



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL
MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council

MINUTES OF MEETING

SCRUTINY : **NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES,** **PLANNING AND** **COUNTRYSIDE MEETING**

MONDAY, 11TH SEPTEMBER, 2017

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

Councillors D Jones, K Gibbs, C T Jones and J Thomas

Cooptees:

Robert Holdaway

Ethan Lewys Scriven (Jamie Scriven supporting) – Youth Forum Representative

Officers:

Cherylee Evans (Chief Officer (Neighbourhood Services)) and Robert Barnett (Parks and Open Spaces Manager),

Howard Jones (Scrutiny Officer) and Michelle Hemmings (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
193	Apologies for absence	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor R Braithwaite and Nicola Mahoney, Co-optee. The Chair advised that Councillor H Barrett (Portfolio Member) was unable to attend the meeting.
194	Declarations of Interest (including whipping declarations)	No Declarations of Interest were made.

195	Grounds maintenance, Parks and Open Spaces	<p>Robert Barnett referred Committee to the report and in particular investing in parks and community engagement.</p> <p>The following questions were then raised by the Committee and were responded to in detail by Robert Barnett.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capability of grass cutting plant equipment • Implications of Occupiers Liability Act 1957 • Implications of being prosecuted regarding Japanese Knotweed • Use of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)/Section 106 Agreements and future maintenance costs • Challenges faced with regard to grass cutting • Vehicular access to cemeteries • Service to members of the public to eradicate Japanese Knotweed • Dog fouling and use of enforcement staff • Comparison of better performers • Use of housing development play areas • Planting of wild flowers • Use of Merthyr Tydfil and County Borough in reports as opposed to Merthyr and Borough • Legal age of person to receive a penalty fine <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The content of the report be noted.</p>
196	Sports pitches / facilities in the County Borough	<p>Robert Barnett referred Committee to the report and in particular costs and facilities.</p> <p>The following questions were then raised by the Committee and were responded to in detail by Robert Barnett.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community use subsidy/illegal use • Maintenance of fields/dog fouling • Maintenance of mothballed fields • Source of additional income <p>Committee were advised of an error on Page 13 of the Agenda under 'Leased' section. The total number of playing fields in use should read 7 and not 8 as indicated in the report.</p> <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The content of the report be noted.</p>
197	Vacancies for Co-opted Members	<p>The Chair advised that three applications had been received for one position and proposed that the Chair and Vice Chair go through the applications and make a decision.</p> <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The content of the report be noted.</p>

198	Scrutiny Referrals, Feedback and Follow up Actions	The Chair referred to a list of 42 questions that had been given to Officers to which Members had only received the answers today and advised these will be discussed as an item at the next meeting.
199	Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting	<p>The Chair and the Committee reflected on the items discussed at the Meeting.</p> <p>The Chair requested that any additional questions that were not in the agenda should be forwarded beforehand to the Cabinet Member.</p>
200	Forward Work Programme	<p>The Chair advised the following items will be discussed at the next meeting:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions given to Cheryllee Evans by the Scrutiny Committee and responses received • Recycling landfill • Welsh public library standards • Wellbeing objectives for environmental wellbeing <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The content of the report be noted.</p>
201	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	The Chair advised that there was no business deemed urgent.