



**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 26th May 2020**

Councillors Present: Cllr S Knoyle (Mayor)

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

Absent: Cllr J Gregory

Clerk: Mrs A Thomas

1. Presiding

The Mayor, Cllr S Knoyle.

2. To receive item apologies for absence

None received.

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

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

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

Two questions were received from Members of the public. The Mayor read out each question:

1. Instead of paying out such a large amount of money knowing there is endless more repairs needed, why not leave it as it is with scaffolding and try to sell it, give it away or even give it to the Friends of Bethania under a peppercorn lease that way it wouldn't cost the council any more money and the building could be kept with volunteers.
It would save the council more money in the future and would show that the council are listening to the majority of the community where they want funds spent elsewhere otherwise it will cost more and more money in the coming years.
2. Do we have any indication, from the previous assessments of the chapel roof, if it is likely that further 'essential' work may be revealed and if so what sum of money would the council consider too much if further essential repairs are required?

The Mayor thanked the members of the public for their questions. The Mayor advised that Item 5(d) on the agenda relates to the exterior repairs required and the costs associated with the repair work. The public were advised that the questions posed were likely to be answered under item 5(d).

The Clerk confirmed if members of the public were not satisfied with the response received they could contact the Clerk following the meeting for further information.

5. To consider item Finance & Administration:

a) To approve item Annual Accounts for the Year End 31st March 2020

The Clerk went through the accounts that had been presented to Council. Members were advised that the Council had spent c£17k over budget during 2019-2020.

The year-end carryover was approximately £25k. However, it was acknowledged that the Council had still not yet received an indication with regards to the WAO Bill for the Public Interest Report or the standard audit for 18/19.

Members were advised that there were current issues with some of the utilities invoices. The accounts could not be accessed, therefore the budget to which the utilities have been attributed may need to be amended in the future. The Clerk advised she would report any amendments to Council for future approval if and when required. This would not affect the overall year end balance.

Following discussion

Resolved: To approve the Annual Accounts for the Year End 31st March 2020

b) To consider correspondence Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales – Publication of member remuneration – non-compliance 2018/2019

The Clerk advised that the return had now been sent promptly in response to receiving this correspondence. Also, this year's return had already been submitted before the 30th September deadline for submission.

Members were informed that the Clerk had replied to the IRPW outlining reasons for the delay, which stipulated the tumultuous year that the Town Council underwent in 2019 including the Report of Public Interest being published by the WAO and also the change in Clerk.

Members were in agreement with the response that the Clerk had sent. However, acknowledged that a formal response should now be sent from the Council.

Resolved: To formally write to the IRPW acknowledging the non-compliance and indicate the steps that have now been taken to mitigate this.

c) To approve item renewal of Town Council Insurance at a cost of £2749.08

Resolved: To approve item renewal of Town Council Insurance at a cost of £2749.08

d) To approve item exterior repair work to Bethania Community Centre at the sum of £19,855.00

Cllr S Knoyle outlined the current situation with regards to where the Town Council currently stands in terms of the required repairs to the roof. Members were advised that a meeting was planned with the contractor on Wednesday 27th May, where it was intended that the contractor would confirm if there had been any further deterioration and that the work as outlined in the original tender was still applicable.

Members expressed their concern about the state of the current roof and queried who would be responsible if the inspection at the meeting recommended further works. Also concerns were raised about, when the work was underway, if the cost increased, where would this funding come from?

Members suggested that the bare minimum repairs should be undertaken to ensure that Health & Safety requirements are met, however the cost would need to be proportionate to this. The majority of Members suggested that the full scale of repair work outlined in the tender could not be justified.

Members were concerned about any ongoing scaffolding costs that could be incurred.

The paramount concern of members was the Health & Safety aspect of the building and ensuring that residents, persons accessing the building and surrounding buildings' risk of harm were reduced by any work carried out.

Members outlined the investment that had been made in the building since it was purchased by the Town Council. Members questioned the commitment to the ongoing and future costs of the building and were concerned by what further works would be required in the future.

Following discussion

(A recorded vote was requested)

Resolved: **The contractor to carry out an inspection on the roof and to agree a suitable course of works at the bare minimum level to ensure health and safety requirements are met, up to a maximum cost of £13,885.**

For: Cllrs S McMenamin, S Knoyle, J Roberts, M Powell, S Evans, R Simons, C Edwards, H Morgan, G Reynolds, J Collins, R Knoyle, J Evans, D Morgan

Against: None

Abstain: None

Resolved: **At the next available Full Council meeting, to discuss a way forward for the future of the Bethania Community Centre/Chapel building**

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

Against: Cllrs D Morgan, C Edwards

Abstain: Cllr G Reynolds

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

Tuesday 23rd June, 6.30pm – to be held remotely

The meeting concluded at 8.00pm.