



MERTHYR TYDFIL  
County Borough Council  
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol  
MERTHYR TUDFUL

## MINUTES OF MEETING

# FULL COUNCIL MEETING

**WEDNESDAY, 7TH OCTOBER, 2015**

**PRESENT:** Councillor D Isaac (In the Chair)

Councillors H Barrett, C J Barry, R Braithwaite, S P Brown, B Carter, T Chaplin, D Davies, M Davies, E Galsworthy, A Jones, C T Jones, D Jones, G Jones, H R Jones, G Lewis, T Lewis, B E Mansbridge, L A Matthews, J McCarthy, L Mytton, M O'Neill, D Roberts, S Slater, L E Smart, W R Smith, Richard Thomas, B Toomey, C Tovey, P Williams and S Williams

**Officers:**

Gareth Chapman (Chief Executive), Carys Kennedy (Head of Legal and Governance Services - Monitoring Officer), Lorraine Buck (Corporate Director (People and Performance) - Lead Director for Children and Young People), Lisa Curtis Jones (Chief Officer (Social Services)), Dorothy Haines (Chief Officer (Learning) - Chief Education Officer), Cheryllee Evans (Chief Officer (Neighbourhood Services)), Alyn Owen (Chief Officer (Community Regeneration)), Steve Jones (Head of Finance - Chief Finance Officer), Lisa Jones (Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development), Annabel Lloyd (Head of Children's Services) and Ceri Dinham (Senior Communications Officer)

Karen Vokes (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
497	Apologies for Absence	Apologies for absence received from Councillors Ray Thomas and Kate Moran.
498	Declarations of Interest	Councillor A Jones declared an interest in item 25 (Biffa Profit Sharing Scheme). He advised that he has

		dispensation but this does not apply when financial/funding matters are being considered.
499	Minutes of meeting Thursday, 3 September 2015 of Licensing Committee	<b>RESOLVED that:</b> The minutes of the Licensing Committee held on Thursday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2015 be accepted as a correct record.
500	Minutes of meeting Friday, 4 September 2015 of Standards Committee	<b>RESOLVED that:</b> The minutes of the Standards Committee held on Friday, 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2015 be accepted as a correct record.
501	Minutes of meeting Monday, 7 September 2015 of Scrutiny : Learning and LAESCYP	<b>RESOLVED that:</b> The minutes of Scrutiny: Learning and LAESCYP held on Monday, 7 <sup>th</sup> September 2015 be accepted as a correct record.
502	Minutes of meeting Tuesday, 8 September 2015 of Scrutiny : Social Services	<b>RESOLVED that:</b> The minutes of Scrutiny: Social Services held on Tuesday, 8 <sup>th</sup> September 2015 be accepted as a correct record.
503	Minutes of meeting Wednesday, 9 September 2015 of Scrutiny : Governance, Performance, Business Change and Corporate Services	<b>RESOLVED that:</b> The minutes of Scrutiny: Governance, Performance, Business Change and Corporate Services held on Wednesday, 9 <sup>th</sup> September 2015 be accepted as a correct record.
504	Minutes of meeting Wednesday, 9 September 2015 of Cabinet	<b>RESOLVED that:</b> The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on Wednesday, 9 <sup>th</sup> September 2015 be accepted as a correct record.
505	Minutes of meeting Wednesday, 9 September 2015 of Full Council	<b>RESOLVED that:</b> The minutes of Full Council held on Wednesday, 9 <sup>th</sup> September 2015 be accepted as a correct record.
506	Minutes of meeting Monday, 14 September 2015 of Scrutiny : Neighbourhood Services and Public Protection	<b>RESOLVED that:</b> The minutes of Scrutiny: Neighbourhood Services and Public Protection held on Monday, 14 <sup>th</sup> September 2015 be accepted as a correct record.
507	Minutes of meeting Tuesday, 15 September 2015 of Scrutiny : Governance, Performance, Business Change and Corporate Services	<b>RESOLVED that:</b> The minutes of Scrutiny: Governance, Performance, Business Change and Corporate Services held on Tuesday, 15 <sup>th</sup> September 2015 be accepted as a correct record.
508	Minutes of meeting	The minutes of the Licensing Committee held on

	Wednesday, 16 September 2015 of Licensing Committee	Wednesday, 16 <sup>th</sup> September 2015 be accepted as a correct record.
509	Minutes of meeting Wednesday, 16 September 2015 of Licensing Committee	The minutes of the Licensing Committee held on Wednesday, 16 <sup>th</sup> September 2015 be accepted as a correct record.
510	Minutes of meeting Wednesday, 16 September 2015 of Cabinet	The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on Wednesday, 16 <sup>th</sup> September 2015 be accepted as a correct record.
511	Minutes of meeting Wednesday, 16 September 2015 of Planning , Regulatory and Licensing Committee	The minutes of the Planning, Regulatory and Licensing Committee held on Wednesday, 16 <sup>th</sup> September 2015 be accepted as a correct record.
512	Minutes of meeting Monday, 21 September 2015 of Audit Committee	The minutes of the Audit Committee held on Monday, 21 <sup>st</sup> September 2015 be accepted as a correct record.
513	Minutes of meeting Tuesday, 22 September 2015 of Scrutiny : Regeneration, Planning and Countryside	The minutes of Scrutiny: Regeneration, Planning and Countryside held on Tuesday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2015 be accepted as a correct record.
514	Minutes of meeting Wednesday, 23 September 2015 of Cabinet	The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on Wednesday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> September 2015 be accepted as a correct record.
515	Minutes of meeting Wednesday, 23 September 2015 of Full Council	The minutes of Full Council held on Wednesday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> September 2015 be accepted as a correct record.
516	Trade Union Bill 2015	<p>Councillor B Toomey, Leader of the Council, read out in full the Notice of Motion..</p> <p>This was moved and seconded.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED that:</b></p> <p>“Given the punitive and undemocratic nature of the Trade Union Bill 2015 Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council wholeheartedly opposes the Bill in its entirety. The Council urges the Conservative Government to abandon the Trade Union Bill 2015 and to work in partnership with the Trade Union movement to achieve a fairer society.</p>

517	A472 Viaduct	<p><b><u>Question by Councillor Richard Thomas, Leader of the Opposition</u></b></p> <p>'Would the Leader of the Council please explain why there has been such an extraordinary delay in making repairs to the A472 Viaduct at its junction with the A470 in Quakes Yard. I understand that there is a joint responsibility for this Bridge with Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council but also that the part funding for the repair to be paid by this Council was agreed and within budget from April of this year'.</p> <p><b><u>Response by Councillor B Toomey, Leader of the Council</u></b></p> <p>As a cross border structure the Fiddler's Elbow Viaduct is jointly owned by MTCBC and RCT. Within this arrangement MTCBC has sole responsibility for the carrying out the requisite inspections but the cost of any repair works is shared equally between both Authorities.</p> <p>As everyone is aware some of the eight expansion joints within the bridge deck started to display signs of failure back in February 2014.</p> <p>Following initial meetings between engineering staff from both authorities, information reports were prepared to brief Members of the issues and the estimated costs of replacement, which at that time was thought to be in the order of £1m. This estimate was based on information received from the German company responsible for the manufacture of the original joints. The latest estimate including all design, accommodation work (traffic management) and supervision cost is in the region of £1.9m. This will be split equally between us and RCT.</p> <p>Further meetings between engineers from both authorities to discuss options resulted in RCT commissioning Capita Glamorgan to investigate replacing the joints with a potentially cheaper alternative.</p> <p>Whilst it was evident that some of the joints had or were about to fail the precise nature of the failure was unclear. In order to establish the mechanism of failure a CCTV survey of the joints was completed over the August Bank Holiday weekend of 2014. This operation enabled the engineering team to gauge the effectiveness of the traffic diversions that were expected to be used during the main contract, when the bridge was likely to be closed to some of the traffic for up to 5 months. As a result of this "dry run" a meeting was held with WG's Trunk Road Managers to discuss the potential impact that the works were going to have on the A470. This meeting concluded that in order to minimise the impact on the heavily trafficked trunk road it would be preferable to priorities traffic moving west-east across the viaduct i.e. all traffic leaving the A470 would be unaffected by the works.</p>
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518	Timekeeping and Attendance Policy	<p><b>RESOLVED that:</b></p> <p>The Updated Timekeeping and Attendance Policy be approved with immediate effect.</p>

519	Hot Work Policy	<p><b>RESOLVED that:</b></p> <p>The Hot Work Policy be approved with immediate effect.</p>
520	Expenses Policy	<p><b>RESOLVED that:</b></p> <p>The Expenses Policy be approved with immediate effect.</p>
521	Biffa Profit Sharing Scheme	<p>Having declared an interest, Councillor A Jones left the meeting whilst this item was considered.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED that:</b></p> <p>The request for the allocation of funds be approved as follows:</p> <p><u>Penydarren Electoral Division</u> Bluebird Boys and Girls Football Club - £250.00</p>
522	Annual Performance Report 2014-15	<p>Councillor A Jones returned to the meeting.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED that:</b></p> <p>The Annual Performance Report for 2014/15 be approved.</p>
523	Corporate Safeguarding Policy	<p>Members were advised that the report should read “Wales Audit Office” and not “Welsh Audit Office” as outlined in paragraphs 1.1 and 3.2 of the report</p> <p><b>RESOLVED that:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Corporate Safeguarding Policy be implemented with immediate effect.</li> <li>• The work of the proposed MTCBC Safeguarding Reference Group be supported.</li> </ul>
524	To deal with any other urgent business or correspondence	<p>The Mayor advised that there was no business deemed urgent.</p>
525	To receive communications from His Worship the Mayor	<p>There was no communication from His Worship the Mayor.</p>