



Minutes of the Meeting of the
STAFF AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
held on **9 DECEMBER 2019**

PRESENT: Chair: Councillor Darren Sterry

Councillors: As per Council Meeting

Officers: As per Council Meeting

256/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

As per Council meeting.

257/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

No Declarations of Interest had been made by Members pertaining to this committee.

258/19 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee held on 11th November 2019 be received as a true record and signed by the Chair.

259/19 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

There were none.

260/19 POLICE MATTERS:

PCSO Steph Jones had submitted her apologies and provided a confidential incident report for Members' information that had been circulated.

Councillor Dave Mackie reported a couple of recent incidents involving a cold caller at his home address and hay bales being set on fire in the field opposite his house.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the incident report and updates.

261/19 HIGHWAYS ISSUES:

John Griffiths, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, had been unable to attend the meeting and had submitted his apologies.

Members requested an update on the review of the speed limit on the B5125 and referred to an untidy footpath in Circular Drive and persistent dog fouling in Overlea Drive that required attention.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to notes the updates.

262/19 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ELECTIONS (WALES) BILL:

The Clerk and Financial Officer had circulated a copy of the Written Statement and summarised the key changes that would affect the Community Council. The closing date for comments had been Friday 3rd January 2020.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the Written Statement and the proposed changes.

263/19 FIREWORKS:

The Community Council had considered a motion about the restricted use of fireworks and the impact on animals and vulnerable people. Councillor George Hardcastle advised that this matter would also be discussed by the County Council the following day.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to support the motion and in particular:

- To require all public firework displays within the local authority boundaries to be advertised in advance of the event, allowing residents to take precautions for their animals and vulnerable people
- To actively promote a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people – including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks
- To write to the Welsh Government urging them to utilise any levers at their disposal to mitigate any negative impacts on animals and vulnerable people of the hosting of fireworks displays
- To write to the UK Government urging them to introduce legislation to limit the maximum noise level of fireworks to 90dB for those sold to the public for private displays
- To encourage local suppliers of fireworks to stock “quieter” fireworks for public display

264/19 LOCAL ELECTRICITY BILL:

The Clerk and Financial Officer had circulated information about a campaign for the Local Electricity Bill and a request for the Community Council to lend its support to the campaign. She also referred to the requirements of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and the Council’s need to produce an Action Plan to show how the Community Council had contributed towards climate change etc. A lengthy discussion ensued about the pros and cons of the right to supply local energy to local people.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to reject the motion to support the national community campaign.

265/19 CONSULTATIONS:

The Clerk and Financial Officer had circulated information about the Welsh Government Consultation: ‘A More Equal Wales – Commencing the Socio-Economic Duty’ and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner Strategy Review.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the consultations.

266/19 CLERK AND FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT:

The Clerk and Financial Officer advised of the following:

- Kevin Griffiths, Senior Maintenance Officer, had recently completed a three-day play inspection course and exam.
- The office would be closed on Thursday 12th December due to staff being employed on election duties.
- The office would close at midday on Friday 20th December until Friday 3rd January 2020 for the Christmas period.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the updates.

267/19 MEMBERS INFORMATION ITEMS:

There were none.