



**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Glynneath Town Council
In the Council Chamber, Bethania Community Centre, High Street, Glynneath
at 7.00pm on Tuesday 14th January 2020**

Councillors Present: Cllr S Knogle (Mayor)

Cllr Dr D Morgan	Cllr J Collins
Cllr C Edwards	Cllr R Knogle
Cllr H Morgan	Cllr S McMenamin
Cllr J Gregory	Cllr S Evans
Cllr M Powell	Cllr R Simons

Councillors Not Present: Cllrs J Roberts, J Evans and G Reynolds

Clerk: Mrs A Thomas
Assistant Clerk: Ms J van Tonder

1. Presiding

The Mayor, Cllr S Knogle.

2. Mayor's Announcements

None received.

3. To receive item apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs J Roberts (Personal), J Evans (Personal) and G Reynolds (Personal).

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

Cllr D Morgan	NPTCBC Member Potential work with One Voice Wales
Cllr C Edwards	NPTCBC Member
Cllr H Morgan	Treasurer, Friends of Glynneath Library
Cllr S Knogle	NPTCBC Member

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

No questions received.

6. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 12th November 2019

a. Consider amendments to the Minutes

Page 1, Councillors present - To insert Cllrs R Knoyle and M Powell as present

Page 2, Minute 9 - Members confirmed that Cllr R Knoyle left the room for this item, and did not take part in discussion or voting on this item.

b. Confirm as a true and accurate record

Resolved: To confirm the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 12th November 2019 as a true and accurate record with above amendments

c. Consider matters arising from the minutes

Page 2, Minute 7(8a) – It was confirmed that the work to the trees had been carried out.

Page 2, Minute 7(13b) – Members confirmed there were no updates on this item.

7. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 10th December 2019

a. Consider amendments to the Minutes

None.

b. Confirm as a true and accurate record

Resolved: To confirm the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 10th December 2019 as a true and accurate record

c. Consider matters arising from the minutes

Page 5, Minute 7(f) – the Clerk advised that she had sought advice from the relevant department at NPTCBC. It was confirmed that the Town Council are under a duty to maintain the building at the standard at which the building was at when it was first listed. If this was not done essentially, NPTCBC could bring an enforcement order against the Council to do so. If this was not adhered to, NPTCBC could complete the maintenance works themselves and either recoup the cost from the Town Council or force the sale of the asset to the cost. However, in today's economic climate it was unlikely that NPTCBC would have the funding to carry out the works and any sale of the asset would likely not result in the recouping of all the costs associated with any work.

8. To consider item correspondence received:

- a. Email correspondence from Ms A Hinder, Principal Council Tax Officer, NPTCBC – Precept and Council Tax Base 2020/2021

Resolved: To note for information

- b. Email correspondence from One Voice Wales – to confirm Buckingham Palace Garden Party Nomination

Resolved: To nominate the current (outgoing) Mayor, Cllr Simon Knoyle to be entered into the draw

9. To consider item Finance & Administration:

- a. To consider item Minutes of the Finance & Audit Committee meeting held on Wednesday 8th January 2020

Amendments to minutes:

Page 1 – To inset Cllr S Evans as present

Resolved: To accept the minutes of the Audit & Finance Committee meeting held on 8th January 2020 as a true and accurate record with above amendment

Resolved: To approve all recommendations of the Audit & Finance Committee meeting

- b. To approve item Glynneath Town Council Precept for the year 2020/2021 at £236,060.00

The Clerk outlined the content of the budget presented.

Members questioned if the items within the budget could be varied at all during the year. The Clerk advised that if there was suitable justification and the budget had been monitored appropriately then money could be vired between budgets if approved by Council.

Members raised concerns about the increase in the budget, in particular relation to the £25,000 set aside for maintenance of Bethania Community Centre (the cost of the roof repair work).

Cllr S McMenamin asked to note that he asked that inspection of the Community Centre roof takes place first.

An amendment was put forward to the proposed precept by Cllr D Morgan.

Cllr Morgan suggested that a loan should be applied for up to the sum of £45,000, to cover the cost of the roof repairs and cemetery road and that this could be match funded by NPTCBC Members community funds. He also put forward to increase the income by £2,000 to off-set the cost of any loan.

The Clerk advised that loans would not be approved for the maintenance of buildings. Further, there was no evidence to suggest that an additional £2,000 income was possible. The projected income for 2020-2021 had been based on current figures from 2019-2020.

Following discussion

It was proposed and seconded that a sum of £45,000 be put forward as the loan figures, to reduce the precept by £25,000 and increase the income by £2,000, and use the £10,000 community funds from NPTCBC to offset the cemetery road costs. Thus reducing overall Precept.

A recorded vote was requested:

For: Cllrs D Morgan, C Edwards and J Gregory

Against: Cllrs S McMenemy, H Morgan, M Powell, J Collins, S Evans, R Knoyle, R Simons

Abstain: Cllr S Knoyle

The motion was not approved.

Following further discussion it was proposed and seconded and

Resolved: To set the Precept of Glynneath Town Council for 2020/2021 at £236,060.00

A recorded vote was requested:

For: Cllrs S McMenemy, R Simons, H Morgan, M Powell, J Collins, S Knoyle, S Evans, R Knoyle

Against: Cllrs D Morgan, C Edwards, J Gregory

Abstain: None

c. To consider and approve authorisation of payments to be made (to follow)

Members were provided with a payment schedule for authorisation of payments.

Resolved: To approve schedule as presented

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

Members were provided with a list of applicants and whether or not they met the criteria of the fund.

Resolved: To approve funding as presented for the Selar Community Extension Fund at £100/successful applicant

10. To consider item review of Standing Orders (Clerk)

Members agreed to set up a small working group to identify and consider any required amendments to current Standing Orders. Cllrs J Colins, S McMenamin and D Morgan to meet to discuss with the Clerk and report back to a future meeting of Council.

11. To consider item Committee vacancies – to appoint Members to fill vacancies

Members were provided with a list of current committees, membership and the current vacancies. Following discussion the following appointments were made to fill the vacancies:

Resolved: Cemetery – Cllrs H Morgan and S Evans
Finance & Audit – Cllr R Simons
Human Resources – Cllr J Collins
Parks & Open Spaces – Cllrs S McMenamin and R Simons
Project Action Group – Cllrs J Collins, M Powell and H Morgan
Town Hall/Community Centre – Cllr S Evans

12. To consider item consideration of a time frame to receive business plan – Friends of Bethania (Cllr M Powell)

The Mayor invited a member of the public present (who is also a member of Friends of Bethania) to provide an update.

Members were advised that the Business Plan was proposed to be conducted in three stages. A realistic timescale would be about 8-10 weeks for the first stage to be completed.

Following discussion

Members were reminded to consider declaring an interest in this item if appropriate to them.

Resolved: To defer this item to a meeting of the Town Hall/Community Centre Committee for consideration

13. To consider item s.6 Environment (Wales) Act 2016 – duty to comply (Clerk)

Members were advised that this duty applied to Glynneath Town Council. Members were advised they needed to draft a report asap to comply with the Act.

Cllr J Collins agreed to work with the Clerk to draft an appropriate report for consideration and approval at a future Full Council meeting.

14. To consider item Community Plan (Cllr S Knoyle)

Cllr Knoyle advised that he would place a draft Community Plan on the next appropriate meeting for consideration by Members.

15. To consider item planning applications as presented

a. P2019/5674 – No Objections

16. To receive item Report from Town Councillors

The Clerk advised Members that they could not make any decisions under this item as notice had not been given of the items that would be brought forward. At future meeting, it would be a good practice for any Members wishing to bring an item forward under this agenda item to provide notice of it on the agenda.

Cllr C Edwards advised that the work to the pelican crossing had now started. Further there was new equipment going into the park.

Cllr R Simons advised that he was due to meet with Mr J Griffiths, NPTCBC about footpaths in Glynneath and that he would bring an up-to-date map into the Town Council office.

17. To receive item Report from County Councillors

Members advised that there was still an outstanding Boundary Review from the Electoral Commission. Members agreed to place the item for consideration on the next Full Council meeting.

18. To receive item Report from Town Clerk

The Clerk advised that there had been an incident where there had been unauthorised access to the chapel. However, steps had now been taken to ensure that the risk of this happening again was minimal.

The Clerk confirmed that a recent social media post referring to the valuation of the building, did not include access to the Chapel area. The Mayor confirmed this and read out an email from the surveyor who confirmed that he had only accessed the Café area and the perimeter of the building.

Members were disappointed that information pertaining to the building had been circulated within the public domain without the knowledge that this item was taking place. The Clerk confirmed that access to the building had been gained during the café opening hours so there was little the Town Council could do in response to this.

19. To confirm date, time, venue for next meeting

The next ordinary Full Council meeting to take place in line with Standing Orders (2nd Tuesday of the month at 7.00pm in Council Chambers.)

The meeting concluded at 8.30pm