

NEATH TOWN COUNCIL – FULL COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes of the hybrid meeting on Thursday, 1st February 2024 at 6pm

Present: Cllr. J. Warman (Mayor), Cllr. P. James (Deputy Mayor), Cllr. T. Cooze, Cllr. K. Finn, Cllr. Ms L. Heard, Cllr. Ms. M. P. Lloyd, Cllr. Mrs J. L. Lockyer, Cllr. J. Miller, Cllr A. Musaied, Cllr. T. Pearson, Cllr. R. Price, Cllr. Mrs S. Price, Cllr. M. Protheroe, Cllr. A. Sims, Cllr. D. Thomas (Kathryn Charles - Town Clerk, Carys Hope – Community Engagement Officer)

Absent: Cllr. Mrs L. Jones, Cllr. P. Sambrook, Lilly Kayes

FC2024/20 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. G. Morgan

FC2024/21 To receive any declarations of interest from Councillors in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct

Declarations of interest were received from Cllr. M. Protheroe in respect of any issues relating to NPTCBC. Cllrs. Lockyer, James and Protheroe in relation the Neath Ale & Cider Festival correspondence.

FC2024/22 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 – see additional Public Participation guidance notes on website)

There were no members of the public present.

FC2024/23 To welcome Will John of NPT Police for an update

Sgt Will John provided a comprehensive update on the policing issues within the Neath Town Council area. Issues were raised in relation to the continued ASB located outside the train station and issues with lingering at adjoining bus shelters. Sgt John explained that the police had seen an influx of street drinkers into Neath as there was a strong presence in Swansea which has transferred several issues to Neath. This was being addressed. St John explained several initiatives including Operation Goutweed which related to drug and knife crime. Councillors relayed concerns regarding traffic and parking issues in the area. Sgt John stated that there would be a police presence at each Council meeting either by him or PCSOs to ensure that community links were kept updated.

Cllr. Ms M. Lloyd left the meeting at 6.15pm.

Cllr. A. Musaied disconnected from the meeting at 6.25pm

FC2024/24 To receive an update from NTCs Youth Representative

The Town Clerk on behalf of Lilly Kayes presented a text message to the Meeting stating they had communicated with a hall hirer and was asked to circulate flyers. The group in would be asked to support Party in the Park.

ACTION: Lilly Kayes

FC2024/25 To receive an update from NTCs Community Engagement Officer

The Chair welcome Carys Hope to the Meeting. Carys updated the Meeting on the final questionnaire. Carys was praised for the questionnaire. Carys explained that her and Lily would create a 'launch' of the questionnaire and provide lunch incentives for anybody who completed one and handed it back immediately. Carys explained the initiative in full and asked that all Councillors attend if available.

ACTION: Councillors

Carys went onto explain her success with Age Connects and linking them to the Food Bank.

Carys outlined her meeting with Forward4Fairlyland and the outcomes from that meeting. Most were linked to Tai Tarian and NPTCBC.

Carys also explained her recent meetings with YMCA and LACs which was ongoing.

Carys Hope & Cllr. Ms L. Heard left the Meeting at 6.46pm.

FC2024/26 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 4th January 2024

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

ii. Estates Committee Meeting held on 11th January 2024

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

iii. Events Committee Meeting held on 16th January 2024

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

iv. Policy & Personnel Committee meeting 25th January 2024

It was proposed, seconded and agreed unanimously to accept the minutes of the Full Council Meeting. **RESOLVED:** Received confirmation of not issues and therefore agreed to extend the Contract for one year (PP2024/8 b)).

v. Finance Committee meeting 25th January 2024

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

FC2024/27 To receive the General Clerk's Report

Members had received the report prior to the Meeting, all points were noted.

The Town Clerk explained that they had been approached by an external events company as requested by NPTCBC to undertake a review of NPTCBCs approach and support for community events held in NPTCBC town centres. The Town Clerk explained that they had checked with NPTCBC in advance and was told to be 'honest and open' in NTCs response. The Town Clerk went through the questions asked and answers provided. Some immediate issues and discrepancies in NPTCBCs Special Events arrangements were noted by the external events company and this would be included in their report.

The Town Clerk explained that a response to the NPTCBC complaint had been received. It was disappointing and frustrating to note that no consideration or awareness of the NPTCBC responses provided by the Special Events Team which were of little help, demanding information by certain times/dates were done. It was considered a 'tick box' paper trail exercise rather than working together and offering advice. The Town Clerk stated that this had been relayed to the external events company undertaking the review for NPTCBC outlined above.

Members agreed to resurface the Neath Town Hall Bar and landing area flooring. Clerk to obtain costs.

ACTION: Town Clerk to obtain Costs

Members were updated on the water issue at Melin Community Centre.

Members discussed their concern regarding recycling laws becoming live in April. Knock on issues around the town may cause issues for retailers in relation to space for appropriate recycling bins. Councillors to consider an approach to NPTCBC.

FC2024/28 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.

FC2024/29 To review and consider Planning Applications

Members referred to correspondence and wish to object to Planning Appeal A2021/0003 regarding P2023/0837 from NPTCBC.

FC2024/30 To discuss any Member Issues and receive Reports from Members:-

- a) on meetings they have attended on behalf of Neath Town Council
There were no updates received from Members.
- b) on updates recommended for website, digital and social media platforms

There were no updates received from Members.

- FC2024/31 To receive an overview of Health & Safety matters**
The Town Clerk updated the Meeting on the Health & Safety Audit which had taken place. Updates would be provided via Estates.
- FC2024/32 To receive items for the next Agenda from Members**
Cefn Saeson Comprehensive School – Floodlighting – Cllr. Terry Pearson
- FC2024/33 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.

FC2024/34 To receive and review any Correspondence received

Correspondence received for action		Resolutions
Email from Sally Rowlands regarding Ale & Cider Festival	To Council wish to host and sponsor this event?	Agreed.
Email from Afan Nedd Ministry Area regarding the Parish magazine advert renewal	Do Council wish to advertise?	Agreed – Full Page.
Planning Appeal A2021/0003 regarding P2023/0837 from NPTCBC	Discussed and an objection to be emailed to NPTCBC.	Town Clerk to respond.
Email from Neath Antiquarian Society regarding dimmable lighting in Neath Town Hall	Discussed.	Agreed to obtain quotes for consideration.
Email from TLlewelyn Jones regarding access for the installation of an air conditioning unit at 1-4 New Street	Discussed further Investment Properties.	Agreed.
Email from One Voice Wales regarding Active Travel Engagement with NPTCBC.	Do Members wish to attend?	Councillors to respond directly if they wish to.
Correspondence received for noting		
Email regarding the Consultation of NPT Draft Budget	Noted but disappointed that no clear consultation period is outlined in the documents. Members felt that the form and approach they used was not 'fit for purpose'.	
Email from Foward4Fairyland regarding a clean up date on 14 th February 2024	Noted.	
Correspondence received for information		
Afan Nedd Area Parish Magazine – January and February 2024		
Email from Michelle Ackerman of NPTCBC regarding the use of Orchard Street		
Email from McMillan Cancer Support thanking NTC for the grant aid funding		
Email from Neath Polyphonic Choir thanking NTC for the grant aid funding		
Email from MAWW Fire & Rescue Service regarding 'Register My Appliance'		
Email from One Voice Wales regarding a job advert for Older People's Commissioner for Wales		

Additional Correspondence received for action		Resolutions
NPTCBC SLA for School Crossing Patrols	Do members wish to continue to fund these x3 posts?	Agreed.
Planning Aid Wales – Strategic Development Plans Training	Do Members wish to attend?	Councillors to respond directly if they wish to.
One Voice Wales – Planning Aid Wales sustainability event	Do Members wish to attend?	Councillors to respond directly if they wish to.

One Voice Wales – National Awards Conference 2024	Do Members wish to attend?	Members asked that submissions for Council of the Year and Community Engagement
NPTCBC – Place Plan workshops	Do Members wish to attend?	Councillors to respond directly if they wish to.

Additional Correspondence received for noting and information		
Mynydd Blaenavon & Mynydd Fforch Dwn Windfarm Update		
Calon Tan – January 2024 newsletter		
Access Denied – Older People's Commissioner – Social Media Pack		
Public Appointments – Vacancy for Chair, NHS Wales Board Application Process		

2024/35 To receive the confidential Clerk's Report on

a) Investment Properties

Members received the report prior to the Meeting outlining several recommendations submitted via the Finance Committee which were discussed and agreed and would now be actioned. The Town Clerk gave an update on the water meter installation at New Street and informed Members that quotes were still being chased and obtained for the replacement windows at the Burton Block.

A proposal to use the Community Centre for a specific community function was discussed. Members discussed this at length. **RESOLVED:** Town Clerk to obtain support and guidance from Rowland Jones & Partners regarding possible lease and report back. **RESOLVED:** Special Full Council to be arranged for 8th February 2024 to discuss.

b) Commercial Contracts

None.

c) Staffing matters

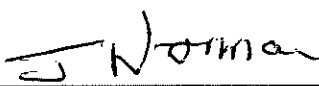
Members received the report prior to the meeting.

Cllr. D. Thomas left the meeting at 8.10pm

FC2024/36 To fix a date for the next Meeting

Thursday, 7th March 2024. An agenda would be circulated in due course.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed.

Signed: 

Dated: 7/3/24