



**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Glynneath Town Council
In the Council Chambers, Bethania Community Centre
7pm on Tuesday, 12th February 2019.**

Councillors present

The Mayor, Councillor Dr Del Morgan
The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Janet Gregory
Councillor Carolyn Edwards
Councillor John Evans
Councillor Lowri Francis
Councillor Richard Knoyle
Councillor Simon Knoyle
Councillor Shane McMenemy
Councillor Haulwen Morgan
Councillor Marion Morgan
Councillor Gerry Reynolds

Council employees present

Clerk to the Council Stuart Hemsley-Rice

1. Presiding.
The Mayor Councillor Del Morgan.
2. Mayor's announcements.
 - a. The Mayor noted the work of the Events Panel and the Twmpath due to take place on Friday 15th February 2019.
3. Apologies for absence.
Councillor Helen Williams, Councillor Jenifer Roberts and Councillor Tony Pritchard.
4. Declarations of interest.
Councillor Del Morgan - County Borough Member and potential work with One Voice Wales.
Councillor Simon Knoyle - County Borough Member and Secretary to Glynneath RFC.
Councillor Carolyn Edwards - County Borough Member.
5. Clerk's report on public questions.
 - a. Questions submitted by Mr Alyn Evans:
 - 1) Last year the Glynneath precept went up by 7.5% and this year it has just been raised by 2.3%. A total of 9.8% in 2 years. Please inform me and other council tax payers in Glynneath how we have benefited?

Response: The precept has risen by 2.3% for the year 2019/20 in line with inflationary pressures. The 2.3% rise is lower than the proposed 4% rise of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council and is likely to be lower than other Town and Community Councils. The 2018/19 rise was to allow for investment in the services provided by the Council. The precept is used to maintain facilities here in Glynneath including the Welfare Park, Waungron Cemetery, Town Hall and Bethania Community Centre. It is also used to provide services such as the Town's CCTV, School Crossing Officer, Christmas Lights and contributes towards the public toilets. The precept also allows the Council to put finance towards funding applications to improve the local area and facilities.

- 2) Why is the Glynneath precept the highest of all the districts within the Neath Port Talbot Borough Council area?

Response: Glynneath's precept is amongst the highest in the County due to the number of facilities and services provided by the Council. Without the level it currently is the Council would not be able to provide funds for a School Crossing Officer, CCTV and towards Public Toilets; services and facilities which are not necessarily available elsewhere in the County.

6. Presentation by Dr Ben Reynolds (Urban Foundry) on the possibility of a Market in Glynneath
Dr Reynolds provided a presentation on the background and feasibility of a market for Glynneath. He provided his opinion that the market was possible at a location on Heathfield Avenue near the junction with the High Street. The market would have initial set up costs of approximately £2-3,000 and could potentially start in May this year. The Mayor thanked Dr Reynolds for his presentation. Dr Reynolds offered residents the opportunity to ask him questions about the presentation downstairs.
7. Amendments to minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 8th January 2019.
There were no amendments to the minutes.
8. Confirm minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 8th January 2019 as a true record.
Councillors resolved to approve the minutes of 8th January as a true record of that meeting.
9. Matters arising from minutes held on Tuesday 8th January 2019.
Minute 6 (9 d) The Clerk noted that the Welsh Audit Office were due to send through a report this week.
Minute 8 (5 b). The Clerk reported that he had now provided a written response to the resident involved.
Minute 8 (12 b). The Clerk reported that Western Power had visited the site to assess the work required and have referred the work to a specialist team to take place.
Minute 8 (16). It was noted that works had now been completed to improve the extraction in the kitchen.
Minute 8 (19 c). It was noted that quotes had been obtained and approved for the works to take place.
Minute 8 (19 d). The Clerk noted that quotes had been requested for filling the large pothole on Cemetery Drive
Minute 11 The Clerk reported that the report had been circulated to members.
10. Other reports.
- a. Possibility of a Market in Glynneath
The Council resolved to further investigate the potential of a Market in Glynneath and resolved to seek grants to cover the initial estimated set up costs of £2-3,000.
- b. Financial Regulations
The Council resolved to adopt the new Financial Regulations as recommended by Finance and Audit Committee. The Clerk and Cllr Richard Knoyle agreed to work on their practical implementation in the month ahead.
- c. Welfare Park Funding Application
The Council resolved to prepare and submit an application for funding for the development and enhancement of Welfare Park. The Clerk and Cllr Simon Knoyle agreed to draft this with the intention of submitting an application to the April round of Pen Y Cymoedd funding.
- d. Venues Funding Application
The Council resolved for the Clerk to work up an application in line with the proposals in the paper and to identify the best funding options.
- e. Grit Bins
The Council resolved for the Clerk to put together proposals in consultation with members for inclusion in the draft budget for 2019/20
- f. Proposed Traffic Scheme for Merthyr Road/Traffic Calming Proposal Scheme for Pontwalby (East Ward) area
Cllr Simon Knoyle reported that the scheme proposals were available downstairs for members of the public to view and comment upon.
- g. Trem Y Glynn – Director of Social services attending meeting in Glynneath
Cllr Simon Knoyle noted that there had been positive developments in regard to Trem Y Glynn and that the Director of Social Services, representatives from Pobl and Social Services would be in attendance at a future meeting.
11. Clerk's report on planning applications.
- a. **Application Number: P2019/0092**
Applicant Name/Address:

MR Darrell Crook, 21 EDWARD STREET, GLYNNEATH, NEATH SA11 5DL

Site Location:

21 EDWARD STREET, GLYNNEATH, NEATH SA11 5DL

Proposed Development:

Single storey rear extension

Easting: 288087 Northing: 206422

Town and Country Planning Act 1990

No observations.

12. Clerk's report on correspondence received.
 - a. Christmas lights
The Clerk noted that a request had been received from Cllr K Sims (Resolven Community Council) to purchase the old Christmas Lights. Council resolved that the Clerk would look into this further.
 - b. Letter from Mr W Shulver
The Clerk noted a letter had been received from Mr Shulver with regards to the covenants at the Welfare Park and the alleged views of the Squire of Aberpergwn. The letter was noted.
13. Report from Cemetery Committee.
No report.
14. Report from Human Resources Committee.
No report.
15. Report from Parks and Open Spaces Committee.
Members requested that a meeting of the Committee be arranged in the near future.
16. Report from Town Hall/Community Centre Committee.
No report.
17. Report from Projects Action Group Committee.
No report.
18. Report from Finance and Audit Committee.
Council received a report from the committee in relation to the authorisation of payments (April 2018- 12 February 2019). The Council resolved that the payments be authorised and agreed (with copies of the payments having been provided to Councillors for their consideration). The Council resolved to advertise for an Internal Auditor and would seek guidance from One Voice Wales in relation to the terms of reference/engagement letter to be used. The Council considered two section 137 grant requests from national charities (MacMillan and Welsh Air Ambulance) which were refused.
19. Reports from Town Councillors.
Councillor Lowri Francis reported that the Twmpath would take place on Friday 15th February and that events had been organised to take place in the Town Hall to celebrate St David's Day which included craft activities and a photographer.
20. Reports from County Councillors.
There were no reports
21. Date, time, venue and agenda for next meeting.
At 7pm on Tuesday 12 March 2019 at the Council Chambers, Bethania Community Centre.
22. Personnel issues and closed session items. Cllr John Evans left the meeting.

Councillors resolved to enter closed session to discuss strategic review and personnel matters in accordance with Town Council Standing Order number 1c and Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960. (The Act states that the public may be excluded from the meeting for the following business because it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information and the public interest not to disclose the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it).

NOTE: "Closed Session Items" should not be discussed outside the Council's Closed Session for any reason.