

**Minutes of the Special Chairs meeting**

**10am Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

**This meeting was held via video conference under the Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Meetings) (Wales) 2020**

**Present: Cllrs Michael Theodoulou (Chair), Linda Edwards, Peter Freeman, Robert John, Karen Morris, David Owens**

**In attendance: Huw Thomas (Clerk/RFO), Shân Loudon (Deputy Clerk)**

**10am – 10.50am**

Before the meeting commenced the Chair wished to reiterate the Town Council's sorrow and sadness at the passing of Richard Adler and noted that his funeral would be taking place later in the day.

**1. To receive apologies for absence**

All members were present.

**2. To receive members' declarations of interest in respect of the business to be transacted.**

None were made.

**3. To consider a Town Council statement**

At the previous Chairs Committee meeting held on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020 it was resolved that a statement be issued by the Town Council stating the facts in relation to the Bowls Club gathering and correcting misinformation regarding the Historical Society meeting. A statement that had been drafted by the Clerk had been circulated to members and it was noted that agreement could not be reached between the Clerk and the Chair as to the content of the statement.

The Clerk informed members that, in his opinion, a statement could not now be issued from the Town Council following a post that had been put on Facebook which contained the majority of the content of the draft. Posting such a statement now in the name of the Town Council would be perceived as showing support for the 7 persons who raised concerns over the Bowls Club presentation evening.

Cllr Peter Freeman stated that he thought that the statement drafted by the Clerk did not answer the misrepresentations and that the statement was "weak". The Clerk commented that his statement was accurate, professional and ethical. One member commented that he was disappointed that the statement would not be published as the Town Council are now not able to correct misinformation.

Cllr Freeman reminded members that his post on Facebook was purely his personal view.

After discussion it was proposed and approved that a statement would not be issued by the Town Council. **RESOLVED**

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**4. Any other urgent business at the discretion of the Chair**

The Chair informed members that the Clerk had raised the issue of the number of emergency/special meeting being called. The Clerk stated that at a recent special meeting of the Regeneration and Community Engagement Committee only 5 out of 12 members were able to attend. It was noted that Working Groups can not make decisions, so emergency meetings of the Standing Committee are called. Chairman's action can be used if necessary.

It was proposed and approved that if the Chair of a Standing Committee wishes to call a Special meeting, this must be discussed with the Clerk/Deputy Clerk to ascertain if there is a genuine need.

**RESOLVED**

Cllr Robert John **PROPOSED**, seconded by Cllr David Owens, for the meeting to move to in camera. **RESOLVED**

*In camera* - That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

**5. Staffing Matter**

A staff matter was discussed.

Meeting ended 10.50am.