeting with the Police to discuss youth engagement.

The Chair stated he would be happy to attend any Meetings as Mayor with Carys. The Chair thanked Carys for her report.

Carys Hope left the Meeting.

FC2023/116 To approve as a true and correct record the minutes and resolutions contained therein of the following Council Meetings:-

i. Full Council Meeting held on 1st June 2023

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

p.4 – FC2023/106 – A Member asked if there was an update on the safeguarding issues from an anonymous email. The Clerk stated it was ongoing and would follow this up.

ii. Special Full Council Meeting held on 5th June 2023

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

iii. Special Full Council Meeting held on 8th June 2023

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

iv. Finance Committee Meeting held on 15th June 2023

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

v. Estates Committee Meeting held on 22nd June 2023

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

vi. Personnel & Policy Committee Meeting held on 29th June 2023

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

FC2023/117 To receive the General Clerk's Report

The Town Clerk informed Members that the defibrillator that had been missing from outside Wetherspoons had been located by WAST/Police and returned to the location.

Updates were given on Community Centres.

The Town Clerk informed the Meeting that a long-term hirer had given notice of cancellation.

Members were asked to confirm the hire cost of the second room at Orchard Street. **RESOLVED:** It was proposed, seconded and agreed to hire out the room at the same rate as the Main Hall.

Members were informed that the posters for the Allotment Competition had been sent to the Allotment Representatives.

A Member queried the reason for the long-term hirers ending their hall hire. The Town Clerk gave the feedback they had received from the hirer.

The Town Clerk updated Members on the Constitution and the new process for distributing papers.

The Town Clerk asked Members if they wished to have a Prosecco Marquee at the Real Ale & Cider Festival. Members discussed the idea. Councillors to work a rota for the tent outside the Town Hall. A Member asked if Neath RFC rugby players could help out. **RESOLVED:** It was proposed, seconded and agreed to sell Prosecco at the event.

The Town Clerk updated the Meeting on Hostile Vehicle Mitigation email response from Nicola Pearce.

FC2023/118 To review and agree Income & Expenditure movement for the month

- a) Bills Awaiting Payment - Agreed.
- b) BACS Payment Schedule - Agreed.
- c) Barclays General Account - Agreed.
- d) Inter Bank Transfers (Over 10k) - None.
- e) New Supplier BACS Authorisation - None.
- f) Payroll - Agreed.
- g) Bank Statement Reconciliation - Agreed.

A Member suggested moving Agenda Item 10 into Confidential Matters. **RESOLVED:** It was proposed, seconded and agreed to move Agenda Item 10 into Confidential due to the information in the report.

FC2023/119 To review and consider Planning Applications

There were no planning applications received.

FC2023/120 To discuss any Member Issues and receive Reports from Members:-

- a) on meetings they have attended on behalf of Neath Town Council
- b) on updates recommended for website, digital and social media platforms

Cllr. A. Musaid informed the Meeting that he had attended a One Voice Wales Meeting with Cllr. J. Miller. Cllr. J. Miller stated he would provide a report shortly.

The Town Clerk informed Councillors that NTC had won 3 awards at the One Voice Wales Innovative Awards Conference in 2020 but these had been delayed in being presented due to COVID. The awards were for the Website, Community Engagement and Local Service of the Year.

A Member stated that a request had been received for a bench by the taxi rank on Wind Street. Members discussed the request. Members suggested speaking with NPTCBC first as they had arranged to install new benches in the area. **RESOLVED:** It was proposed, seconded and agreed to liaise with NPTCBC before deciding to place a bench in the area.

FC2023/121 To receive an overview of Health & Safety matters

The Town Clerk had no update.

FC2023/122 To receive items for the next Agenda from Members

There were no items provided for the next Agenda.

Cllr. Mrs S. Price, Sara Wharmby & Lilly Kayes left the Meeting.

FC2023/123 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.

FC2023/124 Recommended adjustments to correct mis postings and incorrect accounting processes in SAGE pre-April 2023

A report was provided by the Finance Officer in advance of the meeting which was self explanatory outlining the various accounting and inputting errors. Members were thankful that these had been brought to Members attention but disappointed that these had not been known and identified previously. The Finance Officer suggested a way forward to rectify the various accounting errors. **RESOLVED:** Members thanked the current Finance Officer for the comprehensive report and agreed to make an adjustment via SAGE as set out in the report.

FC2023/125 To receive and review any Correspondence received

<i>Correspondence received for action</i>		<i>Resolutions</i>
An email from Neath Round Table regarding advertising in the Charity Carnival programme.	Do Council wish to promote/advertise in this programme?	Agreed.
An email from Inspector Linsey Sweeney regarding South Wales Listens.	Do NTC wish to sign up?	Agreed.
Dates for the Neath Arts & Literature Festival.	Members to confirm the use of Neath Town Hall and Neath Castle.	Agreed and Neath Town Council would sponsor the events.
A request to purchase a table and chairs from the Café once it's closed.	For consideration	Rejected.
An email regarding sponsoring the portaloos at the Real Ale & Cider Festival.	Do Council wish to sponsor the portaloos this year?	Email withdrawn. No action required.
<i>Correspondence received for noting</i>		
An email regarding the Meeting Community Needs event on 12 th July.	Please register directly if you wish to attend - https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/affordable-housing-meeting-community-needs-in-wales-network-event-registration-635320539837	Noted.
An email from Calon Hearts regarding their petition to bring in availability of heart-screening for all 11-35 year olds who play sport.	Members to sign individually - https://petitions.senedd.wales/petitions/245361	Noted.
An email attaching a poster relating to the proposals for Y Bryn Onshore Wind Farm.	Deadline 17 th July should Members wish to comment.	Noted.
<i>Correspondence received for information</i>		
An email from Asbri Planning regarding the Consultation for work at Gnoll Estate Country Park.		
An email from NPTCBC regarding the consultation on the proposal to establish a specialist provision for primary age pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at Blaenhonddan Primary School.		
An email from Hannah Booth regarding the Love Neath meeting and attaching an events calendar.		
An email from One Voice Wales attaching an update on the introduction of the Infrastructure (Wales) Bill into Senedd Cymru on 12 th June.		
An email from One Voice Wales regarding the Active Travel Consultation (sent to Councillors on 07.06.23 due to closing date for consultation).		

<i>Additional Correspondence received for action</i>		<i>Resolutions</i>
A message regarding placing a bench at the taxi rank on Wind Street.	For consideration.	Check if NPTCBC has plans to install seating in this area.
An email from One Voice Wales attaching training dates.	Do any Members wish to attend training?	Noted.
Email from Luke Lavercombe asking for assistance for a Fairyland Family Fun Day	For consideration.	Agreed to donate £100.
<i>Additional Correspondence received for noting</i>		
An email from One Voice Wales regarding the consultation on extending the term of office for the Older People's Commissioner for Wales from 4 to 7 years.	If Members wish to take part in consultation, please do so directly via the link – closing date is 12 th September.	Noted.

An email from a hall hirer giving notice.	For noting.	Noted.
Thank you messages on Facebook regarding the Party in the Park event.	For noting.	Noted.
An email from Hugh Saunders regarding the closure of Tymhorau/Seasons Café.	For noting.	Members asked that a response be sent stating they were disappointed by the content of his email and use of unacceptable language, defamatory and factually incorrect comments regarding all NTC staff.
<i>Additional Correspondence received for information</i>		
An email from MAWW Fire & Rescue Service introducing the new Chair and Deputy Chair.		
An email from MAWW Fire & Rescue Service regarding Farm Fire Safety – Barn Fires.		
An email from MAWW Fire & Rescue Service attaching the magazine Calon Tan – June 2023		

FC2023/126 To receive the Clerk’s Report on Investment Properties and Commercial Contracts

A verbal update was provided. An overview of the prioritisation of the Burton Block works would commence during recess.

FC2023/127 To receive an overview of Staffing matters

Job Evaluation letters would be circulated to all staff asap as correct salary scales had now been received from NPTCBC.

FC2023/128 To fix a date for the next Meeting

The Chair advised that the next meeting would be held on Thursday, 7th September 2023. An agenda would be circulated in due course.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed.

Signed: J. Warner

Dated: 7/09/2023