



**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Glynneath Town Council
In the Council Chambers, Bethania Community Centre
7pm on Tuesday, 15th October 2019.**

Councillors present

The Mayor, Councillor Simon Knoyle
Councillor Carolyn Edwards
Councillor Richard Knoyle
Councillor Shane McMEnamin
Councillor Dr Del Morgan
Councillor Haulwen Morgan
Councillor Gerry Reynolds
Councillor Steven Evans

1. Presiding.

The Mayor Councillor Simon Knoyle.

2. Mayor's announcements.

The Mayor welcomed newly elected Councillor Steven Evans to Glynneath Town Council. The next Street Market is due to be held on Friday 18th October. The Mayor informed the council that the date for this year's Christmas lights switch on is the 25th November 2019. Remembrance service will take place on Sunday 10th November at the pavilion in the Welfare Park. The official opening of the Health Centre is the 14th October 2019. Councillor Simon Knoyle and Councillor Shane McMEnamin will be attending a Community Planning training course on the 16th October.

3. Apologies for absence.

Councillor John Evans
Councillor Jennifer Roberts
Councillor Janet Gregory

4. Declarations of interest.

Councillor Del Morgan - County Borough Member and potential work with One Voice Wales.
Councillor Simon Knoyle - County Borough Member, Secretary to Glynneath RFC and Friends of Glynneath Library.
Councillor Carolyn Edwards - County Borough Member.
Councillor Haulwen Morgan – Treasurer, Friends of Glynneath Library
Councillor Steven Evans - Treasurer Glynneath RFC

5. Clerk's report on public questions.

A letter had been received from a newly formed group called Friends of Glynneath Town Hall stating their intentions to work alongside the council in improving the facility. The Council welcomed their formation.

Resident NT addressed the council in person requesting clarity on who decides what items are discussed in closed session.

Councillor Del Morgan stated that the Clerk usually advises on this. He advised we are governed by the Local Government Act 1972 which stipulates that items such as Personnel, Contracts, Legal Matters, or any matters that may give rise to a dispute in the future would usually be discussed in Closed Session.

6. Amendments to the minutes of the ordinary Meeting July 16th, 2019

There were no amendments to the minutes 16th July 2019.

Councillors resolved to approve the minutes of the 16th July 2019 as a true record of that meeting.

7. Matters arising from minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 16th July 2019.

- Minute 8 12c The Mayor reported that there are still some Hire agreements outstanding. Clarification would be sought from the previous Clerk in readiness for the new Clerk, when appointed, to follow up.
- Minute 8 12e The Mayor reported that the new Glynneath Emblem Flag has now been erected at the Town Hall.
- Minute 8 12j Hanging baskets from the Glynneath Training Centre Scheme have been installed as agreed.
- Minute 8 14a the council have instructed a specialist to carry out a tree survey of all public areas owned by GTC.

8. Matters arising from minutes of the Extra-ordinary Meeting held on 17th September 2019

Minute 6 - 2017/18 Annual Return & Audited Accounts - Council further resolved to seek advice from the Wales Audit Office in terms of the submission of the documentation for 2017/18. Councillor Richard Knoyle asked what that relates to. Has it been done? Council agreed to seek clarity from Stuart Hemsley Rice (previous Clerk & RFO).

Minute 8 - Cemetery Regulations

Council considered the NPT Cemetery Regulations and thanked Nick Thomas (Vale Memorials) for his advice about the requirement to set specific regulations for the Cemetery. Council resolved to take further advice and draft new regulations that are specific to Glynneath Town Council and in accordance with guidance from BRAMM (British Register of Accredited Memorial Masons). Councillor Richard Knoyle requested that we seek guidance on structure sizes and types allowed at the cemetery. Councillor Simon Knoyle to meet with NT of Vale Memorials to compile rules and review regulations. Council agreed to use NPT Cemetery Regulations as a guideline.

Minute 9 - Friends of Bethania

Council noted the recent letter from the Friends of Bethania. Council resolved that the Mayor would meet with the Chair of the Friends of Bethania to discuss the matters raised in more detail and that he would report back to Council. Councillor Simon Knoyle met with DE to discuss plans and has invited the group to attend a full meeting for further discussion.

Minute 10 - Hire Agreements & Key Holders

Council agreed to draw up a list of key holders and chase outstanding hire agreements.

Minute 12 - Additional items from the Mayor and Councillors

a) Glynneath Welfare Park – Tree Report

The Mayor reported that the recent Tree Survey in the Welfare Park had estimated the work required being in the region of £3600. Council noted that this would be considered at the next ordinary meeting of Council. The mayor is awaiting 2 further quotations. Council agreed to get works done from reserves due to the H&S implications, as this work was not budgeted for.

b) Christmas Lights 2019

Council resolved that £730 would be committed from the Christmas Lights budget to fixing 2 new lights at Pontwalby, 1 at the Coop and 1 at Llys Yr Ysgol. Councillor Gerry Reynolds raised concerns over the costs of the Christmas lights and asked that these are reviewed at the end of our 3-year lease.

c) Transport to the Health Centre

Council noted that the Older People's Commissioner for Wales had released a survey focusing on transport to health provision. Councillors Carolyn Edwards and Simon Knoyle advised DANSA are renewing the routes.

9. Authorisation of payments.

In the absence of a clerk, full council agreed that Councillor Carolyn Edwards would process online payments. Stuart Hemsley Rice to continue to process the payroll and forward figures to Carolyn on a weekly basis until a new clerk is

appointed. Councillor Gerry Reynolds to be added to the bank mandate and remove Marion Morgan following her formal resignation date in September 2019. Councillor Reynolds stated that he was not happy with comments posted on social media by Marion Morgan in the period between July and September. During this period, she was still legally a Councillor.

10. Report on Council & Committee structures

Council agreed to review after new Councillor vacancies are filled.

11. Councillor Vacancy

The council agreed to advertise Co-option for 2 seats. It was noted that a by-election had been requested for the seat available representing West Central. Councillor Shane McMenamin to update website and social media pages with information relating to it.

12. Report from Finance Committee.

The finance committee met and discussed Budget variations for quarter 1. Council agreed that we need to get quarter 2 figures to discuss further and arrange a meeting in November to review prior to setting a budget for 2020/2021.

13. Reports from Town Councillors

- a) Complaints received about Water running into Ynys Las Crescent from the old Fire Station on Pontneathvaughan Road. County Councillors were aware and making enquiries.
- b) Director of Social Services met Regarding Trem Y Glyn and agreed to conduct a Feasibility study for the option of not closing the home in 2022.

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.