

CYNGOR CYMUNED CWMLLYNFELL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE RHIWFAWR HALL ON
THURSDAY 17th NOVEMBER 2011 AT 6.30 P.M.**

PRESENT: Councillor M Evans (Chairman) presided
COUNCILLORS: R Evans, M C Jones, R P Morgan, D C Phillips, D B Thomas and S Williams.

86. COUNCILLOR R PAUL MORGAN – PENRHIWFAWR WARD

The Chairman welcomed Councillor R Paul Morgan to his first meeting following his co-option and completion of the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and Undertaking to comply with the Code of Conduct.

87. APOLOGIES

Apologies for their absence were received from Councillors M Jones, M C Jones and D Lloyd.

88. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made at this juncture.

89. MINUTES

Resolved that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on the 20th October 2011 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

90. MATTERS ARISING

(a) Minute 72(a) - Cwmllynfell Park (Former Tennis Courts)

The Clerk reported that Councillor C E Richards and he had met representatives of the Cwmllynfell Hall Committee who had been agreeable to the transfer of the lease of the park to the Community Council in order to facilitate the proposed scheme for its development. A plan and an artist's impression of the proposed scheme were presented for the Council's consideration. Extensive consultation had taken place in the community in respect of the scheme and numerous letters of support had been received.

Applications for grants to fund the scheme were currently being prepared by officers of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council on the Council's behalf which would be submitted shortly to the Welsh Government (Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund) and Waste Recycling Environmental (Landfill Communities Fund).

A letter dated 11th November 2011 was received from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council in which it was indicated that the authority was, in principle, willing to grant the Council a 25 year lease of the land subject to terms and conditions requiring, inter alia, the approval of the Coal Industry Welfare Organisation, agreement of the Hall Committee and payment of a market rental and costs.

Resolved that:

1. the situation be noted and the design of the scheme be approved;
2. further details of the terms of the lease be awaited.

(b) Minute 72(d) - “Think Links, Think Rural Think Sustainability” Project

A communication was received from the Rural Research and Development Project Officer to Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council in which it was indicated that the project was being advanced as a pilot in two wards and as such it would be inappropriate to meet at present. She would therefore contact the Council in the new year when further information would be available.

Resolved that the situation be noted.

(c) Minute 80 - Code of Conduct Complaint

Resolved that it be noted that a letter dated 14th November 2011 had been received from the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales indicating that it had been decided not to investigate the complaint made against a former member of the Council.

(d) Minute 81(b) – Christmas Lights 2011

A letter dated 20th October 2011 was received from Celtic Energy enclosing a cheque for £1,000 from the Community Benefit Fund towards the Christmas Lights scheme. Celtic Energy and the Gwrhyd Quarry had also agreed to provide Christmas trees again this year.

Resolved that in acknowledgement of their valued contribution towards the Christmas lights scheme the companies be invited to take part in a photo call.

(e) Minute 85 – Swansea Valley Miners’ Appeal Fund

It was reported that the Council’s external auditors had responded suggesting that the Council seeks advice from One Voice Wales with regard to its powers to make a contribution to the above fund. An enquiry had therefore been made to One Voice Wales and a Legal Topic Note on the provisions of section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 had been provided. The advice was not however conclusive and as such One Voice Wales had offered to obtain a legal opinion on the matter if the Council so required.

Resolved that One Voice Wales be requested to obtain a legal opinion.

91. COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2012

A letter dated 7th November 2011 was received from the Returning Officer, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council in which it was indicated that as the next ordinary election of Community Councillors was due to take place on the 3rd May 2012, any casual vacancies that occurred on or after the 3rd November 2011 would not be filled by elections. The Community Council could co-opt to fill a vacancy if it so wished.

The Returning Officer also reminded the Council that the cost of administering Community Council elections would be met by the Community Council and where there was also a County Borough election the cost would be shared.

Booklets explaining the procedure for County Borough and Community Council elections were also received.

Resolved that the information provided by the Returning Officer be noted and that a copy of the booklet relating to Community Council elections be obtained for each member of the Council.

92. MID AND WEST WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY – ANNUAL ACTION PLAN 2012-13

A letter dated 7th November 2011 was received from the Fire and Rescue Authority in which it was indicated that the above plan had been published. A copy of the plan had been requested.

Resolved that the matter be noted.

93. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) Annual Return of Accounts 2010/11

A letter dated 27th October 2011 was received from Mazars LLP, the Council's auditors indicating that there were no issues in respect of which they proposed to qualify their audit opinion, there were no matters which they wished to draw to the attention of the Council and they had not identified any misstatements that required to be corrected.

The Clerk as Responsible Financial Officer had therefore certified the return in accordance with regulation 8B of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) regulations 2005 (as amended).

Resolved that the Annual Return be approved and signed by the Chairman in accordance with Regulation 9 of the above regulations and sent to the auditors for final completion.

(b) Applications for Financial Assistance – Vale of Glamorgan National Eisteddfod

Consideration was given to the above application for financial assistance.

Resolved that the applicants be informed that the Council will consider any application for financial assistance that may be received from a local fund raising committee.

(c) Payment of Accounts

Resolved that the following accounts be paid:

No			£
1556	Councillor D C Phillips	Travelling expenses	5.80
1557	Mrs C Phillips	Honorarium – Cemetery Records	200.00
1558	Payroll	Net salary October	212.11
1559	Inland Revenue	Income Tax	53.03

94. PLANNING MATTERS

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

App No:

P2011/0928 First Floor Extension at Gwynant, Coedffaldau, Rhiwfawr

95. CASUAL VACANCY – CWMLLYNFELL WARD

A letter dated 14th October 2011 had been 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 Mr Richard M Davies, 3 Walters Road, Cwmllynfell be co-opted to fill the vacancy.

96. REPORTS

The following matters were also reported:

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|---|-----------------------------|-----------|---|
| • South Wales Police Statistics | All Crime inc ASB - | September | 8 |
| (Note: Statistics include Cefn Bryn Brain and Ystradowen) | Anti Social Behaviour: | | 5 |
| | Violent Crime | | 1 |
| | Public Disorder and Weapons | | 1 |
| | Drugs | | 1 |
- Overgrown tree Prospect Place;
 - Pothole near 103 Rhiw Road, Rhiwfawr;
 - Damaged fence Rhiwfawr Park, Play area;
 - Swansea Valley Miners' Appeal Fund
 - Code of Conduct training – Monitoring Officer.

Resolved that it be suggested to the Monitoring Officer, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council that, in view of the poor attendance at the recent training session, he may wish to consider visiting each community council to provide future training.

The meeting terminated at 7.36pm.