CALDICOT TOWN COUNCIL

Sandy Lane
Caldicot

Minutes of special meeting of Full Town Council held at 6.00 pm on Monday, 19ᵗʰ November 2007 at Caldicot Day Luncheon Centre for the purpose of transacting the following business

PRESENT:

Cllrs: D Ashwin, Mayor   R J Higginson
       J Daniels   J Marshall
       A Easson   R Stewart
       D Evans   K Thomas
       J Harris   P Tidmarsh
       J Haskey

In attendance: Mrs G McIntyre, Clerk, Mrs A Sandiford, Members of the Public, Press

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs E Davies, W Edwards, G Jenkins, D Jones

It was resolved to move item 3 to the end of the agenda.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllrs D Ashwin, J Harris, R J Higginson, and R Stewart declared an interest in CCTV

Certain Members expressed opposition to County Councillors declaring interests on issues relating to Caldicot.

4. To Consider Report from Cllrs D Evans/J Marshall

Town Council noted the report of Cabinet meeting 7.11.07.

Cllrs D Evans and J Marshall expressed their opinions in relation to the Cabinet meeting.

Cllr D Evans outlined the history of CCTV in Caldicot.

Members expressed their opinions in relation to the CCTV system in Caldicot and it was stated that Caldicot County Councillors were not "fighting the case for Caldicot".

Picture quality, lighting and positioning of certain cameras in the town were of particular concern to Members, together with the monitoring centre being far away from the town.

It was stated that Mon CC had been given 3 years notice to resolve issues relating to the Caldicot system and no improvements had been made.

It was stated that the Police were happy with the CCTV system and it was requested where the information was indicating CCTV in Caldicot was not working. A Member disputed the statement that the Police were happy with the CCTV system.

Issues of the local Police not utilising the CCTV system were raised. Reference was made to an incident in West End when CCTV footage was lost.

It was stated that the CCTV system was "down" over the Christmas period 2006 and images had to be viewed in County Hall. It was also stated that this was brought to light at a CCTV Working Group meeting and Town Council had not been informed.

5. To Consider Correspondence from Cllrs J Harris/R J Higginson

Town Council considered correspondence from Cllrs J Harris and R J Higginson in relation to withdrawal from the CCTV partnership.

Cllr J Harris referred to the Cabinet decision to switch of the cameras in the town.

It was stated that public consultation had been undertaken prior to CCTV being installed but not prior to the decision to withdraw. It was questioned if Mon CC had undertaken consultation before it made its decision to switch off the cameras.

Reference was made to Town Council being legally challenged over its decision to withdraw from the CCTV system and to Mon CC for switching off the cameras.

3. To Consider payment of outstanding monies £11,500 re: 2006/07

Town Council considered advice from One Voice Wales stating it had a legal requirement to make payment for 2006/07 and to consider re-entering into negotiations with Mon CC.

A discussion ensued in relation to payment for 2006/07.

It was requested that Mon CC and the Police meet with Town Council in relation to CCTV.

Reference was made to the Mon CC Committee being led by Cllr Eric Saxon to review CCTV in Monmouthshire to include 2 County Cllrs and no Town Cllrs.

A Member stated that Town Council had withdrawn from CCTV in Caldicot from 1.4.07 and to re-enter negotiations its resolution to withdraw needed to be rescinded. The Clerk clarified that Mon CC had advised Town Council that unless a firm financial commitment could be made the system in Caldicot would be under threat.

It was proposed and seconded that Town Council pay for CCTV 2006/2007 with the proviso that 2 Town Councillors represent Caldicot Town Council on the Mon CC's CCTV Working Committee to be chaired by Cllr Eric Saxon.

A vote ensued: 6 For, 1 Against, 4 Abstentions – The Proposal was carried.

It was further resolved that no further payments would be paid to Mon CC until it meets the required system.