



**Minutes of the Meeting of Glynneath Town Council  
held on a remote basis in accordance with the provisions of  
The Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Meetings) (Wales) Regulations 2020.  
at 6.30pm on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

Councillors Present: Cllr S Knogle (Mayor)

Cllr J Collins	Cllr J Roberts
Cllr H Morgan	Cllr S McMenamin
Cllr S Evans	Cllr M Powell
Cllr R Simons	Cllr D Morgan
Cllr J Evans	

Clerk: Mrs A Thomas

**1. Presiding**

The Mayor, Cllr S Knogle.

**2. To receive item apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllrs G Reynolds (personal), R Knogle (work commitment), Cllr J Gregory (health), C Edwards (personal).

**3. To receive members declarations of interest in respect of the business to be transacted**

Cllr S Knogle	Personal, NPTCBC Member
	Personal, Secretary Glynneath RFC
Cllr D Morgan	Personal, NPTCBC Member
	Personal, One Voice Wales – Potential Work
Cllr J Evans	Personal, Trustee Glynneath Silver Valley Brass Band
Cllr S Evans	Personal, Treasurer Glynneath RFC
Cllr J Roberts	Personal, Trustee Glynneath Silver Valley Brass Band

**4. To receive item Clerk's Report on Public Questions**

None received.

5. **Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

a. **Consider amendments to the Minutes**

None.

b. **Confirm as a true and accurate record**

**Resolved: To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020 as a true and accurate record**

c. **Consider matters arising from the minutes**

No matters arising.

6. **Minutes of the Meeting held remotely on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

a. **Consider amendments to the Minutes**

None.

b. **Confirm as a true and accurate record**

**Resolved: To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2020 as a true and accurate record**

c. **Consider matters arising from the minutes**

No matters arising.

7. **Minutes of the Meeting held remotely on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

a. **Consider amendments to the Minutes**

None.

b. **Confirm as a true and accurate record**

**Resolved: To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2020 as a true and accurate record**

c. **Consider matters arising from the minutes**

No matters arising.

8. **Minutes of the Meeting held remotely on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2020**

a. **Consider amendments to the Minutes**

None.

**b. Confirm as a true and accurate record**

**Resolved: To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2020 as a true and accurate record**

**c. Consider matters arising from the minutes4**

No matters arising.

*(Cllr G Reynolds arrived at the meeting)*

**9. To consider item Finance & Administration:**

**a) To approve item Annual Return for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020**

The Clerk went through the Annual Return and advised Members that she had sought advice from OVW and the WAO in relation to the year 18/19. The Clerk read out the statement that had been included on the Annual Return for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 which advised that as RFO the Clerk would not sign off the figures relating to the year 18/19.

Members were provided with explanations with regards to why the RFO had indicated a 'No' response to some of the statements on the return.

**Resolved: To approve item Annual Return for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020**

**b) To approve item payment schedule as presented**

**Resolved: To approve item payment scheduled as presented**

**c) To consider and approve item Monthly Accounts April, May, June 2020**

**Resolved: To approve item Monthly Accounts April, May, June 2020**

**d) To consider item Cemetery Drive:**

**i) To consider and determine item successful tender for improvement work**

Members were presented with three tenders. The Clerk confirmed the quotes that had been presented.

Following discussion:

**Resolved: To accept Tender B subject to a site meeting with the contractor to confirm the full understanding of the works required and that the tender sum is a true reflection of this work.**

**ii) To consider and determine item funding for cemetery drive improvement work**

Members were advised that the Council had successfully been awarded a Minor Works Grant from NPTCBC up to £10,000. Members discussed how they would fund the remaining balance of the work required. Members were reminded that they had already agreed, in principle, to apply for a loan to fund some of the costs.

Following discussion

**Resolved: To apply for a public works loan to cover 50% of the outstanding balance once the value of the Minor Works grant had been deducted.**

**e) To consider and determine item quotations for market valuation of Bethania Community Centre**

The Clerk outlined the current position with regards to what quotes had been obtained.

Members agreed to proceed with the quote obtained and to also pursue further quotes to have a fair valuation of the community centre.

**Resolved: To proceed with the valuation at the cost outlined in the report.**

**f) To consider item match funding for Urban Foundry – improvement to Community plan at a cost of £3,450**

Some Members expressed their concern about the transparency of the process and the fact that no other quotes had been obtained for the work.

Some Members indicated that due to the specialist nature of the work required and the required knowledge of the area that further quotes were not required. However, it was generally accepted that the Town Council needed to continue to operate in an open and transparent manner and this should not be compromised.

Following discussion

**Resolved: The Clerk to seek advice with regards to the legality of accepting the quote attached. To grant plenary powers to the Parks & Open Spaces Committee to consider the advice received and to determine how to proceed in response to the advice obtained.**

**g) To approve item Festive Lighting quotation installation at a maximum cost of £3,430 (include switch on) (Year 3/5 year agreement)**

Members noted that there were also two additional columns which were lit the previous year and would need to be included in this year's display – notably Aberdare Road and Merthyr Road

**Resolved: To approve item Festive Lighting installation at a maximum cost of £3430.00**

**10. To consider item approval of Glynneath draft Grant Scheme**

Members were reminded that this item had been previously raised in order to consider a uniform approach to grants from the Town Council.

Members noted that grants were usually considered twice a year – January and July.

Members agreed that an application from a body outside of Glynneath must 'significantly' benefit the residents for it to be considered.

**Resolved: To approve item Glynneath Grant Scheme as presented**

**11. To consider item new Town Council website**

Members were in agreement that the website needed updating. The Clerk suggested a small working group be formed to consider this item in further detail.

**Resolved: To set up a working group to consider a new Town Council website. Cllrs S McMenamin, D Morgan and J Collins to be members of the working group**

**12. To note for information correspondence NPTCBC, Head of Legal Services – Notice of Modification Order No 2/19 2019**

Members were advised that this item was for information only.

Members briefly considered the practical process of returning the land to the condition required in line with the modification order.

The Clerk was asked to add the 'process for putting the land back to a public right of way' to the next appropriate agenda.

**13. To consider item correspondence Bethan Sayed AS/MS – Bethania Community Centre**

The Clerk advised that with regards to question 1 in the correspondence, the Clerk had already addressed the issue raised in direct a correspondence sent to the Friends of Bethania, following the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

Some Members expressed their concerns with regards to the involvement of the AM in a democratic process. Further, queried what information the AM had been provided in correspondence from the Friends of Bethania about the items raised.

Members were in agreement that the Town Council response would be factual and address the questions directly.

Following discussion

**Resolved: The Clerk to draft a response and circulate to Members before the response is sent to Bethan Sayed AS/MS**

**14. To consider item review of all Council assets (Cllr H Morgan)**

Members were asked to undertake a review of all Council assets. This would highlight any issues that are currently present and would form part of the Council's commitment to ensure that the community are receiving best value for their precept.

**Resolved: To reviews all assets at the appropriate committee meetings of the Town Council**

**15. To consider item Mr D Davies – length of service to the town (Cllr S Knoyle)**

Members were advised that Mr Davies had recently stood down from his position opening and closing the public toilets within Glynneath. This is a role he had undertaken for 32 years and notably the toilets were open 365 days/year.

Members expressed their sincere gratitude for Mr Davies's dedication and agreed that he should be thanked with an appropriate gesture.

**Resolved: The Clerk to arrange a small plaque and ceremony to thank Mr Davies (in line with social distancing guidelines)**

**16. To consider item Glynneath Canal (Cllr S McMenamin)**

Members were asked to consider taking an active interest in the canal. This would also support the bio-diversity plan of the Town Council.

**Resolved: To defer this item to the Park & Open Spaces Committee for further consideration**

**17. To consider item Glynneath Skatepark – to assume responsibility for the site (Cllr S Knoyle)**

**Resolved: To defer this item to the Parks & Open Spaces Committee for consideration**

**18. To consider item planning applications:**

**a) App. No P2020/0195**

*(It was noted that both Cllrs D Morgan and S Knoyle reserve the right to consider the application at NPTCBC councillors in light of receiving any new information on this application)*

Members discussed the concerns that had been raised by residents and Cllr H Morgan read out correspondence in relation to this. Members agreed that investigations should be made in response to the concerns about the land that the application is in relation too.

**Resolved: Glynneath Town Council is concerned about resident's reports of illegal tipping of chemical waste on the site and of its historical use as a domestic and industrial landfill site since the 1940's. The Town Council would like to see a thorough investigation of the land for actual and potential contamination of the site down to its natural ground level.**

*(Cllrs D Morgan and S Knoyle did not vote on this item)*

Members agreed that a covering letter should be sent with the above observation to the Head of Planning. It should detail that irrespective of the planning application, the Town Council request that NPTCBC investigate the concerns, or provide evidence to show that this has already been undertaken.

**Resolved: To forward a copy of the above agreed observation with a covering letter to the Head of Planning, NPTCBC.**

*(Cllrs D Morgan and S Knoyle did not vote on this item)*

**b) App No. P2020/0534**

**Resolved: No Objection**

**c) App. No P2020/0562**

**Resolved: No Objection**

**d) App No P2020/0544**

**Resolved: No Objection**

**e) App No. P2020/0592**

**Resolved: No Objection.  
Observation – Ensure that boundaries in relation to application are carefully considered and checked**

**19. To consider item Reports:**

**a) County Borough Councillor Reports**

Cllr D Morgan updated Members with regards to traffic concerns on Merthyr Road and Pontwalby.

Cllr D Morgan advised of concerns about a 90m stack proposed in Hirwaun which may affect Glynneath. Members were advised that the preapplication consultation had officially ended, but it was generally agreed that members should send a letter opposing the stack which could have affects on the residents of Glynneath. Members also asked that a letter be sent to RCTBCB Planning Department asking to be advised when the formal application is received.

**b) Town Council Councillors Reports**

Cllr J Collins provided an update on a meeting that councillors had recently been invited to which had been arranged by a few local residents. The meeting discussed items relating to the Welfare Park. Members agreed to place the issues raised before the next Parks & Open Spaces Committee.

Cllr J Roberts raised an issue concerning the lack of grass cutting around areas of Glynneath.

**c) Clerk's Report**

The Clerk advised that it was envisaged that the Town Hall would be opening shortly in line with government guidelines.

**20. To confirm date, time, venue for next meeting**

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September at 6.30pm to be held remotely. The Annual Meeting will take place first, followed by an ordinary Full Council meeting.

*The meeting concluded at 8.45pm.*