

From 1 May 2021, the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 sets out a statutory requirement that: As soon as reasonably practicable after a meeting of a community council, and in any event before the end of seven working days beginning with the day on which the meeting is held, the council must publish electronically a note setting out—

- (a) the names of the members who attended the meeting, and any apologies for absence;
- (b) any declarations of interest;
- (c) any decision taken at the meeting, including the outcomes of any votes.

Barry Town Council meets this duty by publishing this information in the form of draft meeting minutes which will be displayed electronically within 7 working days after the meeting. It should be noted that these minutes are DRAFT and not agreed until the next meeting.

BARRY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE, POLICY & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 08 DECEMBER 2025 AT 7PM

PRESENT: Councillor Brooks (Chair) together with Councillors Clarke, Drake, ES Goodjohn (Vice Chairperson), S Hodges and Thomas.

ALSO PRESENT: Chris Mason – Interim Deputy Chief Officer
Sian Hookins – Interim RFO
Rachel Williams – Finance Administrator
Councillor N Hodges - Observer

F238. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillor McKinney

F239. **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST UNDER THE COUNCILS CODE OF CONDUCT**

RESOLVED: That no declarations of interest were received.

F240. **WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS (WALES) ACT 2015**

RESOLVED: That the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 be received and noted.

F241. **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE, POLICY & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17 NOVEMBER 2025**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Finance, Policy & General Purposes Committee held on 17 November 2025 be approved and signed as a correct record.

F242. **BUDGET MONITORING REPORT TO 31 NOVEMBER 2025**

Members were informed about the Council's income and expenditure in the 2025/26 financial year as at the end of November 2025. The Interim RFO highlighted the overspend in the professional fees budget which is likely to continue due to ongoing issues out of council's control. It was also pointed out that the income generated by Pioneer Hall has declined and although Cemetery Approach Community Centre is performing well it isn't generating enough to offset the decline in income from Pioneer Hall.

RESOLVED: That the budget monitoring report for November 2025, indicating actual income and expenditure up to the end of month eight in the 2025/26 financial year be received, currently projecting an overspend that will result in a net amount of £98,076 being transferred from reserves in the budget for 2025/26.

F243. **SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS FOR OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2025**

Members were provided with the schedule of payments for October and November 2025 consisting of direct debits and BACS payments, in the amount of £78,454.99.

RESOLVED: That the schedule of payments for October and November 2025 consisting of direct debits and BACS payments in the amount of £78,454.99 be approved.

F244. **DRAFT BUDGET 2026/2027**

Members were provided with a report from the Interim RFO in relation to the draft budget for 2026/2027. The Interim RFO explained how Barry Town Council's precept cost compares to other communities within the Vale of Glamorgan. The Interim RFO also brought to committee's attention the importance of increasing the precept in order to maintain an adequate level in the general reserves as this has fallen in recent years. Councillor Brooks commented on the need to reflect on Barry Town Council having the lowest precept out of four town councils whilst being the largest town in Wales who offer the most to the community. Councillor Ewan Goodjohn queried the need for the budgeted £58,500 being put into the acquisition reserve but members discussed and were

happy to continue with this with the intention of the imminent start of a project that is an ambition of the council. Councillor S Hodges highlighted that there has been a number of unexpected costs out of council's control this year and that it is the level of overall reserves that is important as funds can be moved between pots if there is a need to do so. Members discussed and agreed a proposal for a 10% increase in the precept to go out for public consultation.

RESOLVED that the draft budget be agreed

RECOMMENDED to the meeting of Full Council being held on 15 December 2025 that the precept for 2026/27 is increased by 10% giving, based on last year's tax base, a precept of £1,493,393.

F245.

DRAFT SPONSORSHIP POLICY

Members received a report from the Interim RFO in relation to a draft sponsorship policy. The Interim RFO identified a need for a sponsorship policy as the council wish to provide financial assistance to different organisations and receive recognition within the community for this. Members discussed and agreed that a formal sponsorship agreement between the council and other organisations that they financially contribute to would set clear boundaries as to what the council expect in return for their financial assistance. Members noted the sponsorship policy and tasked the Interim Deputy Chief Officer with adapting the policy to make it fit of purpose for Barry Town Council.

RESOLVED: Members noted the draft sponsorship policy and await the adaptations to agree at the next Finance, Policy and General Purposes committee.

F246.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED: That the date of the next meeting of the Finance, Policy and General Purposes Committee is scheduled to be held on Monday 09 February 2025.

EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS & PUBLIC

RESOLVED THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 1(2) OF THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960, IN VIEW OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE BUSINESS ABOUT TO BE TRANSACTED, IT IS ADVISABLE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST THAT THE PRESS AND PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED FROM THE REMAINDER OF THE MEETING, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF CLLR N HODGES.

F247. **BANK RECONCILIATION FOR NOVEMBER 2025**

Members received a report from the Interim RFO to allow committee members to review and approve the bank reconciliation up to 30 November 2025.

RESOLVED: That the bank reconciliation for November 2025 be approved.

F248. **BAD DEBT & GAZETTE NOTICE**

Members received a report in relation to a debt that is owed to Barry Town Council for an interment and use of the Chapel by a company that has a gazette notice and is to be struck off. Members discussed the report and agreed to defer the decision as to what action is to be taken as further information is required on the matter.

RESOLVED: That the decision on how to proceed with the outstanding debt be deferred until more information be obtained.

F249. **VALE PLUS GRANT UPDATE**

Members received an amended grant application from Vale Plus. Members discussed the application and whilst members expressed their overall support for Vale Plus and the work that they do, they felt that this specific application did not fit the criteria for the Community Grants scheme.

RESOLVED: Members did not offer any financial assistance in relation to the amended grant application from Vale Plus.

F250. **UNEXPECTED COSTS FOR CEMETERY**

Members received a report from the Interim RFO highlighting the unexpected costs incurred at Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery due to an ongoing situation. The costs relate to additional legal and security costs. Members agreed a spend of £5,000 to cover these costs.

RESOLVED: That an amount of £5,000 to cover unexpected costs for Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery be noted and agreed.

Meeting closed at 7.56pm

Signed(Chairperson) Dated