

CYNGOR CYMUNED CWMLLYNFELL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE RHIWFAWR HALL ON
THURSDAY 16th JUNE 2011 AT 6.15 P.M.**

PRESENT: Councillor M Evans (Chairman) presided pro-tem
COUNCILLORS: R Evans, M Jones, M C Jones, D Lloyd, J C Rees and D B Thomas
ATTENDING: Councillor C E Richards – Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

18. APOLOGIES

Apologies for their absence were received from Councillors V B Fox, C Jones, D C Phillips and S Williams.

19. INSPECTOR DEAN THOMAS – SOUTH WALES POLICE

The Council received Inspector Dean Thomas and PCSO Rhys Thomas. Inspector Thomas had recently taken up the post of Sector Inspector for the Neath area. The Officers outlined the issues that had been addressed in Cwmllynfell and Rhiwfawr recently which included speeding, indiscriminate parking and addressing drug issues jointly with Dyfed Powys Police. Inspector Thomas also referred to recent incorrect reports that Pontardawe Police Station would be closing. The only change that was due to take place was the closure of the front desk but the remaining services would continue at the station.

A discussion ensued on incidents that had occurred recently including a person sleeping rough and breaking in to a property, crime figures, fly tipping, premises where dogs had been kept in unsatisfactory conditions and correspondence that had been received from the Welsh Government regarding “The Right to be Safe” which related to tackling all form of violence against women.

The Chairman thanked the officers for attending.

20. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor J C Rees declared his personal interest in an application for financial assistance by the First Responders Group which would be considered under agenda item 7 – Financial Matters.

21. MINUTES

Resolved that the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on the 18th May 2011 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

22. MATTERS ARISING

(a) Minute 9(a) – Western Valleys Strategic Regeneration Area

A notification was received that the next meeting of the Swansea Valley Forum would be held on the 8th September 2011. The Clerk reminded the Council that the officers of the Western Valleys SRA had undertaken to convene a further meeting in three months following the meeting that had been held at Cwmllynfell on the 3rd

March. Mrs Gwenda Thomas AM had also undertaken to attend a further meeting to review progress following the meeting she had attended on the 7th February 2011 which had given rise to the meeting held on the 3rd March. It had also been indicated by the Manager of Cwmllynfell Hall that it was the hall committee's intention to convene a further meeting of the organisations that had attended the meeting on the 3rd March.

Resolved that the situation be noted and that hopefully matters will have progressed before the next meeting of the Swansea Valley Forum on the 8th September.

(b) Minute 9(d)– East Pit East Opencast Coal Site – Planning Application No: P2011/0250 - Proposed Restoration and Aftercare

A communication was received from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council in which it was indicated that the applicants had not yet furnished all the information required. When received the information would be conveyed to the Council. The County Borough Council also emphasised that the details for the restoration and aftercare had no bearing on any existing or future bond issues or land ownership.

Resolved that an Officer of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council be requested to meet with the Council to discuss the implications when all the relevant information is available.

(c) Minute 11 - Summer Play Schemes 2011

The Clerk reported that in responding to Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council regarding the use of Rhiwfawr Park he had also drawn attention to the fact that Cwmllynfell Hall was running play schemes on four occasions during the year and that the Council would be grateful if the County Borough Council could provide such assistance as possible to the hall.

Resolved that the matter be noted.

(d) Consumer Focus Wales – Off-Grid Market Study – Call For Evidence

A further communication was received from Consumer Focus Wales thanking the Council for its response and indicating that they would continue to pursue the issue of fuel poverty with the Office of Fair Trading.

Resolved that the matter be noted.

(e) Minute 14 - Rhiwfawr Park – Safety Inspection

The Clerk reported that he had he had met Mr Paul Fox (Paul's Plant Hire) to discuss the work that was necessary. The following quotation had therefore been received:

Description	£
Supply and transport 10 tonnes of stone dust to blind existing stone cycle track to leave a smooth surface. Cost includes machinery and labour.	615.00
Excavate three holes for boundary posts separating wild flower bed and set in concrete. Including materials and labour.	43.00

Remove broken rail and replace with new to match existing	11.00
Option to make safe stone wall along side cycle track: Remove coping stones and demolish wall as discussed and replace small coping stone to make good. Re-grade soils to hide exposed edge of wall remaining.	370.00

Total excl VAT 1039.00

Note: Two padlocks to be removed and supplied sign fixed

Resolved that the above quotation be accepted.

(f) Minute 16(b) - Banking

The Clerk reported that the Council's present bankers had failed to offer satisfactory rates of interest in respect of the Council's deposits and therefore discussions had been entered into with the bank that had provided details through the Society of Local Council Clerks. The Chairman, Vice Chairman and the Clerk had met that day with the Relationship Manager of the Bank and action had been taken to place sums on deposit (voucher numbers 1528 & 1529) in accordance with the Council's Investment Strategy (Minute 109(b) of the 19th January 2011 refers).

Resolved that the action taken be confirmed.

23. COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL/COMMUNITY COUNCILS LIAISON FORUM

Resolved that the invitation contained in a letter dated 10th June 2011 from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council for the Council to submit agenda items for the meeting to be held on the 25th July 2011 be noted.

24. AWEL AMAN TAWE FOCUS GROUP

An invitation was received from Awel Aman Tawe for the Council to be represented at a focus group on the 21st June 2011 which would explore and reflect on specific aspects of Awel Aman Tawe's activities and plans for the future.

Resolved that the invitation be noted.

25. NEW WASTE COLLECTION ARRANGEMENTS / COMMUNITY COHESION FUND / COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES PROGRAMME

Resolved that the communication received from Neath Port Talbot CVS regarding the above matters be noted.

26. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) Christmas Lighting Provision 2011 and Energy Charges

A letter dated 7th June 2011 was received from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council in which it was indicated that the energy consumed by the Council's decorations would no longer be met by Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council. The projected cost of the energy for 2011 was £446.36 plus VAT. If the Council wished to reduce the energy consumption the County Borough Council was able to

install a special unit at a cost of £450.00 that would extinguish the decorations at midnight rather than at dawn. The cost benefit was analysed as follows:

Current Energy Cost: 4185.6 Kwh x £0.106642	=	£446.36
Proposed Switch 15 x £30 (purchase and installation)	=	£450.00
Switched Energy Cost – 2092.8 Kwh x £0.106642	=	£223.18
Saving	=	£223.18
Payback	=	2.02 years

The County Borough Council also quoted the sum of £2,273.85 plus VAT for erecting, dismantling and maintaining the decorations for the 2011 season.

Resolved that consideration of the matter be deferred until the next meeting.

(b) Application for Financial Assistance

Note: Councillor J C Rees having declared his personal interest withdrew from the meeting whilst the matter was considered.

Resolved that a grant in the following sum be made to the under-mentioned and the Council in accordance with its powers under sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972 incurs the expenditure which in the opinion of the Council is in the interests of the area or of its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure:

Cwmllynfell First Responders	£100
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(c) Payment of Accounts

Resolved that the following accounts be paid:

No			£
1530	Cwmllynfell First Responders	Grant	100.00
1531	Payroll	Net salary May	212.11
1532	Inland Revenue	Income Tax	53.03

27. PLANNING MATTERS

Resolved that no objection be raised to the following planning applications:

App No:

P2011/0321 Proposed first floor extension at Parc Coedffaldau, Rhiwfawr.

P2011/0083 Outline Application (1 dwelling) on land adjacent to 45 Railway Terrace, Cwmllynfell.

P2011/0368 Part single storey, part two storey rear extension at Bryn Melyn, Rhiwfawr.

28. REPORTS

The following matters were reported:

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| • South Wales Police Statistics | All Crime inc ASB - April | 11 |
| (Noted that these statistics had been collected by the revised accounting method and they included areas within Carmarthenshire) | Burglary: | 2 |
| | Anti Social Behaviour | 7 |
| | Other Crime | 2 |
- Grit Bins – Rhiwfawr removed for safe storage;
 - Footpath 106 Rhiwfawr – Holes in surface near entrance from Rhiw Road
 - Arts meeting at Cwmllynfell – successful

Councillor C E Richards also reported on the following:

- Rhiwfawr Primary School – Decision of National Assembly awaited;
- Animal trespass fencing - Decision of National Assembly awaited;
- Bryn Road – drainage improvements – finance allocated;
- Grass cutting by Celtic Energy – imminent.

The meeting terminated at 8.03pm.