

COEDFFRANC TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Statutory Meeting of the Council Meeting held on 21st August 2019 at the Memorial Hall.

Attendance: Cllrs M Harvey, JS Jones, DK Davies, A Wingrave, P Davies, J Thomas, K Whitehead, MA Fender, D Harvey, LJ Pocock, C Wingrave, TJ Bevan.

1593: Apologies: Cllrs B Richards, K Amos, A Aubrey and APH Davies.

1594: To receive Declarations of Interest.

Cllr D K Davies declared an interest in item 1611 and left the room during discussions. 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.

1595: To approve and sign the Minutes of Previous meetings: -

a) Council Meeting held on 17th July 2019

Approved as a true and accurate record.

1596: Matters arising from the minutes. (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

None.

1597: 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 £9,693.80 Account No's 308 and 333 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.

1598: To receive an explanation from the Clerk concerning Account No's: 235 and 269.

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

1599: Planning Applications:

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

The information was noted by the Members.

1600: To receive a report from any Member concerning meetings at which he or she represented the Council.

Cllrs M Harvey and D Harvey attended the Briton Ferry Town Council Civic Service and thoroughly enjoyed the event.

1601: To receive information from NPTCBC on Local Service Revision.

The information was noted by the Members.

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1602: To discuss the lack of progress and contact from the Residents of Jersey Marine regarding the sale of the Community Centre.

The Clerk reported on the issue and was asked if she had received any correspondence from Cllr Helen Ceri Clarke who is the County Borough Councillor for the area. The Clerk reported that she had responded to an email from Cllr HC Clarke asking for a progress report on the 29th March 2019. Within that response, the Clerk had informed her that the lead spokesperson had dropped out of the process for personal reasons. Unfortunately, no one else had stepped forward to organise the group and take the lead on the issue. The Clerk reported that she did not receive a response from Cllr HC Clarke.

The Health and Safety Officer has stated that he is reluctant to enter the building due to its deteriorated state.

Resolved: That the Members have reluctantly agreed to put the building on the market for sale after the Clerk seeks legal advice from NPTCBC planning Department. It was agreed that the building is to be sold via Auction with a set reserved price.

1603: To receive information from BT for a 90 day Consultation period regarding Public Payphone removals.

The Members discussed the issue and object to any telephone boxes being removed from the area.

Resolved: That the Clerk writes to BT requesting all telephones to be kept open in the Coedffranc area especially the telephone box at the bottom of Winifred Road considering 240 members of the public used the telephone.

1604: To approve the Standing Orders.

The Members discussed the issue.

Resolved: That the Standing Orders are amended to include that the joint Deputy Mayors for 2020 – 2021 would be Cllrs D K Davies and APH Davies due to their 40 years continued service to the Council. Their Mayoral year would be 2021-2022. Thereafter, it would revert to the next in the normal succession selection process.

1605: To approve the Financial Regulations.

The Clerk reported on the small amendments requested by One Voice Wales. The Members discussed the issue.

Resolved: That the Financial Regulations are approved without any further amendments.

1606: To receive information on the One Voice Wales Annual Conference.

The Members discussed the issue.

Resolved: That Cllr APH Davies attended the event to represent the Council.

1607: To receive a request from Cllr A Aubrey to consider CCTV coverage in Skewen Park.

The Clerk reported on this issue and the Members decided that the issue was to be deferred.

Resolved: That the item is deferred.

1608: To discuss/approve the report from NPTCBC regarding the Provision of Library Services being moved into Carnegie Hall

The Members discussed the information provided. The Clerk reported that she is opposed to leaving the front doors wide open for disabled access during library hours as suggested by Wayne John. The Clerk reported that the Council already pay very large gas and electric bills for Carnegie Hall, so she does not think leaving the doors open for disabled access is a viable solution. Whilst NPTCBC are proposing paying 30% of bills, with the heat loss through the open doors during the colder months, and the additional hours that the heating would need to be on for the library and its staff the Council are likely to be significantly out of pocket.

Cllrs A Wingrave, M Harvey met with the Clerk to discuss the matter and it was suggested that the installation of automatic front doors would be a more suitable proposition.

Resolved: That the Council approve the move to hold the library in Carnegie Hall on the proviso that the front doors are automatic and not left open to lose heat. The Clerk is to meet with the Local Community groups to discuss the details and impact of the library move.

1609: To receive information from the Clerk for costings of Christmas Lighting for December 2019.

The Clerk reported that she had requested 3 quotes but one of the companies she had contacted, sub-contracted the installation to a company that had already quoted. Therefore the Clerk requested that Standing Orders are suspended to accept two quotes.

Resolved: That the lowest quote is accepted.

1610: To receive/approve the Well-being Annual Report (copy enclosed).

The Members discussed the issue.

Resolved: That the Well-being Annual Report is approved without any further amendments.

1611: To receive/discuss a letter from Skewen Short Mat Bowls Club.

Cllr A Wingrave reported on the issue.

Resolved: That the Mayor, Cllr A Wingrave and the Clerk arranges a meeting with the Skewen Short Mat Bowls Club to explain the situation.

1612: To receive a request from Crymlyn Burrows Community Centre Management Committee to assist with their Public Liability Insurance Premium this year.

The Clerk reported that following discussions with the Councils Insurance Provider regarding Crymlyn Burrows Fun Day, she was advised that the Management Committee should take out their own Insurance Policy because as a third party, their activities are not covered by the Town Council's insurance. The Clerk reported that she had spoken to the Management Committee and they had agreed to take out their own Insurance Policy.

Cllr A Wingrave reported that as the request was short notice, the Management Committee had asked if the Town Council would be prepared to pay the fee for this year. Going forward the Committee would raise funds to cover the cost of their insurance themselves. The Members discussed the issue.

Resolved: That the Council would provide a financial donation of £89.60 to cover the costs of the insurance for a period of one year.

1613: To receive a letter from Skewen Historical Society requesting the use of Carnegie Hall for a WW2 History Day and free of charge.

The Members discussed the request.

Resolved: That the request to use Carnegie Hall is approved and that the Council would provide a financial donation to cover the costs of hiring the hall.

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1614: To receive a Consultation from the Welsh Government regarding the National Development Framework.

The information was noted by the Members.

1615: Correspondence.

None.

**Cllr M Harvey
Town Mayor**