

BARRY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE, POLICY & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY, 17 JANUARY 2011 AT 7.00PM

PRESENT: Councillor T C Stenstrom (Chairperson) together with Councillors B Brooks, G D Davey, P Drake, S C Egan, J Evans, A D Hampton, N P Hodges, S A Hodges, K Kemp and K Kuhnell (Town Mayor – ex-officio).

ALSO PRESENT: Derek Wolfe – Executive Officer
Mark Sims – Responsible Finance Officer
Amy Bardsley – Administration
Angie Norman – Office Supervisor
Councillor Howard Hamilton – Chair of the Resources Committee

F277. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J E Charles, L M Payne and S T Wiliam.

F278. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Drake declared personal interests in relation to all agenda items regarding the Memorial Hall & Theatre Trust by virtue of being a Trustee and in relation to all agenda items regarding the GMB Union, by virtue of being an employee of the GMB.

F279. MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEES MEETING HELD ON 13 SEPTEMBER 2010

Councillor N Hodges asked why no report on Flag Flying Days had been included in the agenda as had been agreed in minute no. F262. Councillor Stenstrom advised that a meeting had been requested with the Trust's Negotiating Team to resolve certain issues, but expected that a report would be submitted at the Committee's next ordinary meeting in April.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Finance, Policy & General Purposes Committee's last meeting held on 13 September 2010 be approved and signed as a correct record.

F280. BUDGET MONITORING REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2010

The Committee received the budget monitoring report for December 2010 advising Councillors of actual income and expenditure up to the end of month nine in the 2010/11 financial year.

RESOLVED: that

1. the budget monitoring report covering income and expenditure during the first nine months of the 2010/11 financial year be received;
2. the virements listed in the report totalling £17,605 be approved;
3. the projected net underspend of £57,859 as at 31 March 2011 be noted.

F281. **SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS FOR JANUARY 2011**

Members were provided with the schedule of payments for January 2011 consisting of direct debits and cheque numbers 106388 to 106407 inclusive, in the total amount of £6,165.08.

Councillor N Hodges asked for clarification on cheque number 106396 with regards to purchasing road closed signs, rock salt and an ice melt spreader. The Office Supervisor explained that the signs had been purchased following a Health and Safety inspection and that the rock salt and ice melt spreader had been purchased due to the treacherous condition of the roads at the Cemetery resulting from extreme weather.

RESOLVED: that the schedule of payments for January 2011 consisting of direct debits and cheques numbered 106388 to 106407 inclusive, in the total amount of £6,165.08, be approved.

F282. **EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT FOR 2009/2010**

The Committee was informed of the completion of the external audit by Mazars LLP for the year ending 31 March 2010.

RESOLVED: that the contents of the report following the completion of the external audit by Mazars LLP for the year ending 31 March 2010 be received and noted.

F283. **INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT 2010/2011 (INTERIM)**

Members were provided with the Internal Auditors interim report on the Town Council's accounts and accounting processes.

RESOLVED: that the internal auditors interim report on the Town Council for 2010/11 be received and noted.

F284. **REFERENCES FROM OTHER COMMITTEES**

The Committee gave consideration to specific proposals made by each of the Council's service Committees.

1. **Amenities Committee**

Councillor Brooks requested that the sum of £3,493 held in an earmarked Special Project Reserve since 2007/08 be released to enable savings to be made at the Pioneer Hall via the purchase of various energy efficient items of equipment. She informed the Committee that the Deputy Executive Officer had a lot of ideas to save energy at the Pioneer Hall and would produce a report to go to the Amenities Committees next meeting on 28 March.

RESOLVED:

1. that the fees and charges for services provided at the Merthyr Dyfan and Porthkerry Cemeteries be increased by 5% for the 2011/12 financial year;
2. that no increase be made in the hire costs for the Pioneer Hall in the 2011/12 financial year;
3. that a scheme be submitted to the Amenities Committee's next meeting detailing ways in which energy efficiency savings could be made at the Pioneer Hall.

2. **Planning Committee**

RESOLVED: that the Committee's draft estimates for 2011/12 be approved.

3. **Resources Committee**

RESOLVED:

1. that a sum of £7,500 be placed in the 2011/12 estimates to include the school concert and additional salary costs for the open days based on figures of £5,000 and £2,500 respectively which could be offset when budget over or underspends were considered;
2. that the Committee's draft estimates for 2011/12 be approved, taking account of the amendments outlined above.

F285. **DRAFT BUDGET 2011/12**

The Committee gave consideration to the Council's draft budget for 2011/12. A question was raised concerning reserves for future election costs. A heated discussion took place, following which members were assured that sufficient funds were being placed in the Council's budget on an annual basis to cover future election costs.

Councillor N Hodges asked for clarification on the scanning of the Cemetery Registers. The Office Supervisor informed members that all registers had

been scanned and were available via the Councils computers. She added that there were some difficulties in getting the records uploaded to the Councils website but that attempts were being made to resolve these.

Councillor N Hodges asked for clarification concerning what the Council intended to do with regard to the Eisteddfod taking place in the Vale of Glamorgan in 2012. Councillor Stenstrom informed the Committee that further discussions regarding the Eisteddfod needed to take place at a future meeting of the Review Working Party.

RECOMMENDED: that a precept of £891,651 be levied on the Vale of Glamorgan Council for the 2011/12 financial year, equating to £47.92 per Band 'D' Council Tax Payer, an increase of 1.40% (66 pence) when compared with the £47.26 paid in 2010/11 and that the contents of the draft budget for 2011/12 be approved.

F286. **ANNUAL GRANTS GIVING EXERCISE 2011/12**

Members were requested to give consideration to a report on the Council's annual grants giving exercise 2011/12.

RESOLVED:

1. that the Annual Grants Giving Exercise for 2011/12, together with the contents of the relevant documents be approved, subject to amending criterion 9 of the Eligibility Criteria by removing the words "event or";
2. that the Committee reserve the right to ask any applying organisation to make a presentation should Councillors feel that this might assist them in gaining a better understanding of the use to which an award would be put.

F287. **REVIEW WORKING PARTY – ORAL REPORT**

Councillors received a brief oral report from the Chair regarding the Review Working Party's meeting on 4 January and were advised that its next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 15 February 2011.

RESOLVED: that the Chair's oral report be received and noted.

F288. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

RESOLVED: to note that the next meeting of the Finance Policy & General Purposes Committee was scheduled for 21 March 2011 at 7pm.

The meeting ended at 7.57pm.

Signed Dated
(Chairperson)