

COEDFFRANC TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Statutory Meeting of the Council Meeting held on 17th October 2018 at the Memorial Hall.

Attendance: Cllrs M Harvey, DK Davies, A Wingrave, APH Davies, JS Jones, P Davies, TC Fletcher, K Whitehead, J Thomas, AR Aubrey, D Harvey, LJ Pocock, C Wingrave, TJ Bevan.

Part Attendance: Cllr J S Jones.

1400: Apologies - Cllrs B Richards, K Amos, M Fender.

1401: To receive Declarations of Interest.

Cllr A Wingrave declared an interest in item 1414 she had dispensation to speak, but did not take part in the vote.

Additionally, it was noted that no Member that had declared an interest in the last meeting took any part in the approval of the minutes for that meeting.

1402: To approve and sign the Minutes of Previous meetings: -

a) Council Meeting held on 19th September 2018.

Approved as a true and accurate record.

b) Estates Committee Meeting held on 19th September 2018.

Approved as a true and accurate record.

1403: Matters arising from the minutes. (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

The Clerk informed the Members that she had received legal advice with regards to Jersey Marine Community Centre.

Cllr D K Davies mentioned that there is a NPTCBC Liaison Meeting on 26th November 2018. Cllr Davies suggested that an item could be placed onto the Agenda by Coedffranc Town Council asking “What assistance can NPTCBC provide for voluntary bodies to assist with the transfer of community assets?” It was agreed that this agenda item is forwarded to NPTCBC and One Voice Wales.

1404: To receive and approve the accounts schedule for payments and to select two account numbers for a full explanation at the next meeting.

Accounts were received in the sum of £20,679.14 Account No’s 411 and 456 were selected at random for an explanation by the Clerk at the next meeting. Copies of the accounts were circulated and the Clerk responded to member’s queries.

Resolved: That the payments are approved

1405: To receive an explanation from the Clerk concerning Account No. 329 and Account No. 407.

The Clerk provided explanations, which were accepted by the Council.

1406: Planning Applications:

To receive a Report on Planning Applications that have been dealt with between meetings.

The Members noted the Report.

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Cllrs APH Davies and K Whitehead provided detailed information regarding the Town Council's objections with regards to Planning Application P2018/0807 and the Planning Departments queries. It was noted that verbal complaints were made to Members and these had been passed onto NPTCBC Officers but these were not sufficient as evidence. It was reported that residents need to complain directly to NPTCBC in writing individually. Cllr APH Davies suggested that he would provide the information for the response.

Resolved: The information was accepted by the Members and it was agreed that Cllr APH Davies provides a draft response.

Cllr J S Jones arrived at this point.

1407: To receive a report from any Member concerning meetings at which he or she represented the Council.

Cllr M Harvey attended the Civic Service for Neath Town Councils Mayor Mark Protheroe and enjoyed the event.

Cllr M Harvey attended the opening ceremony of St Marys Community Centre and enjoyed the event.

Cllr M Harvey attended the Battle of Britain Parade and thoroughly enjoyed the event.

Cllrs M Harvey, D Harvey, A Wingrave, DK Davies, APH Davies, J Thomas, P Davies, K Whitehead and the Town Clerk all attended the funeral of former Councillor Ron Didcote.

1408: To receive a report from the Estates Committee.

2) Cllr A Wingrave reported that the Council are still waiting for a proposal from the contractor for the Jersey Marine play area.

3) The cemetery hedges will be cut to approximately 5 foot in order to combat the Health and Safety concerns that have been raised. Additionally, the hedge will be taken away altogether where there is sufficient fencing being provided by the adjoining property. This will help to comply with HSE regulations to reduce the hand arm vibrations for staff.

Resolved: That the recommendations are approved.

1409: To receive a petition from the residents of Jersey Marine regarding the closure of Jersey Marine Community Centre.

The Clerk reported that a Structural Survey had been carried out in March 2015 which recommended demolishing the building and building a new hall. The Clerk informed the Members that it was estimated that refurbishment costs at that time were estimated at £35k and would only prolong the use of the hall by 2 or 3 years. The Clerk reported that the hall had deteriorated further in the last 3 years and was now beyond any economical repair. The Clerk also reported that asbestos has been identified in the Asbestos Report for the building.

The Members discussed the issue. Cllr A Wingrave stated that she felt it would be beneficial to allow the community to have a chance to fundraise, to raise enough funds to buy the existing hall with a view to demolishing it and building a new hall. It was stated a time limit should set to find out if the Community could realistically fundraise sufficient funds.

Resolved: That the Community are given 6 months to find out if it is a viable proposal to raise enough funds to buy the site and complete a re-build by fundraising. It was agreed that an interim report would be provided by the community representatives in 3 months to report on progress.

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1410: To receive a request to suspend Standing Orders to start the Council Meeting to be held on the 19th December at 6pm rather than 6.30pm as raised by Cllr J Thomas.

The Members discussed the issue.

Resolved: That the request to suspend the Standing Orders to start the Council Meeting which is to be held on 19th December at 6pm is approved.

1411: To review/approve the audited Annual Return and Auditors comments for the financial year 31st March 2018.

The Clerk reported that she had raised objections to the Auditors findings in their Issues Arising Report. The Clerk reported that the Council had been criticised for incorrectly using the S137 Powers. The Clerk reported that the Auditor had suggested that S19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 should have been used, which the Clerk disputed. The Clerk reported that the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act is to provide recreational facilities, and the £36 in question allocated to the Section 137 Powers was for a funding raising event and not for providing a recreational facility. The Clerk reported that she had since received an email from the Auditors agreeing with the Clerks assessment that the payment was properly authorised under S137 and that S19 could not be used.

Resolved: That the Annual Return is approved, and that the Clerk requests a revised Issues Arising Report for the financial year 31st March 2018.

1412: To receive a Report regarding the Annual Review of the Internal Audit Arrangements.

The Members discussed the issue.

Resolved: That the Report is approved.

1413: To receive the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Draft Annual Report and discuss/approve/decline Councillors allowances for the next financial year 2019/20.

The Members discussed the issue.

Resolved: It was agreed by all the Members that no expenses would be claimed with the exception of the Mayors Allowance. Members were reminded that the Clerk would need to receive written confirmation from all Members wishing to decline the allowances recommended by the Independent Remuneration Panel.

1414: To receive a response from NPTCBC regarding Carnegie Hall being put on a register of Buildings of Local Importance.

The Members discussed the issue at length. It was agreed that NPTCBC do not have defined Policies and Procedures unlike other Councils. It was reported that the Annual Report triggers revisions in the LPD. It was noted that the front elevation of the building is the only unchanged element of the building.

Resolved: That the Members put an objection into NPTCBC stating that there is currently no stipulated processes, policies or procedures in place relating specifically to the criteria and selection processes for the Register of Buildings of Local Importance. Additionally that NPTCBC should be informed that the front elevation of the building is the only unchanged element of the building.

1415: To receive acknowledgement of the Council response to the Review of Electoral Arrangements for the County Borough of NPT.

The information was noted by the Members.

1416: To receive the draft Lease Agreement for Skewen Scouts Hall prepared by the Council's Solicitor, and receive a request from Skewen Scouts Group to amend clauses in the Lease Agreement.

The Mayor read out correspondence from the Scouts Group.

Resolved: That the Clerk contacts the Scout Group to advise them that they need to seek legal advice to help them to understand conveyancing and leasing legislation and terminology.

1417: To receive the Final Report and Recommendations from the Independent Review Panel on Community and Town Councils in Wales.

The information was noted by the Members.

1418: To receive an update from NPTCBC regarding local bus service revisions.

The information was noted by the Members.

1419: To receive/respond if appropriate a Consultation from the Welsh Government regarding un-adopted roads in Wales.

The Members discussed the issue.

Resolved: That the Members should respond independently.

1420: To receive/approve a request from HMRC Land Registry for approval of a Notice of an application to register easements or other rights for a meter kiosk at Burrows Road, Skewen by Dwr Cymru.

The Members discussed the request.

Resolved: That the request is approved.

1421: Correspondence.

None.

Emergency Item

a) **The Clerk reported that the Council's insurance providers will not cover the costs of the collapsed wall at Carnegie Hall, and therefore, provided quotes for approval for the collapsed wall at Carnegie Hall.**

Resolved: That the lowest quote is accepted.

b) **To sign the Lease Agreement for Skewen Rugby Supporters Club.**

Resolved: That the Lease is signed.

Cllr K Whitehead

Mayor