

**CYNGOR CYMUNED CWMLLYNFELL COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE RHIWFAWR HALL ON  
THURSDAY 15<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2011 AT 6.30 P.M.**

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

**46. GLEISION COLLIERY – CILYBEBYLL**

The Chairman referred to the mining accident that had occurred this day at the above-mentioned colliery and to the fact that a search and rescue operation for the four miners that were still trapped in the mine was currently in progress.

**Resolved** that it be placed on record that the thoughts of the members of the Council are with the trapped miners and their families.

**47. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for their absence were received from Councillors M C Jones and S Williams.

**48. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor D B Thomas declared his interest in agenda item 6(b) – Application for Financial Assistance – St Margaret’s Church, Cwmllynfell.

**49. MINUTES**

**Resolved** that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on the 21<sup>st</sup> July 2011 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

**50. MATTERS ARISING**

**(a) Minute 33 – Awel Aman Tawe – “Energyshare” Grant Application**

A communication was received from Mr D McCallum of Awel Aman Tawe indicating that they had progressed to the next round of “energyshare” and that it was still possible for the Council to support the application. Mr McCallum also suggested that it might be beneficial if he were to meet with the Council to discuss their proposals.

**Resolved** that Mr McCallum be invited to the next or future meeting of the Council.

**(b) Minute 34 – Cwmllynfell Cemetery**

The Clerk reported on his discussions with an officer of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council in connection with the design of the proposed work at the cemetery and the tendering procedures. As soon as details were to hand a meeting of the Cemetery and Environment Committee would be convened.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

**(c) Minute 36 - Cwmllynfell Park (Former Tennis Courts)**

It was reported that Councillor C E Richards and the Clerk had met with Mr C Munro, Project Development and Funding Officer with Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council. It had been learned that the former tennis courts were leased at present to the Hall Management Committee. In order to apply for external funding it would be necessary for the land to be leased to the Community Council for a minimum period of 10 years.

**Resolved** that:

1. it is agreed in principle that the above-mentioned land be leased from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council with a view to seeking external funding to redevelop the land as a recreation area;
2. a further report be awaited on the terms of the transaction;
3. the Chairman and Vice-Chairman be granted plenary powers to agree any points of detail that may arise during discussions about the matter.

**(d) Minute 42(c) – Ramblers’ Association - Subscription**

Further consideration was given to renewing the Council’s affiliated membership of the Rambler’s Association.

**Resolved** that the Council’s subscription be renewed at a cost of £45.

**51. QUEEN’S DIAMOND JUBILEE**

**Resolved** that the letter dated 27<sup>th</sup> July 2011 from One Voice Wales in connection with the Beacon Project to commemorate the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee be noted.

**52. INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES – DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT**

A letter dated 1<sup>st</sup> August 2011 was received from the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales together with the Draft Annual Report 2012/13. The report indicated, inter alia, that it was anticipated that a national remuneration framework for Community and Town Councils would be introduced for 2013/14.

**Resolved** that the matter be noted.

**53. BRITAIN IN BLOOM**

A letter dated 5<sup>th</sup> August 2011 was received from the Royal Horticultural Society encouraging participation in “Britain in Bloom”.

**Resolved** that enquiries be made of Pontardawe Town Council with regard to the arrangements that they had in place during this year to provide hanging baskets.

#### **54. REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS, POLLING PLACES AND POLLING STATIONS**

A letter was received from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council in connection with the above periodic review which was carried out at four yearly intervals. The Council was accordingly invited to submit any representations with regard to the review as it affected the community. Details were provided of the polling districts and polling stations within the community, as follows which had been adopted at the last review on the recommendation of the community council after the Returning Officer had identified that both previous polling stations in the community merited examination with a view to improving access.

Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station
NI1 Cwmllynfell (Cwmllynfell Community ward)	Cwmllynfell Hall, Gwilym Road	Cwmllynfell Hall, Gwilym Road
NI2 Rhiwfawr (Penrhiwfawr Community Ward)	Community Hall Gorsto Road Rhiwfawr	Community Hall Gorsto Road Rhiwfawr

**Resolved** that Port Talbot County Borough Council be informed that:

1. it is the view of the Council that the present polling districts should remain unchanged as their boundaries are coterminous with the community wards which in turn form the building blocks for the County Borough Electoral Division and as such provide appropriate democratic polling arrangements;
2. the current polling places and polling stations should be retained in their current form as they are suitable for the requirements of the polling districts.

#### **55. ONE VOICE WALES – AUTUMN TRAINING PROGRAMME**

**Resolved** that the details of the Autumn Training programme received from One Voice Wales, be noted.

#### **56. NEATH PORT TALBOT CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU**

A letter dated 30<sup>th</sup> August 2011 was received from Neath Port Talbot Citizens' Advice Bureau indicating that the first Annual General Meeting of the newly merged bureau would be held on the 5<sup>th</sup> October 2011 and inviting the Council to be represented.

**Resolved** that the Bureau be thanked for the invitation and informed that due to its proximity that the Ystradgynlais Bureau serves the community and that the Council provides financial support to that bureau annually.

#### **57. BUS SERVICE 125**

**Resolved** that a letter dated 30<sup>th</sup> August 2011 from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council giving notification that the operator of the above service would change to First Cymru on the 5<sup>th</sup> September 2011, be noted.

## **58. NEATH PORT TALBOT CVS – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Resolved** that the invitation from Neath Port Talbot CVS for the Council to be represented at the Annual General Meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2011 be noted.

## **59. CASUAL VACANCY – CWMLLYNFELL WARD**

A letter dated 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2011 was received from Councillor C Jones 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 Jones.

## **60. LAW OF PROPERTY ACT 1925 – SECTION 194 – NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL – STOCKPROOF FENCE AT BRYN ROAD AND RHIW ROAD – PENLLE'RFEDWEN AND MYNYDD UCHAF COMMON**

A copy of a letter dated 8<sup>th</sup> September 2011 from the Welsh Government to Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council was received, in which it was indicated that the above application had been refused as it was not considered that the reasons and submissions put forward in support of the proposals were such as would justify overriding the general rights of access to the common land.

**Resolved** that the Council's extreme disappointment be conveyed to the Welsh Government and the Assembly Members representing the area.

## **61. "THINK LINKS, THINK RURAL THINK SUSTAINABILITY" PROJECT**

A communication was received from the Rural Research and Development Project Officer, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council who had been employed to undertake the above project which would consist of carrying out a community audit of all the rural wards in the County Borough and to prepare an action plan to address the issues facing those wards.

**Resolved** that the Rural Research and Development Officer be invited to the next or future meeting of the Council.

## **62. YOUTH VOLUNTEER AWARDS**

**Resolved** that a communication received from Neath Port Talbot CVS inviting nominations for the above award be noted.

## **63. FINANCIAL MATTERS**

### **(a) Annual Report and Governance Statement – Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011**

**Resolved** that the Summary Receipts and Payments Statement and Balance Sheet for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010 having been approved (Minute 164(a) of

21/04/2010 refers), the Council affirms its compliance with the matters listed in the Annual Governance Statement for 2010/11 and as such it be approved.

**(b) 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:

St Margaret's Church, Cwmllynfell – Remedial work £200

2. the application received from the under-mentioned organisation be not entertained:

Victim Support Cymru

**(c) Payment of Accounts**

**Resolved** that the following accounts be paid:

No			£
1542	Ramblers Association	Subscription	45.00
1543	St Margaret's Church, Cwmllynfell	Grant	200.00
1544	Accurate Inspection Ltd	Repairs Rhiwfawr Playground	72.00
1545	Mr A Pedrick	Internal Audit	60.00
1546	Payroll	Net salary May	212.11
1547	Inland Revenue	Income Tax	53.03

**64. PLANNING MATTERS - NEATH PORT TALBOT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN – PRE-DEPOSIT CONSULTATION**

A letter dated 26<sup>th</sup> August 2011 was received from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council together with a copy of the above plan. The Plan had set out the County Borough Council's vision, strategic options, preferred strategy and key policies which would shape the way in which the County Borough would develop in the period to 2026.

**Resolved** that the County Borough Council be requested to identify specifically how its vision, strategic options, preferred strategy and key policies will shape Cwmllynfell and Rhiwfawr in the period to 2026:

## **65. CASUAL VACANCY – PENRHIWFAWR WARD**

**Resolved** that the co-option of a person to fill the casual vacancy in the office of Councillor to represent the Penrhiwfawr Ward be deferred until the next meeting of the Council.

## **66. REPORTS**

Councillor C E Richards reported on the following matters:

- Grass cutting by Celtic Energy – imminent;
- Pedestrian crossing near Cwmllynfell Hall to be replaced by a pelican crossing;
- Drainage – Coedffaldau/Bryn Road to be discussed on the 6<sup>th</sup> October;
- Doctors' Surgery Cwmllynfell – future arrangements

**Resolved** that enquiries be made with regard to the proposed future arrangements for accommodating the surgery and that it be suggested that the practice may wish to consider Rhiwfawr School as a suitable location.

The following matters were also reported:

- South Wales Police Statistics All Crime inc ASB - June – 10 July - 8  
(Noted that statistics include Burglary: 1 2  
Cefn Bryn Brain and Anti Social Behaviour 6 1  
Ystradowen) Other Crime 3 5
- Communities First
- Home Office Fund for Community Engagement
- Fencing Rhiwfawr Play Area - damaged
- Gwilym Road, near Cefnbrynbrain – highway drainage defects and lack of disabled crossing places
- PACT meeting – parking and speeding.

The meeting terminated at 8.10pm.