

COUNCIL

(Remotely, via Microsoft Teams)

Members Present:

14 October 2020

The Mayor: Councillor S.Jones

The Deputy Mayor: Councillor J.Warman

Councillors: A.R.Aubrey, S.Bamsey, H.C.Clarke, C.Clement-Williams, M.Crowley, A.P.H.Davies, N.J.E.Davies, O.S.Davies, R.Davies, C.Edwards, J.Evans, S.E.Freeguard, C.Galsworthy, W.F.Griffiths, J.Hale, S.Harris, M.Harvey, N.T.Hunt, S.K.Hunt, J.Hurley, H.N.James, C.J.Jones, D.Jones, J.Jones, L.Jones, R.G.Jones, D.Keogh, S.A.Knoyle, E.V.Latham, A.Llewelyn, A.R.Lockyer, A.McGrath, J.Miller, S.Miller, R.Mizen, J.D.Morgan, S.Paddison, S.M.Penry, D.M.Peters, R.Phillips, M.Protheroe, L.M.Purcell, S.Pursey, S.Rahaman, P.A.Rees, S.Renkes, S.H.Reynolds, A.J.Richards, P.D.Richards, M.Spooner, A.J.Taylor, R.L.Taylor, D.Whitelock, C.Williams, R.W.Wood and A.N.Woolcock

Officers in Attendance: S.Phillips, A.Evans, A.Jarrett, H.Jenkins, N.Pearce, K.Jones, S.Rees, C.Griffiths, S.Curran and J.Woodman-Ralph.

1. **Mayor's Announcements**

It was with deep regret that the Mayor advised Council of the recent death of former Mayor and Councillor Val Kingdom of Port Talbot Borough Council.

As a mark of respect Council observed a minute's silence

It was with great pleasure that the Mayor announced the following recipients of honours in the Queen's Birthday Honours List 2020:

Joy Smith, Road Safety and Business Performance Manager, NPTCBC, was made a Member of the Order of the British Empire for services towards road safety.

Hilary Dover, Service Director of Primary and Community Services, Swansea Bay University Health Board received a Medal of Order of the British Empire for services to the NHS during Covid 19.

Other recipients receiving the Medal of Order of the British Empire were:

Julie Simonson, Community Branch Director, Santander for services to the financial sector and the community of Neath.

Christopher Singletary, for services to veterans, their families and armed forces Port Talbot.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest received.

3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting/s of Council (Civic Year 2019/20)**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of Council held on the 23 September 2020 be confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting.

4. **Corporate Plan 2019/2020 Annual Report - Commended to Council for Approval**

The Leader of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council introduced the above report, which had been commended to Council by Cabinet held on the 30 September 2020.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That the following documents be approved:
 - Corporate Plan 2019-22 Annual Report (full progress report);
 - Corporate Plan 2019-22 Annual Report (summary report)
 - Corporate Plan Key Performance Indicators 2019 – 20.
 2. That the three well-being objectives set out in the current Corporate Plan remain relevant as the objectives were agreed in September 2017 and reviewed in March 2020.

5. **Voting Arrangements for Officer Appointments determined by Virtual Meetings of Council**

Council received information on the proposal to introduce a digital process to enable each member to vote for their preferred candidate in the appointment processes that are determined by a meeting of full Council and, in circumstances where the Council meet virtually as detailed in the circulated report.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That approval be granted to introduce a digital process to enable each member to vote for their preferred candidate in appointment processes that are determined by a meeting of full Council and in circumstances where the Council meet virtually on-line to do so.
 2. That the Head of Legal Services be authorised to amend the Council Procedure Rules set out in the Constitution of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council by the deletion of clause 14.7 and replacing it with the following (the amendment being underlined):

“If there are more than two people nominated for any position to be filled and there is not a clear majority of votes in favour of one person, then the name of the

person with the least number of votes will be taken off the list and a new vote taken. The process will continue until there is a majority of votes for one person.

Where meetings are to take place remotely, the process shall be conducted via a poll function adopted by the Council to enable Members to register their preferred candidate. The results of the questionnaire will be collated in a database which can be accessed by a Democratic Services Officer, the Head of HR and the Head of Legal Services.

In circumstances where technical issues mean a Member is unable to access the link to the questionnaire, the Member will be asked to email the Democratic Services Officer to confirm this and to confirm their vote. The email will be retained confidentially along with the database information for governance purposes only.

6. **Changes to Member Representation**

RESOLVED: That Cllr.S.Pursey fills the vacancy on the Voluntary Sector Liaison Forum.

7. **Appointment of Director of Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning**

RESOLVED: That the arrangements to recruit the Director of Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning as detailed in the circulated report be approved.

8. **Urgent Items**

Because of the need to deal now with the matter contained in Minute Number 9 below, the Mayor agreed that this could be raised at today's meeting as an Urgent Item pursuant to Section 100B (4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

Reason:

Due to the time element

9. **COVID 19 - Verbal Update from the Leader of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council**

The Leader of Council gave Members an update on the escalating number of Covid 19 cases in the area. As a result local restrictions had been placed on Neath Port Talbot by the Welsh Government to try to suppress the numbers of infections. It was noted that if the infection numbers continued to increase Welsh Government were considering additional restrictions. It was highlighted the importance of Members continuing to re-inforce the guidance, handwashing, social distancing, wearing masks when required and self-isolating when experiencing symptoms within their communities.

Following on, Members asked if they could be kept updated on any clusters of Covid 19 cases that develop in their wards and whether any data or maps could be shared with Members. It was explained that the data used was produced by Swansea Bay University Health Board and was changing so quickly that by the time data was shared it would be out of date. Officers would where possible try to update Members.

CHAIRPERSON