

Minutes of Remote Extraordinary Meeting of Full Council Held at 18:30 on Wednesday, 22nd September 2021

Present

Cllr Idris Williams (IW) - Chairman, Cllr John Hughes (JH), Cllr Tom Muller (TM) - attended using mobile phone, Cllr Trystan Rhys Griffiths (TRG), Cllr Dylan Jones (DJ), Cllr Harry Davies (HWD), Cllr Jo Hillier-Raikes (JH-R) and Cllr Ceri Reeves (CR)

Cheryl John (CJ) - Clerk

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Rob Lewis (RL) but no apologies were received from Cllr Pararajasingham Sasiruban (PS).

2. Declarations of Interest

IW: Governor - Maesteg Comprehensive School, Member - Maesteg Town Council (MTC) and Maesteg Celtic Rugby Football Club (RFC)

JH: Employed by Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) as Branch Secretary Unison, Director of Bridgend Lifesavers Credit Union, Member of the Co-op Group National Members' Council and Governor - Garth and Plasnewydd Primary Schools

TM: Child attends Cwmfelin Primary School and a section of Right of Way (RoW) No 9 is on his land

TRG: Employed by ACT Training, Farmer at Llest Wen and Governor - Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd

JH-R: Town Centre Manager for Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council and Owner of Pentre Farm Holiday Accommodation

CR: Employed by Welsh Local Government Association and Bridgend Care and Repair Service and Member - Maesteg WI

3. Consideration of Audit Wales Report 2016/17 to 2018/19

The report was discussed and Council agreed its findings.

Action: Clerk to write back to auditor addressing all proposed recommendations and next steps.

4. Support for Clerk to Attain CiLCA Qualification

The Clerk advised Council that the new Elections Wales Act 2021 introduced the General Power of Competence (GPOC) which will allow eligible councils to be more innovative and remove the need to identify a specific power in order to undertake an activity.

To become an eligible council for GPOC, a council would need:

- (i) At least two thirds of the total members declared to be elected whether at ordinary election or by-election.
- (ii) Clerk to hold recognised qualification
- (iii) Council to satisfy audit condition:
 - (1) An unqualified audit in the opinion of the Auditor General for Wales (AGW)
 - (2) The opinion to have been received by the Council during the twelve-month period ending on the day on which the council passes the resolution to become an eligible council.
 - (3) The AGW's opinion on the Council's accounts which immediately preceded the opinion mentioned above is also an unqualified opinion.

Community and Town Councils will also have a duty to consider training from 5th May 2022 for Councillors and staff and publish the first training plans by November 2022.

Council gave approval for the Clerk to start CiLCA at the end of September 2021 with completion hopefully in twelve months.

Actions:

- **Members asked the Clerk to do a report each month stating the number of additional hours spent undertaking the necessary work so that approval can be given for remuneration.**
- **The Clerk was also asked to make enquiries with One Voice Wales and the Society of Local Council Clerks regarding the suggested salary for a Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer to a Community Council of this size and budget.**

Meeting closed at 8pm.

Chairperson Date