

**CYNGOR CYMUNED CWMLLYNFELL COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE CWMLLYNFELL HALL  
ON THURSDAY 13<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2012 AT 6.15 P.M.**

**PRESENT:** Councillor D Lloyd (Chairman) presided  
**COUNCILLORS:** R M Davies, R Evans, M Evans, T H J Kendrick, R P Morgan,  
J C Rees and D B Thomas.

**90. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for their absence were received from Councillors D C Phillips and S Williams.

**91. NEATH PORT TALBOT CREDIT UNION**

The Chairman welcomed Mr Brian Warlow of Neath Port Talbot Credit Union who had been invited to address the Council.

Mr Warlow explained the background to the establishment of credit unions which were ostensibly community banks that operated on a non-profit basis. They provided loans to members at a lower rate of interest and savers were paid interest and a dividend. They also operated corporate accounts which currently paid interest at the rate of 1%. Neath Port Talbot Credit Union had 7,000 members of which 2,000 were junior members. They were the most successful UK Credit Union operating school saving schemes, with 39 schools. During the month of November the Credit Union had made loans totaling £200,000. Neath Port Talbot Credit Union continued to grow and provide more services to their members. Mr Warlow referred to the launch of their Budget Account; a facility that was being set up in readiness for the Benefit changes affecting Council Tax, the under occupancy of premises and the introduction of the Universal Credit in October 2013.

Members were encouraged to publicise the services of the Credit Union and were afforded the opportunity to ask questions. The Chairman thanked Mr Warlow for his attendance and for the information that was provided.

**92. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made at this juncture.

**93. MINUTES**

**Resolved** that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2012 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

**94. MATTERS ARISING**

**(a) Minute 80(a) - Parc Cymunedol Llynfell Community Park**

It was reported that a progress meeting had been held with Wicksteed and their Sub-Contractor on the 5<sup>th</sup> December, which had also been attended by Mr C Munro of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council. The work was well advanced and it was anticipated that the installation of all equipment other than the skate boarding area would be substantially

completed by the end of the current week. The other sub contractor engaged to construct the concrete skate boarding area would not commence work until the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2013.

It was also reported that discussions with a representative of Cwmllynfell Hall had continued with regard to a CCTV system (Minute 21 of the Special Meeting of the Council held on the 7<sup>th</sup> June 2012 refers). Quotations had been obtained by the hall for installing a new system to include a camera for monitoring the new park. The Clerk had accordingly made enquiries of the Fund Manager for the Aggregate Levy Fund Wales at the National Assembly to ascertain whether the present grant could be increased to cover the CCTV equipment. A response had been received stating that the matter could be considered in February when it would be known whether there was likely to be an under-spend in the fund. This information had been conveyed to the representative of the Hall Committee who had been requested to ensure that all the relevant information was available so that the scheme could be carried out before the end of the financial year if funds became available.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

### **(b) Minute 80(b) - East Pit Regeneration – Community Engagement Programme**

A letter dated 28<sup>th</sup> November 2012 was received from Ms J Smith of the Planning Division of the Welsh Government in response to the Council's further representations. Ms Smith indicated that she understood the Council's disappointment over the previous response but emphasised that she had to respond in such a way as the matters referred to had to be considered in the first instance by the local planning authority. She also referred to the Council's query as to whether the requirements of Mineral Technical Advice Note 2 were being met concerning the restoration and the financing thereof. Ms Smith confirmed that MTAN2 stated that planning conditions should ensure that land affected by mineral extraction was restored to a high standard suitable for its agreed after use at the earliest opportunity and in so doing provide the means to at least maintain and preferably enhance the long term quality of local communities. As part of this, operators and landowners should ensure that sufficient finance was set aside to enable them to meet restoration and aftercare obligations.

In view of the fact that the letter from Ms Smith had not been marked as having been copied to Mrs Gwenda Thomas AM, the Clerk had forwarded a copy for her attention. Subsequently an invitation had been received to attend a meeting at Mrs Thomas' office on the 11<sup>th</sup> December 2012 to discuss the matter. The Vice Chairman Councillor Mrs R Evans and the Clerk had accordingly attended the meeting. An email dated 12<sup>th</sup> December had been received from Mrs Thomas in which she summarised the discussions that had taken place on the issues surrounding the East Pit Site. In view of her concerns she was minded to request that the new planning application for the restoration of the site be "called in" by the Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development as she believed that this would be desirable for a number of reasons including the potential impact of the development beyond the immediate locality and the boundary of the County Borough, its proximity to the Brecon Beacons National Park and the effect it would have on the a landscape of natural significance and the possible inclusion of substantial man-made lakes in the restoration scheme.

Copies of correspondence between Mr & Mrs Jordan of Ochrywaun and the Planning Division of the Welsh Government and Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council had also been forwarded for the attention of the Council via Councillor D C

Phillips. Mr & Mrs Jordan had made representations to the Welsh Government suggesting that the new application should be determined at a national rather than a local level. They had also raised questions with regard to development on common land. Mr & Mrs Jordan had also reported to Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council that blasting was taking place at the site on the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2012 despite the fact that operations should have ceased on the 30<sup>th</sup> November and as such had asked the County Borough Council to take enforcement action. The Community Council was also asked to support the representations. Accordingly an enquiry had been submitted to Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council inviting comment on the matter. A reply had been received indicating that the site was still carrying out mining operations contrary to the conditional requirements of the 2004 permission. The developers had been approached and a response was currently awaited. The County Borough Council was also considering all salient issues and material factors associated with the continued operation. A number of complaints had been received with regard to blasting however purely from a technical point of view the monitoring that had been carried out had not revealed any vibrations exceeding the limits imposed in the planning permission.

**Resolved** that:

1. the correspondence and the reports received be noted and further developments awaited;
2. Quarter Bach Community Council be informed of the discussions that had taken place with Mrs Gwenda Thomas AM and provided with a copy of her communication;
3. Mr & Mrs Jordan be informed of the action taken by the Council.

**(c) Minute 83 - Cwmllynfell Post Office**

A letter dated 6<sup>th</sup> December 2012 was received from the Post Office's National Consultation Team in response to the Council's comments about privacy and parking at the proposed new Post Office at 18 Gwilym Road.. The Post Office confirmed that they would be working closely with the proposed operator on the interior layout of the premises to utilise available space and to make sure that there was ample room for both Post Office Customers and retail customers. The Council's comments regarding parking safety had been passed to the proposed new operator but it was emphasised that Post Office Ltd could not be held responsible for the provision of parking facilities in any location. The Post Office would confirm the final plans for the premises when the consultation process had been completed.

**Resolved** that the situation be noted.

**(d) Minute 88(2) - Exploratory Driveage and Associated Engineering Works to Investigate Coal Seam at Pen y Darren, Cwm Du, Godre'rgrraig – P2012/0759**

It was reported that residents of Rhiwfawr had complained that insufficient consultation had taken place with regard to the above development particularly as there was concern over the perceived danger to other road users at the point of access onto the highway.

**Resolved** that the concerns of local residents be conveyed to the County Borough Council, requesting that they consult widely in connection with the application, particularly with all households in Rhiwfawr and especially as far as the means of access is concerned.

**95. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DEMOCRACY) (WALES) BILL**

A letter dated 29<sup>th</sup> November 2012 was received from the National Assembly for Wales in consultation on the above Bill. One of the features of the Bill which affected Community and Town Council was the requirement for every authority to have a web site in order to publish certain information electronically and make provision for the public to contact the council or its clerk electronically. Comments were invited by the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2013.

**Resolved** that:

1. consideration be given to the submission of comments at the next meeting of the Council;
2. consideration be given in due course to the establishment of a Council web site.

**96. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT BILL**

A notification was received from the Welsh Government that the White Paper on proposals for the above bill had been launched. The consultation period would run until the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2013 and consultation events were being held at various venues during January and February 2013

**Resolved** that the matter be noted.

**97. LOCAL AUTHORITY BUDGET BRIEFING FOR THE THIRD SECTOR – 8<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2013**

**Resolved** that the invitation received from Neath Port Talbot CVS for the Council to be represented at the above-mention meeting be noted.

**98. KEEP WALES TIDY – ANNUAL REVIEW**

**Resolved** that the details of the above organisation's Annual Review for 2011-12 be noted.

**99. “UNDERSTANDING THE ASSEMBLY AND GOVERNMENT OF WALES”**

**Resolved** that the invitation for the Council to be represented at a course on the above subject being organised by the Partnership media Group Ltd, be noted.

**100. ONE VOICE WALES – POLICY CONSULTATION – VOLUNTEER RESPONDERS**

A communication was received from One Voice Wales in which it was indicated that their Volunteer Responder system for policy consultations was being re-launched. Member Councils were accordingly being requested to bring the matter to the attention of Councillors so as to invite them to join or re-join the scheme.

**Resolved** that the correspondence be referred to Councillor R M Davies so that he may consider whether he wishes to participate.

## **101. FINANCIAL MATTERS**

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

Consideration was given to applications for financial assistance

**Resolved** that:

1. consideration of the following application be deferred until the next financial year:

Powys Citizens' Advice Bureau, Ystradgynlais

2. it be noted that Cwmllynfell Hall was seeking a grant of £8,000 towards the cost of heating, utilities and maintenance and as such the matter be considered further at the next meeting when the Council sets its budget for 2013/2014:

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

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

No			£
1615	Society of Local Council Clerks	Subscription 2013	86.00
1616	Payroll	Net Salary November	212.11
1617	Inland Revenue	Income Tax	53.03

### **(c) Precept 2013/14**

A letter dated 10<sup>th</sup> December 2012 was received from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council requesting notification of the Council's precept for 2013/14.

**Resolved** that the matter be considered at the next meeting of the Council in conjunction with the Clerk's report on the Council's budget

## **102. REPORTS**

The following matters were reported:

South Wales Police Statistics	All Crime (see categories below)	October	8
(Note: Statistics include Cefn Bryn Brain and Ystradowen)	Anti Social Behaviour		3
	Theft		1
	Public disorder and weapons		1
	Vehicle crime		2
	Violent crime		1

- Minutes of the Neath Port Talbot Area Committee 12<sup>th</sup> September 2012;
- Cycle Path - progress
- Cemetery Commercial Bin removed

The meeting terminated at 8.22pm.