

## **BARRY TOWN COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE URGENCY COMMITTEE HELD ON FRIDAY, 23 JULY 2010 COMMENCING AT 2PM**

**PRESENT:-** Councillor S C Egan (Substituting for Councillor H C Hamilton), together with Councillors J Evans and K Lewis.

**ALSO PRESENT:-** Derek Wolfe – Executive Officer

#### **U1. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON FOR 2010/11 MUNICIPAL YEAR**

Noting that this was the inaugural meeting of the Urgency Committee, first established by the Town Council at its annual meeting on 11 May, it was:-

**RESOLVED** that Councillor J Evans be elected Chair of the Urgency Committee for the remainder of the current municipal year.

#### **U2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors H C Hamilton and S A Hodges.

#### **U3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST UNDER THE COUNCILS CODE OF CONDUCT**

None.

#### **U4. TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Councillors were reminded that when the Annual Council Meeting established the Urgency Committee comprising Councillors J Evans, H C Hamilton, A D Hampton, S A Hodges and K Lewis, it delegated the determination of its Terms of Reference to the Committee itself.

Councillor Egan, whilst generally supportive of the suggested Terms of Reference put forward by the Executive Officer, asked that in order to guide Councillors serving on it, additional examples of those situations where the Committee could not determine matters due to the fact that they remained the statutory preserve of the Town Council, be provided. The Executive Officer advised that whilst he did not wish to tempt fate by attempting to provide a “definitive list” of all those issues that could not be determined by the Urgency Committee, he was happy to add issues to the Terms of Reference where the Council alone was required by statute to determine these. This being the case, the Committee:-

**RESOLVED** that its Terms of Reference be “to give consideration to and determine any matter relating to the business of the Town Council where there was no scheduled meeting of the Council itself or one of its Committees within the required timescale, except those matters where relevant legislation placed a statutory duty on the Town Council, such as the finalisation of the Council’s draft budget for the next financial year, the approval of the Council’s annual accounts, the levying of a precept on the Vale of Glamorgan Council, and decisions relating to bylaws and compulsory purchase orders.

**U5. ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW 210 PLACE WELSH MEDIUM PRIMARY SCHOOL IN BARRY**

The Urgency Committee gave consideration to a letter from the Vale Council’s School Organisation and Access Manager regarding the proposed location of a Welsh Medium seed school on the site of Ysgol Bro Morgannwg, further to statutory notices published in the Western Mail on 5 June 2010. Councillors also examined a copy of the notice itself, which had been attached in both English and Welsh. It was noted that the deadline for the determination of the Town Council’s corporate response to the Vale of Glamorgan Council was 3 August 2010.

The Chair drew the Committee’s attention to the explanatory note at the end of the statutory notice, which stated:-

“The Welsh Medium strategy for Barry is to build a demountable seed school on the existing Ysgol Bro Morgannwg site to meet the demand for, initially, reception and nursery school places in September 2011. this demountable building will be replaced with permanent buildings to form a 210 place school (one form of entry) on the same site to accommodate the pupils attending the seed school.

The demountables comply in all respects with the current building regulations and design guidance for new schools. They will also be fully equipped with resources and IT equipment to achieve the aims of the foundation phase and twenty first century education. Access to the school will be via Colcot Road. The school building itself will be approximately 100 metres further into the site than originally proposed to bely worries about the proximity of neighbouring housing in the original proposal. The existing overgrown area of the school site will be developed to form additional playing fields.”

Councillor Egan queried whether existing schools were over subscribed, as he felt it was important that the creation of a new school should not jeopardise the future viability of other existing schools. He stressed the need for the education authority to demonstrate equality of treatment in terms of the provision, investment in and service provided by English and Welsh schools.

Councillors expressed concern regarding the generation of additional traffic on Colcot Road as a result of the creation of a new school, especially as further traffic was likely to be generated any way as a result of pending housing development at White Farm. They also observed that there would be a likely increase in transportation costs, should one of the existing schools close. Finally, Councillors accepted that there was evidence to suggest that seed schools should be near to existing secondary schools, but pointed out that nevertheless land had been identified on the Waterfront specifically for this type of provision, and until recently had also been available for this purpose on the Pencoedtre housing estate.

**RESOLVED:**

- (1) that the Town Council be provided with assurances concerning the situation regarding school rolls at existing primary schools, and that the creation of a new school would not jeopardise the future viability of those schools;
- (2) that whilst being totally in favour of both English and Welsh education provision in Barry, there was a need to ensure equality in terms of the provision of, investment in and service provided by both English and Welsh schools, such that none of the existing primary schools suffered as a result of these proposals;
- (3) that concerns be raised regarding the generation of additional traffic on Colcot Road resulting from the proposed new school;
- (4) that concerns be raised regarding additional likely transportation costs if one of the existing schools were to close;
- (5) that whilst accepting evidence existed to suggest that seed schools should be close to existing secondary schools, it be pointed out that land for the provision of a new primary school had been clearly identified as part of the envisaged Waterfront development and furthermore that until recently a similar area of land had been allocated on the Pencoedtre housing estate for this purpose.

**U6. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS FOR JULY 2010 (FINAL)**

Councillors examined a report and detailed accompanying schedule provided by the Responsible Financial Officer in respect of various direct debits as well as cheques numbered 106132 – 165158 inclusive, totalling £68,905.14. It was pointed out that as the next meeting of the Town Council or the Finance, Policy & General Purposes Committee would not be taking place until September, there would be a need for a further meeting of the Urgency Committee sometime during August. This would allow a schedule of payments relating to accounts payable in August 2010 to be considered and determined in a timely fashion, without the possibility that the Town Council might become liable for late payment charges levied by some companies when accounts for payments remained unpaid for more than 30 days.

**RESOLVED:-**

- (1) that the detailed schedule of payments provided by the Responsible Financial Officer in the sum of £67,231.89 plus VAT of £1,673.25 giving a total overall sum of £68,905.14 be authorised for payment;
- (2) that a further meeting of the Urgency Committee be convened on Thursday 12 August 2010 commencing at 2pm for the purpose of considering and approving a schedule of accounts falling due for payment in August.

The meeting ended at 2.40pm.

Signed .....  
(Chairperson)

Date .....