

# **Cyngor Cymuned Cwmllynfell Community Council**

## **Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting at Rhiwfawr Hall on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at 7.00pm**

### **Present Councillors**

Councillor G Davies (Chair)  
Councillor J C Rees  
Councillor D A Thomas  
Councillor Helen Lewis  
Councillor Paul Morgan  
Councillor Nia Cole Jones  
Councillor Martin Evans  
Councillor Hugh Jones

### **15. Apologies for Absence**

None

### **16. Declarations of Interest**

None

### **17. Rhiwfawr Sports Field**

The Chairperson welcomed all Councillors and members of the public to the meeting and thanked them all for attending. He advised residents that communications with Redwood Environmental who had been contracted to complete the drainage and repair of the field had been very poor, despite the efforts of the clerk to contact them to find out when they would be completing the project. He advised that whilst a representative from Redwood was in attendance this evening, they had not responded to correspondence inviting them to attend so the Council were not expecting them.

He advised that Redwood were initially contracted back in May 2017 to complete the project and after some initial delays they started the work in July 2017.

Residents were invited to respond and ask questions of the Councillors and of the representative from Redwood.

Members of the public were understandably very angry and upset at the way in which the project had been handled from the beginning. Residents stated that the field had been out of use for a year while the project was being undertaken and the field had been unusable some time before that. They stated that the way in which Redwood had conducted themselves was not acceptable. They had been slow to commence work and slow throughout the whole process. While they had been at the field they had not left it in an acceptable condition with tools and machinery left behind and had not repaired the gate that had been knocked off the post. Residents were also disappointed that the Council had let the situation escalate to where it was and should have intervened sooner. The Chairman accepted this and stated that mistakes had been made and the Council had learned from this and were keen to put things right going forward and that this remained a priority for the Council.

Residents had also questioned why there had been a large amount of soil, reportedly contaminated, dumped over into the Rushlands Wildlife site. Whilst it was not clear or documented, the representative from Redwood stated that he had been given permission by the Council to do this. Councillors however were not able to recall this and the clerk stated that this was not documented in any minute where permission had been given.

Questions were raised on the initial tender process and why Redwood were awarded the contract. The Chairman advised that the initial project went out as a design and quote. Three companies were approached to attend the site and produce a design that would rectify the drainage at the field and provide a quote to the Council. The 3 quotes received were sent to two independent experts to ascertain which design would be the most effective for the field and provide value for money for the Council. The two experts came back and stated that Redwood Environmental provided the best option and it was in their opinion that the Council should select this company to undertake the works. Based on that advice the Council sought two referees before appointing Redwood to the project. The Chairman confirmed that no payment had been made to Redwood for any works so far. The Clerk advised that any project under the value of £25,000 was not subject to a formal tender agreement and contractors were able to be sought as described above.

Residents asked why they were only now being involved in the process and asked why they could not have been involved at the start of the process. The Clerk advised that residents are welcome to attend all meetings of Council as they are all public meetings, though they were unable to contribute in the same way as they had this evening. She advised that there were a number of ways in which the public could be involved in the decisions that the Council make and advised getting in touch with their local councillor to raise any issues they have, contacting the clerk if they wish for an issue to be raised at a meeting and also checking the notices in Cwmllynfell and Rhiwfawr and on the Council's website. The Chairman also advised that there were vacancies for members on the Council and that if any resident was interested in becoming a Councillor they should contact the clerk for more information as anyone who was over the age of 18 was welcome to apply.

Residents were advised there were now two options to be able to move forward. The first being to speak with Redwood to devise a strict management plan to finish the field as the representative had earlier stated, he would engage with and also sit down with his team first thing in the morning to discuss how to move forward and complete the job in a timely manner. Or the Council could remove Redwood from the project and seek an alternative contractor to complete the job.

It was clear that the residents were of the view that if the Council continued in the contract with Redwood, the project would not be completed any time soon. In view of the fact that the community had already lost so much use of the field and previous negotiations with Redwood to progress with the project had failed that they thought the Council should re-tender the job. They felt that Redwood had been given enough chances to engage with the Council and complete the job and they had not complied and so did not believe that they would be any better moving forward. Many residents commented on their poor workmanship, unprofessional manner in which they had conducted

themselves, lack of engagement with the Council and numerous excuses over why the work could not be completed was enough to seek an alternative contractor.

**Resolved:**

1. Contact Redwood Environmental to terminate the contract
2. Arrange for a CCTV drainage survey to be undertaken to ascertain the drainage situation of the field.
3. Based on the results of the CCTV survey contact three contractors to attend the site with two members of the Council to undertake a design and quote of the field.
4. Appoint a new contractor at the July meeting of Council to complete the project.

Meeting Closed 20.10