



**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Glynneath Town Council  
In the Council Chamber, Bethania Community Centre, High Street, Glynneath  
at 7.00pm on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

Councillors Present: Cllr S Knogle (Mayor)

Cllr G Reynolds	Cllr J Collins
Cllr C Edwards	Cllr J Roberts
Cllr H Morgan	Cllr S McMenamin
Cllr J Gregory	Cllr S Evans
Cllr M Powell	Cllr R Simons

Councillors Not Present: Cllrs D Morgan, J Evans and R Knogle.

Clerk: Mrs A Thomas

**1. Presiding**

The Mayor, Cllr S Knogle.

**2. Mayor's Announcements**

The Mayor informed Members that there was a Charity Concert taking place on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March and any proceeds raised would be distributed to the Mayor's charities.

Members were reminded that the street market will be taking place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month.

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

Apologies were received from Cllrs D Morgan (Personal), J Evans (Personal) and R Knogle (Personal).

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

Cllr C Edwards	NPTCBC Member
Cllr S Knogle	NPTCBC Member
Cllr M Powell	Secretary, Friends of the Town Hall
Cllr J Roberts	Trustee, Silver Valley Brass Band

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

Mr N Thomas read out a question to the Mayor.

*"Would Councillors agree with me and other residents of Glynneath that a commitment to spend £1,000 on kitchen upgrades for the community centre is a not a good use of council funds?"*

*The building is unlikely to attract the kind of funding necessary to do the work required, a small percentage of the population of Glynneath use the building regularly giving the lie to the claim of community outreach which could be achieved far more effectively at the Town Hall.*

*Isn't it the case that this money would be better spent by the council on maintaining assets that are more likely to remain in council ownership in the medium to long term?"*

The Mayor thanked Mr Nicholas for his question and advised that he would respond in writing within 10 working days.

No other questions were received.

**6. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

**a. Consider amendments to the Minutes**

No amendments were made.

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

**Resolved: To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020 as a true and accurate record.**

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

No matters arising.

**7. Minutes of the Meeting of the Community Centre and Town Hall Committee held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020**

**a. To consider amendments to the Minutes**

No amendments were made.

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

**Resolved: To confirm the Minutes of the Community Centre and Town Hall Meeting held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020 as a true and accurate record**

**c. To approve recommendations from the meeting**

Minute 4

**Resolved: To approve the recommendation under Minute 4**

Minute 5

**Resolved: To approve the recommendation under Minute 5**

Minute 6 (b)

Members were reminded that this item had been ongoing for several months. Members were advised that the community centre had been subject to a recent Environmental Health Inspection however the formal report had not yet been received.

Some Members expressed their concern that the report would advise of improvements that need to be made which have not been factored into the quotation received for works to the kitchen.

Concern was also expressed about the limitations on the quote that had been received. There were some costs in the quote which could not be expressly stated, therefore the full cost was not yet known.

Following discussion

**Resolved: To continue to earmark £1,000 for improvements to the kitchen. Await the Environmental Health Report to determine if further works are required. To seek detailed quotations following receipt of the Environmental Health Report for required works to the kitchen.**

Minute 8

**Resolved: To approve the recommendation under Minute 8**

**8. To receive item update from Friends of Bethania – progress of Business Plan**

Members were provided with a written update from the Friends of Bethania as requested at the Town Hall and Community Centre Committee meeting.

Some Members expressed their concern at the term 'fluid' outline. Further the timescale for the feasibility study at 14 weeks was also a concern.

Members queried how improvements to Bethania Community Centre would 'revitalise' the High Street, and if there was evidence supporting the claims made concerning footfall on the High Street. Members queried where the business plan fitted into the vision of the Friends of Bethania?

The Clerk reminded Members of the progress of this item through Full Council since its first deliberation in November 2019.

Some Members had assumed that a Business Plan would include a cashflow study, answer questions about sustainability and address future ownership of the building.

Members recognised that a feasibility study would most likely need to be carried out to support the drafting of a business plan.

Following discussion

**Resolved: To invite the Friends of Bethania to the next ordinary Full Council meeting to present their vision for the building to Full Council. To provide factual information pertaining to their vision and also information pertaining to costs, maintenance, sustainability with a view to at that meeting making a firm decision with regards to timescale for a receipt of the business plan.**

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

- a. **To approve item Monthly Accounting Records – statement of monthly transactions and performance of expenditure against budget December 2019**

**Resolved: To approve monthly Accounting Records December 2019**

- b. **To approve item draft Standing Orders**

The Clerk went through the Standing Orders and outlined the changes.

**Resolved: To approve item Standing Orders**

- c. **To consider and approve authorisation of payments to be made**

Members were presented with a list of payments for authorisation.

**Resolved: To approve authorisation of payments presented**

- d. **To consider and approve item Selar Extension Fund Applicants as presented (to follow)**

Members were advised that due to administration one application had been overlooked during the last consideration. Members were asked to consider and approve as recommended.

**Resolved: To approve item Selar Extension Fund Applicants as presented**

**e. To consider item request for funding – Peniel Silver Lining**

The Clerk advised Members of the current remaining balance for grants in the budget.

Members were asked to consider setting up a criteria for awarding grants so that grants could be considered on a fair basis.

Members considered the request for funding presented. Members advised that usually grants are considered at the Full Council meeting in January, however it was acknowledged that the request was received in January.

**Resolved: To award £200 to Peniel Silver Lining**

**Resolved: To set up a Working Group to draft grant criteria – Cllrs C Edwards, S McMenamin and J Collins to be members of this group**

**10. To consider item correspondence received**

**a. Email correspondence Dr. Liz Bickerton – request to attend a future meeting of Full Council - Waterfalls Study**

Members agreed that as there was already a presentation planned for the next Full Council meeting, it would be a good idea for nominated councillors to meet with Dr. Bickerton to determine if/how Glynneath Town Council could assist with the study.

**Resolved: Cllrs S McMenamin, S Knoyle and R Simons to meet with Dr. Bickerton and report back to a future meeting of Full Council**

**b. Letter correspondence from Head of Legal Services NPTCBC – proposed creation of a public bridleway and the extinguishment of part of an unclassified highway in the vicinity of the former railway bridge and Maesgwyn Farm. Community of Blaengwrach and Glynneath**

**Resolved: To note for information**

**c. Email correspondence LDP, NPTCBC – consultation to the Draft Review Report**

Members were advised that they can respond as individual councillors if they wish to do so. Also, a request was made to place the link to the consultation on the Town Council website and Facebook pages.

**d. Letter correspondence from N Thomas – proposed Friends of Glynneath Town Hall**

Members commented that they would assume that same guidelines would be applied to the Friends of Glynneath Town Hall, that has been applied to the Friends of Bethania.

Some Members expressed their wish to also have a confirmation of the vision of the Friends of Glynneath Town Hall and a business plan.

Members thanked the group for the offer of assistance.

**Resolved: To accept the assistance offered by the Friends of Glynneath Town Hall**

**11. To consider item review of the electoral arrangements of the County Borough of Neath Port Talbot - <https://ldbc.gov.wales/reviews/11-19/neath-port-talbot-draft-proposals>**

Members noted that there was a proposal to merge Blaengwrach with Glynneath electoral wards.

**Resolved: To note for information**

**12. To consider item renewal of SLA agreement with Neath Port Talbot CBC – School Crossing Patrol Officer 2020-2021**

Members agreed that they wished to continue with the financial support of the School Crossing Patrol Officer for 2020-2021. It was confirmed that this had been budgeted for in 2020-2021.

**Resolved: To renew the SLA agreement with Neath Port Talbot CBC – School Crossing Patrol Officer 2020-2021**

**13. To consider item VE Day (Cllr J Gregory)**

Members were advised that the May Day Bank Holiday would be moved to Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020. Members were advised that around the town there could be various celebrations taking place for the commemoration of VE Day.

Members were asked what they Town Council's intention was with regards to VE Day.

It was agreed that the Clerk would seek information from various other organisations within the town and report back to a future meeting of Full Council.

**14. To consider item planning applications as presented.**

None received.

**15. To receive item Report from Town Councillors**

Members expressed their concern about dog fouling within the Welfare Park. It was queried who would be responsible for picking it up? Further, there are doggy bottles placed within the park which contain free dog bags, but these are being vandalised on a regular basis. Members agreed to place this item on the next Parks Committee meeting.

Members were advised that the Community Car Funding scheme was coming to an end in March.

Members requested that the fencing around the cemetery be repaired. Members agree to discuss this at the next Cemetery committee meeting.

**16. To receive item Report from County Councillors**

Members were advised that the new bus stops had been smashed.

**17. To receive item Report from Town Clerk**

Nothing to report.

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

The next ordinary meeting of the Town Council will take place on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00pm at the Town Council Chamber, Bethania Community Centre, High Street, Glynneath.

***Introduction of Standing Order 1(c) – by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted members of the press and public shall be excluded.***

**19. Minutes of the Meeting of the Human Resources Committee held on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

**a. To consider amendments to the Minutes**

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

**Resolved: To confirm the minutes of the Human Resources Committee held on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2020 as a true and accurate record**

**c. To approve recommendations from the meeting**

**Resolved: To approve all recommendations from the meeting**

**20. To consider item staff vacancies – Community Café**

**Resolved: To defer support of an application for improvements to the community café until receipt and discussion of the environmental health report**

**Resolved: To advertise for a causal placement in the café**

*The meeting concluded at 8.30pm*