

**CYNGOR CYMUNED CWMLLYNFELL COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE CWMLLYNFELL HALL ON  
THURSDAY 20<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2011 AT 6.15 P.M.**

**PRESENT:** Councillor D Lloyd (Vice-Chairman) presided pro-tem

**COUNCILLORS:** R Evans, M C Jones, D C Phillips, and D B Thomas

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

**67. CONDOLENCES - GLEISION COLLIERY – CILYBEBYLL**

The Chairman referred with deep regret to the tragic death of Charles Breslin, Garry Jenkins, David Powell and Phillip Hill as a result of the mining accident that had occurred on the 15<sup>th</sup> September 2011 at Gleision Colliery.

All present stood in silent tribute as a token of respect.

**68. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for their absence were received from Councillors M Evans and J C Rees.

**69. AWEL AMAN TAWE – PROPOSED MYNYDD Y GWRHYD WIND FARM**

The Council received a presentation from Mr Dan McCallum, Project Manager of Awel Aman Tawe. Mr McCallum indicated that although planning permission had been obtained for the community wind farm comprising two turbines, the application to the Welsh Assembly Government under Section 194 of the Law of Property Act 1925 for permission to carry out work on common land had been refused. A new application would be made emphasising the benefits to the public that the development would bring, including income of £200,000 per annum to 12 local communities and improved access to common land from the improved track that would be included in the application.

Members were afforded the opportunity to ask questions, which included the future maintenance of the track, the intention to erect more turbines and alternative means of harnessing renewable energy.

The Chairman thanked Mr McCallum for his attendance and the information provided.

**Resolved** that Awel Aman Tawe be requested to keep the Council informed about progress on the Section 194 application.

**70. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made at this juncture.

**71. MINUTES**

**Resolved** that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on the 15<sup>th</sup> September 2011 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

## **72. MATTERS ARISING**

### **(a) Minute 50(b) – Cwmllynfell Cemetery**

Details were presented of the draft scheme for preparing part of the cemetery extension to make it suitable for grave spaces and spaces for the burial of cremated remains. The draft scheme would form the basis for inviting tenders/quotations for the work.

**Resolved** that the draft scheme be accepted.

### **(b) Minute 50(c) - Cwmllynfell Park (Former Tennis Courts)**

It was reported that community consultation was underway to ascertain the type of facilities that would be welcomed at the above location. The terms of the lease to the community council would be received in due course which it was anticipated would be either at no cost or minimal cost to the Council. Applications for grant were being prepared for submission to the Welsh Government under the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund Wales and to Waste Recycling Environmental Limited (WREN) under the Landfill Communities Fund.

**Resolved** that the situation be noted and the terms of the lease be awaited.

### **(c) Minute 53 - Britain In Bloom**

It was reported that enquiries to Pontardawe Town Council had revealed that the hanging baskets in the town had been supplied by the City and County of Swansea on a rechargeable basis. Enquiries had therefore been made to Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council and the City and County of Swansea with regard to supplying the community. It transpired that Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council did not have adequate resources to accommodate the Council. Swansea's Floral Decorations Manager had however visited the area and had provided a quotation of £1,407.45 plus VAT for providing and maintaining 9 lamp post containers and 6 planter units. It would also be necessary for the Council to purchase the planter units at a cost of some £95 each plus VAT. The quotation was also dependent upon Pontardawe Town Council also engaging Swansea to provide their displays for summer 2012.

**Resolved** that enquiries be made to ascertain whether grant funding may be obtained towards floral displays.

### **(d) Minute 61 - “Think Links, Think Rural Think Sustainability” Project**

**Resolved** that it be noted that the Rural Research and Development Project Officer, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council would be making a presentation to the next meeting of the Council.

### **(e) Minute 64 - Planning Matters - Neath Port Talbot Local Development Plan – Pre-Deposit Consultation**

A response was received from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council to the Council's request to identify how the vision, strategic options, preferred strategy and key policies within the plan would shape Cwmllynfell and Rhiwfawr in the period to

2026. It had been indicated that in terms of the special option the preference was to focus new development on the cosatl/M4 corridor whilst reinvigorating the Valley Communities. No large scale sites had been identified in the Valley areas but the plan highlighted the additional need to identify land to accommodate 75 plots on smaller sites in the Swansea Valley

**Resolved** that the response be noted and the receipt of the deposit plan be awaited.

### **73. ONE VOICE WALES – APPOINTMENT OF TRAINING CHAMPIONS**

A letter dated 19<sup>th</sup> September 2011 was received from One Voice Wales inviting each member council to appoint a training champion.

**Resolved** that One Voice Wales be informed that the Council does not have a member available to fulfil the role.

### **74. CODE OF CONDUCT TRAINING**

An invitation was received from the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council for members of the Council to attend a training session on the Code of Conduct at Rhydyfro on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2011.

**Resolved** that Councillors M C Jones, D C Phillips and D B Thomas be authorised to attend the training session.

### **75. OLD CEMETERY - CWMLLYNFELL**

Further to minute 71 of the meeting of the Council held on the 20<sup>th</sup> October 2010, a communication was received from Groundwork indicating that a project would commence in respect of the old cemetery. Trysor had been engaged to research and document the history of the site in conjunction with pupils of Cwmllynfell Primary School. It was intended to involve other groups from Cwmllynfell and the suggestions of the Council were invited.

**Resolved** that:

1. Groundwork be requested to arrange an open day in the village so as to afford interested parties to engage with the project;
2. arrangements be made for the necessary evidence to be submitted to Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council in order to include the footpath leading down to the old cemetery in the definitive map of public rights of way.

### **76. TENANT SCRUTINY IN NPT HOMES**

**Resolved** that the letter dated 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2011 from NPT Homes outlining the process for establishing tenant scrutiny arrangements be noted.

### **77. MUTUALISATION OF THE POST OFFICE**

**Resolved** that consideration of responding to the consultation on the above matter received from Neath Port Talbot CVs be deferred until the next meeting.

## **78. AMMAN GROUP OF LOCAL COUNCILS**

It was reported that an invitation had been received from the Amman Group of Local Councils in Carmarthenshire for the Council, along with other community councils in this part of the County Borough of Neath Port Talbot to attend a recent meeting of the above group to discuss the Amman Valley Walk/Cycleway. Arrangement had accordingly been made for the Chairman and Vice Chairman to attend.

Subsequently an invitation had been received from the group for community councils from the Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council area to become permanent members of the group, which met normally on three occasions each year.

**Resolved** that:

1. the action taken in making arrangements for the Chairman and Vice Chairman to attend the above-mentioned meeting be confirmed;
2. the Chairman and Vice Chairman be appointed to represent the Council at future meetings of the group.

## **79. SWANSEA COMMUNITY BOAT – RIVER TAWE**

**Resolved** that the notification received that the above facility was available to some groups from within “coalfield communities” be noted.

## **80. CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINT**

**Resolved** that the letter dated 13<sup>th</sup> October 2011 from the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales giving notice of a code of conduct complaint against a former member of the council be noted and further information be awaited.

## **81. FINANCIAL MATTERS**

### **(a) Applications for Financial Assistance**

Consideration was given to applications for financial assistance.

**Resolved** that:

1. the under-mentioned application be not entertained and the applicants informed that it is the Council’s practice to assist the organisation by making a grant to local schools to defray the cost of pupils’ membership subscriptions:

Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Urdd Gobaith Cymru - Eryri 2012

2. grants in the following sums 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:

Bobath Cymru	£50
Royal British Legion – Remembrance Cross – Cardiff	£25
Royal British legion – Poppy Wreath	£16.50

3. grants in the following sums be made to the under-mentioned organisations:

Rhiwfawr Community Association – Rhiwfawr Hall	£1,500
Cwmllynfell RFC	£500

**(b) Christmas Lights 2011**

A communication was received from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council indicating that their quotation for the Christmas lights should have been £2,005.86 not £2,273.85

It was also reported that the Celtic Energy Site Liaison Committee – Community Benefit Fund had agreed to a contribution of £1,000 towards Christmas lighting. The Gwrhyd Quarry and Celtic Energy had each agreed to also provide a Christmas tree.

**Resolved** that the above information be received with gratification.

**(c) Payment of Accounts**

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

No			£
1548	Bobath Cymru	Grant	50.00
1549	Royal British Legion	Grant	25.00
1550	Royal British Legion	Poppy Wreath	16.50
1551	Rhiwfawr Community Association	Grant	1500.00
1552	Cwmllynfell RFC	Grant	500.00
1553	The Consortium	Stationery	67.97
1554	Payroll	Net salary September	212.11
1555	Inland Revenue	Income Tax	53.03

**82. PLANNING MATTERS**

**Resolved** that it be noted that the following planning application had been refused by Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council:

P2009/0769 New underground Coal Mine at Penydarren Cwm Du Valley, Godrergrraig (Note: Proposed access via Rhiwfawr and Cwmllynfell);

**83. CASUAL VACANCY – PENRHIWFAWR WARD**

Further to Minute 59 of the last meeting, consideration was given to co-opting a person to fill the vacancy in the office of Councillor representing the above ward. A communication had been received from Mr Paul Morgan of Coedffaldau Cottage, Rhiwfawr indicating that he would wish to be considered to fill the vacancy.

**Resolved** that Mr Paul Morgan, Coedffaldau Cottage, Rhiwfawr be co-opted to fill the vacancy.

**84. CASUAL VACANCY – CWMLLYNFELL WARD**

A letter dated 14<sup>th</sup> October 2011 was received from the Returning Officer, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council indicating that as he had not received a request for an election, the Council should co-opt a person to fill the above vacancy.

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

## **85. REPORTS**

The following matters were also reported:

- |  |                       |        |   |
|--|-----------------------|--------|---|
| • South Wales Police Statistics                                | All Crime inc ASB -   | August | 6 |
| (Noted that statistics include Cefn Bryn Brain and Ystradowen) | Anti Social Behaviour |        | 4 |
|  | Violent Crime         |        | 1 |
|  | Other Crime           |        | 1 |
- PCSO Rhys Thomas – letter of thanks upon transfer to other duties;
  - Is y Bryniau – Lighting standard removed some 12 months previously but not replaced;
  - Swansea Valley Miners' Appeal Fund

**Resolved** that:

1. the Council thanks and best wishes be conveyed to Mr Rhys Thomas PCSO;
2. further enquiries be made with regard to the Council's powers to contribute to the Swansea Valley Miners' Appeal Fund.

Councillor C E Richards reported on issues including the following matters:

- Drainage Bryn Road – Coedffaldau;
- Surface Water near boundary with Cefn Bryn Brain;
- Rhiwfawr Primary School – transfer of pupils and allocation of remaining budget;
- Proposed animal trespass fencing representations

The meeting terminated at 8.20pm.