

**CYNGOR CYMUNED CWMLLYNFELL COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE RHIWFAWR HALL  
ON THURSDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> NOVEMBER 2012 AT 6.15 P.M.**

**PRESENT:**

**COUNCILLORS:** R M Davies, M Evans, T H J Kendrick, R P Morgan, D C Phillips,  
J C Rees, D B Thomas and S Williams.

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

**75. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

**Resolved** in the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman that Councillor Marshall Evans be appointed to preside.

**76. MID AND WEST WALES FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE -  
DRAFT ANNUAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2013-2014**

The presiding Chairman welcomed Mr C Margetts, Group Manager of the Fire and Rescue Service and Councillor A Woolcock, Member of the Fire and Rescue Authority. Mr Margetts explained that the Fire and Rescue Service was legally obliged to draw up a Strategic Plan. The plan in respect of 2013-14 had five key objectives which were to manage down risk, manage their people and ensure that they possessed the required skills, manage working together and collaborating with other services, manage resources and manage performance. The most contentious issue was the management of resources and there were proposals affecting the Neath and Port Talbot areas. Any reductions in staffing levels would be managed as much as possible by natural wastage. No changes were however proposed for the Amman Valley, Pontardawe or Abercrave as reviews had taken place in those areas.

A discussion ensued on the provision of fire and rescue services in Cwmllynfell and Rhiwfawr and the effect of the road network on the delivery of the service. Mr Margetts explained that areas that were furthest away from fire stations were targeted by fire prevention measures. The measures that had taken place to reduce risk such as the provision of smoke alarms and other equipment in the area were discussed and comment was made on the renewal of devices that were no longer operational. Mr Margetts indicate that they co-operated with other services including the voluntary sector to identify households at risk and resources were deployed according to circumstances.

Mr Margetts and Councillor Woolcock were thanked for their attendance and they in turn indicated that if the Council had any concerns about the delivery of the service in the community that a return visit could be arranged.

**77. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for their absence were received from Councillors R Evans and D Lloyd.

## **78. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made at this juncture.

## **79. MINUTES**

**Resolved** that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on the 18<sup>th</sup> October 2012 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

## **80. MATTERS ARISING**

### **(a) Minute 69(a) - Parc Cymunedol Llynfell Community Park**

The Clerk reported that he had attended a pre-contract meeting with representatives of Wicksteed, their sub-contractors, Mr C Munro of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council and Mr A Williams of Cwmnantlleici Quarry on the 7<sup>th</sup> November 2012. The contractors had commenced work on the 12<sup>th</sup> November and it was anticipated that the multi use games area and the zip wire would be completed before Christmas. The sub-contractors who would be constructing the skate boarding area would not commence their work until mid January so completion was not expected until the end of January.

The Clerk had issued a press on behalf of the Council. A press release had also been issued by Mrs Gwenda Thomas AM in which she thanked the Council for its efforts in securing grants and enabling the project to proceed.

The Manager of the Aggregate Levy Fund Wales at the Welsh Government had also encouraged the Council to involve Ministers in any opening ceremony that may be envisaged.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

### **(b) Minute 69(b) - East Pit Regeneration – Community Engagement Programme**

A communication was received from Ms J Smith of the Planning Division of the Welsh Government in response to the representations that had been made on behalf of the Council to seek an assurance that the conditions imposed in the planning permission that had been granted in respect of the East Pit site in 2004, would be enforced. Ms Smith had indicated that it would not be appropriate for Welsh Ministers to speculate about the intentions of the owners and operators and whether they were likely to default on the obligations imposed in the 2004 permission. She also indicated that she understood the Council's concerns and confirmed that Welsh Ministers would expect the owners and operators to honour the obligations imposed on them.

The Clerk had responded expressing disappointment at the dismissive nature of the reply and stating that although the Council would not expect Ministers to speculate on the matter that it was reasonable to expect that appropriate investigations and enquiries would be carried out such as discussions with the Local Planning Authority so that a meaningful response could be given. The response had been copied to interested parties including Mrs Gwenda Thomas AM.

Letters dated 16<sup>th</sup> October and 9 November 2012 were also received from Mrs Gwenda Thomas AM in response to the Council's communications in which she indicated that she was already pursuing lines of enquiry and thanking the Council for

drawing attention to the requirements imposed in the 2004 permission. She would therefore be writing to the Head of Planning at Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council to enquire whether a restoration plan had been submitted in accordance with the terms of the planning permission. She also referred to the reply from the Planning Division of the Welsh Government and whilst she understood the Council's concern she emphasised that at least initially the legal responsibility in respect of a planning application would rest with the Local Planning Authority. However she also indicated that she was already considering whether to make a request for the planning application in respect of the new restoration proposals to be "called in" so that responsibility for its determination would be assumed by the Welsh Government.

A communication was also received from Quarter Bach Community Council requesting that a joint meeting be convened to discuss the restoration proposals. It was understood that a similar request had possibly been made to Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen Community Council.

**Resolved** that:

1. Mrs Gwenda Thomas AM be asked to convene and preside at a meeting of interested parties comprising representatives of the Planning Division of the Welsh Government, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council and Quarter Bach, Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen and Cwmllynfell Community Councils so as to afford the opportunity to air concerns about the outstanding issues under the 2004 permission and the implications of the current proposals;
2. Quarter Bach Community Council be advised of the above action.

**(c) Minute 69(f) - Neath Port Talbot Credit Union**

**Resolved** that it be noted that Mr B Warlow of the Neath Port Talbot Credit Union had accepted the invitation to attend the meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> December.

**81. ABERTAWA BRO MORGANNWG UNIVERSITY HEALTH BOARD –  
"OUR IDEAS FOR YOUR LOCAL NHS"**

A letter dated 29<sup>th</sup> October 2012 was received from the Health Board together with a leaflet and booklet describing the work being done and outlining ideas for future NHS care in the Board's area in respect of which comments were invited by the 19<sup>th</sup> December 2012.

**Resolved** that the matter be noted.

**82. EAST PIT EAST OPENCAST COAL SITE – COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND**

A letter dated 1<sup>st</sup> November 2012 was received from the Mine Manger together with a cheque for £1000 from the Community Benefit Fund towards the Council's Christmas Lights.

**Resolved** that the Council's gratitude be conveyed to the Mine Manger and the Fund Committee.

### **83. CWMLLYNFELL POST OFFICE**

A letter dated 31<sup>st</sup> October 2012 was received from the Post Office's National Consultation Team in which it was indicated that the current Sub Post Office at Cwmllynfell would close as a result of a resignation. However a new agent had been appointed so that Post Office Services would continue at the Supermarket at 18 Gwilym Road, Cwmllynfell. A level entry, extended opening hours and a combined Post Office and retail till would be available at the new premises.

**Resolved** that the Post Office Consultation Team be informed that the Council welcomes the continuation of the Post Office service in Cwmllynfell and wishes to offer the following comments:

- (a) As the new facilities will include a combined Post Office and retail till it is hoped that these will include a facility to enable Post Office customers to conduct their business in private if they need to do so;
- (b) The Council is also aware that on occasions parking and traffic safety is an issue at 18 Gwilym Road especially when vehicles are reversing onto the carriageway from the area in front of the premises. As such the Post office may wish to ask the owner to consider carrying out such improvements as may be possible so as to improve parking and safety.

### **84. REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSITUENCIES IN WALES**

A communication was received from the Boundary Commission for Wales in which it was announced that revised proposals for changes to parliamentary constituencies in Wales had been published. Representations were invited by the 18<sup>th</sup> December 2012.

**Resolved** that the Boundary Commission for Wales be informed that the Council continues to be opposed to the reduction in the number of MPs in Wales. It also remains of the view that the "building blocks" that are formed by community wards, communities, electoral divisions, counties & county boroughs should be taken into consideration in the establishment of constituencies. The emphasis on forming constituencies with a comparable number of electors is artificial and therefore undemocratic and unconstitutional.

### **85. NEATH PORT TALBOT OBJECTIVE CONSULTATION SYSTEM - BUS SERVICES**

A communication was received Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council in connection with the announcement made by the Welsh Government that there would be a 27% cut in the Local Transport Service Grant which would mean a reduction of some £157,000 for the County Borough of Neath Port Talbot for the financial year 2013/14. The County Borough Council would therefore be inviting views on the options available.

**Resolved** that an appropriate response be sent.

## **86. KEEP WALES TIDY “PLEDGE” SCHEME OPPOSING RELEASE OF BALLOONS AND CHINESE LANTERNS**

A communication was received from Keep Wales Tidy in which reference was made to the petition that had been submitted to the Welsh Government expressing concern about the effect of balloons and lanterns on wildlife on land and at sea. Town and Community Councils were therefore being invited to enter into a scheme to pledge not to organise or undertake a balloon or lantern release.

**Resolved** that:

1. Cwmllynfell Community Council recognises the damage caused to wildlife and the environment by balloons and Chinese lanterns and therefore pledges to not organise or undertake a balloon or lantern release from now onwards;
2. Keep Wales Tidy be informed that the Council is happy for its name to appear on the Keep Wales Tidy website as an inspiration to others.

## **87. FINANCIAL MATTERS**

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

Consideration was given to applications for financial assistance

**Resolved** that:

1. that consideration of the following applications be deferred until January 2013 in accordance with the decision contained in minute 160(c)1 of the meeting of the Council held on the 19<sup>th</sup> April 2012.

Denbighshire and District National Eisteddfod  
Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod  
Victim Support Cymru  
Noah's Ark Appeal  
All Wales Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Helpline  
Royal British Legion – Put Families First Campaign

2. a grant in the following sum be made to the under-mentioned organisation 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 and Rhiwfawr OAP Association      £300

### **(b) Payment of Accounts**

It was reported that the following payment had been made since the last meeting:

No		£
1609	Royal British Legion      Poppy Wreath	16.50

**Resolved** that the action taken be confirmed and the following accounts be paid:

No			£
1610	Cwmllynfell & Rhiwfawr OAP Assoc	Grant	300.00
1611	Neath Port Talbot CBC	Election Fee May 2012	140.00
1612	Mrs C Phillips	Honorarium Cemetery	200.00
1613	Payroll	Net Salary October	212.11
1614	Inland Revenue	Income Tax	53.03

## **88. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**Resolved** that:

1. no objection be raised to permission being granted in respect of the following planning applications:

App No:

P2012/0188 Change of use of two redundant farm buildings and one stable/storage building into three separate units of tourist accommodation and single storey side extension to North Barn (amended location plan and certificate of ownership) at Betting Uchaf Farm, Rhiwfawr

P2012/0906 Two storey side extension and rear conservatory at 132 Rhiw Road, Rhiwfawr

2. no objection be raised to permission being granted in respect of the following planning application subject to the access being gained via Cwmtwrch following completion of the new bridge that is currently under construction:

App No:

P2012/0759 Exploratory driveage and associated engineering works to investigate coal seam at Pen y Darren, Cwm Du, Godregraig

## **89. REPORTS**

The following matters were reported:

South Wales Police Statistics	All Crime (see categories below)	September	4
(Note: Statistics include Cefn Bryn Brain and Ystradowen)	Anti Social Behaviour		2
	Burglary		2

- PACT – Report of meeting 4<sup>th</sup> October 2012;
- East Pit East Revised OCCS – Liaison Meeting minutes 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2102;
- Water erosion of roadway Mountain Road and Blaennant, Rhiwfawr
- Landslip Wembley Steps

Councillor C E Richards also reported on County Borough Council matters including the following:

- New bridge, Lower Cwmtwrch due to be open for one way traffic before Christmas;
- Mynydd Bach – new lights in due course;
- Drainage near Cwtch farm;
- Animal Trespass Fence Bryn Road revised application in due course – letter of support required from Community Council

The meeting terminated at 8.00pm.