

CYNGOR CYMUNED CWMLLYNFELL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE CWMLLYNFELL HALL ON
THURSDAY 21ST JULY 2011 AT 6.30 P.M.**

PRESENT: Councillor M Evans (Chairman) presided pro-tem
COUNCILLORS: C Jones, M C Jones, D Lloyd, D C Phillips, J C Rees, D B Thomas
and S Williams

ATTENDING: Councillor C E Richards – Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

29. APOLOGIES

Apologies for their absence were received from Councillors R Evans and M Jones.

30. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made at this juncture.

31. MINUTES

Resolved that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on the 16th June 2011 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

32. MATTERS ARISING

(a) Minute 22(a) – Western Valleys Strategic Regeneration Area

A letter was received from Mr Chris Ashman indicating that his secondment as Programme Director of the Western Valleys SRA had ended on the 15th July as the maximum period allowed under civil service rules had been reached. A replacement director would be in touch shortly but Mr Ashman had indicated that he would pleased to offer any further help that organisations may require.

Resolved that the situation be noted.

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

It was reported that the County Borough Council was still waiting for further information from the applicants.

Resolved that a Special Meeting be convened if necessary to meet with the County Borough Council's Senior Planner – Minerals and Waste.

(c) Minute 22(f) – Banking

The Clerk reported that the Enhanced Fixed Rate deposit Accounts had been opened in accordance with the Council's Investment Strategy (Minute 109(b) of the 19th January 2011 refers). It had become necessary to issue a fresh cheque (voucher 1533) as the Council's main bankers had claimed that the cheques issued previously (voucher numbers 1528 and 1529) had not been signed in accordance with the Council's mandate.

Resolved that the action taken be confirmed.

(d) Minute 26(a) - Christmas Lighting Provision 2011 and Energy Charges

Further consideration was given to the quotation contained in a letter dated 7th June 2011 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:

1. the County Borough Council be informed that the Council accepts the quotation of £2,273.85 for the erection/dismantling and maintenance of the lights for the 2011 season;
2. the County Borough Council be also requested to install the energy saving switches at a cost of £450 so that the proposed energy cost is reduced to £223.18.

33. AWEL AMAN TAWE – “ENERGYSHARE” GRANT APPLICATION

A communication dated 25th June 2011 was received from Awel Aman Tawe requesting the Council to support its application to Energyshare for a grant towards their community wind farm. The closing date for supporting the application had been the 30th June so it was too late for the Council to consider the request.

Resolved that in the circumstances the request be noted and Awel Aman Tawe be advised to approach the Council earlier if support is being requested for such applications in the future.

34. CWMLLYNFELL CEMETERY – AGGREGATE LEVY FUND FOR WALES

A letter dated 28th June 2011 was received from the Welsh Government in which it was indicated that the Minister had accepted a recommendation from the Advisory Panel that the Council's application be not approved. The Advisory Panel had however indicated that they would be prepared to consider an application for other community based projects from the Council.

The Clerk reported that as the application had been turned down he had met with an officer of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council to discuss the possibility of a limited scheme being carried out within the budget provided by the Neath Port Talbot Minor Projects Grant coupled with the Council's contribution. The officer felt that it was feasible to carry out a limited scheme and further details would be brought before the Council in due course.

Resolved that the Cemetery and Environment Committee appointed in minute 6 of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on the 18th May 2011 be granted plenary powers to discharge the functions of the Council in respect of the proposed scheme.

35. PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES – ANNUAL REPORT 2010/11

Resolved that the above report be noted.

36. CWMLLYNFELL PARK (FORMER TENNIS COURTS)

A communication was received from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council in connection with the proposal for the Community Council take responsibility for the above park with a view to seeking grants for its redevelopment as a multi play area. An outline of the costs involved if the Council were to accept responsibility was also provided.

Resolved that the principle of accepting responsibility for the park be accepted so as to enable discussions to take place with representatives of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council with a view to obtaining grants to progress the matter.

37. STRATEGIC SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME — YGGD RHIWFAWR

A copy of a letter dated 14th July 2011 from the Welsh Government to Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council was received. The letter indicated that Mr Leighton Andrews, Minister for Education and Skills had decided to approve the proposal to close Rhiwfawr primary School with a modification to the effect that the proposal would be implemented on the 31st December 2011 rather than the 1st September 2011.

Cllr C E Richards indicated that a meeting between interested parties and the Director of Education was scheduled to take place in September and in light of the decision the priority now was to ensure that Cwmllynfell School remained open.

Resolved that the Council's disappointment over the decision to close Rhiwfawr school be conveyed to the Minister for Education and Skills.

38. RoSPA – PLAY AREA SAFETY INSPECTION

The annual safety inspection report in respect of the park at Rhiwfawr was received from RoSPA. Overall, the report was favourable but the following items and suggested course of action had been identified:

Gate from car Park into play area	Damaged, monitor condition
BMX Track	Medium risk – no action required
Multi-Play equipment	The equipment fails to meet current entrapment requirements and should

Clatter bridge
Surface area
Swing – toddler

be monitored.
Chain Links require replacing
Remove Debris
Depression in surface - monitor

Resolved that the report be noted and a quotation considered under agenda item 6(b) for replacing the chain links on the clatter bridge.

39. ATLANTIC ARRAY OFFSHORE WIND FARM

Resolved that the letter dated 18th July 2011 from RWE Npower Renewables in connection with the consultation exercise in respect of the above proposal be noted.

40. CASUAL VACANCY – PENRHIWFAWR WARD

A letter dated 19th July 2011 was received from Councillor V B Fox tendering his resignation as a member of the Council.

Resolved that:

1. the vacancy be advertised in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1972;
2. the Council's appreciation for his service as a Councillor and best wishes be conveyed to Mr Fox.

41. YSTRADOWEN COMMUNITY CENTRE – OPEN EVENING 25TH JULY 2011

A letter dated 20th July 2011 was received inviting all members of the Council to attend the above open evening.

Resolved that all members be encouraged to attend.

42. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) Application for Financial Assistance

Consideration was given to applications for financial assistance.

Resolved that:

1. 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:

Shelter Cymru

£50

2. a grant in the following sum be made to the under-mentioned organisation:

Cwmllynfell and District Bowls Club £400

3. the under-mentioned organisation be requested to provide a statement of accounts in support of the application:

St Margaret's Church Cwmllynfell - Remedial Work

(b) Quotation – Rhiwfawr Play Area

Resolved that the quotation from A I Ltd, Outdoor and Indoor Play safe Consultants, Swansea for replacing the damaged component connectors to the clatter bridge in the sum of £72 9incl VAT be accepted.

(c) Payment of Accounts

Resolved that:

1. the following accounts be paid:

No			£
1534	Shelter Cymru	Grant	50.00
1535	Cwmllynfell & Dist Bowls Club	Grant	400.00
1536	Paul's Plant Hire	Work at Rhiwfawr Park	1,246.80
1537	Playsafety ltd	Safety Inspection Rhiwfawr	75.60
1538	Payroll	Net salary June	212.11
1539	Inland Revenue	Income Tax	53.03
1540	Payroll	Net salary July	212.11
1541	Inland Revenue	Income Tax	53.03

2. consideration of the following account be deferred until the next meeting:

Ramblers' Association Subscription

43. PLANNING MATTERS

(a) Planning Application

Resolved that, in light of the proposed haulage route in relation to the following application, Neath port Talbot County Borough Council be requested to examine the issue of the long awaited replacement of the defective bridge at lower Cwmtwrch so as to offer alternative routes to heavy vehicle travelling between Rhiwfawr and Cwmllynfell:

App No:

P2009/0769 New underground Coal Mine at Penydarren, Cwm Du, Godre'rgraig
(Note: The proposed access affects the Community of Cwmllynfell);

(b) Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan

Resolved that the letter dated 20th June 2011 from Carmarthenshire county Council in connection with the consultation publication date be noted.

44. DELEGATION ARRANGEMENTS – AUGUST RECESS

Resolved that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, acting together, or in the event of their being unavailable any other two Members of the Council, acting together, be authorised to discharge the functions of the Council in respect of any matter referred to them by the Clerk of the Council as requiring urgent attention before the next ordinary meeting of the Council.

REPORTS

The following matters were reported:

- South Wales Police Statistics
(Noted that these statistics had been collected by the revised accounting method and they included areas within Carmarthenshire)

All Crime inc ASB - I	8 - May
Burglary:	1
Anti Social Behaviour	6
Other Crime	1

- Dog waste bins removed Footpath Railway terrace to Lewis Avenue;
- Cwmllynfell Cemetery – weeds – block paving
- Police open day 17th July – insufficient publicity

The meeting terminated at 8.00pm.