

**..CYNGOR CYMUNED CWMLLYNFELL COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE CWMLLYNFELL HALL  
ON THURSDAY 17<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2013 AT 6.15 P.M.**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Mrs R Evans (Vice-Chairman) presided  
**COUNCILLORS:** R M Davies, M Evans, T H J Kendrick, D C Phillips, J C Rees and D B Thomas.

**103. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for their absence were received from Councillors D Lloyd, R P Morgan, S Williams and Councillor C E Richards (Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council).

**104. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made at this juncture.

**105. MINUTES**

**Resolved** that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on the 13<sup>th</sup> December 2012 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

**106. MATTERS ARISING**

**(a) Minute 94(a) - Parc Cymunedol Llynfell Community Park**

It was reported that a progress meeting had been held with Wicksteed and the Sub-Contractor responsible for the skate park on the 9<sup>th</sup> January 2013. Delays on other contracts had prevented work on the skate park commencing but it was anticipated that work would commence shortly after the 27<sup>th</sup> January 2013 but that would be dependent on weather conditions. Wicksteed had been informed that the work had to be completed by the deadlines imposed by the funding providers.

It was a condition of the grant provided by WREN that a formal agreement be entered into between the Council and the Hall Committee in respect of the day to day monitoring of the facility. An agreement had been drawn up on the basis of the discussions that had taken place with representatives of the Hall Committee which had been referred to a Solicitor at Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council for vetting and to ensure compliance with the lease between the Council and the County Borough Council. Subject to the document being satisfactory and acceptable to the Hall Committee it would be necessary for it to be signed on behalf of the Council.

**Resolved** that the report be noted and the Chairman and Vice Chairman be authorised to sign the agreement on behalf of the Council.

**(b) Minute 94(b) - East Pit Regeneration – Community Engagement Programme**

A copy of a letter dated 8<sup>th</sup> January 2013 from Mrs Gwenda Thomas AM to the Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development was received. Mrs Thomas in her capacity as the Assembly Member for the Neath Constituency had written in the following terms to the Minister to request that the planning application which had

been submitted to Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council in respect of the above development be called in:

1. "The East Pit site is located on the border of Neath Port Talbot and Carmarthenshire and close to the border with Powys. Whilst the proposed extension to the opencast will not cross the Local Authority boundaries the size of the site area means that the impact of the proposals is likely to extend well beyond the immediate locality and the boundaries of one County Borough.
  2. Given the site's proximity to the Brecon Beacons National Park the proposals are likely to have a significant effect on a landscape of natural importance. This is particularly so in relation to the proposals for the restoration of the site, which the applicants hope will create a development that will act as a gateway to the National Park.
1. Even prior to the submission of the application the proposals have already created considerable controversy in the local area. There are several factors that I believe make it probable that this controversy will increase.
    - A number of residents and the local Community Council have already contacted me to raise concerns over the possible extension and the effect this will have on nearby communities.
    - The colliery is a significant local employer and the fate of jobs connected with its operation will be at stake in any decision over its future.
    - In addition the feasibility of the restoration of the site is the subject of much speculation. The fact the escrow account intended to provide surety for the Local Authority should the site not be restored by the owners contains insufficient funds for the work has intensified this concern.
  2. The previous extension to the site was granted by the Welsh Planning Inspectorate rather than the Local Planning Authority. Several residents have suggested that, given this, the Welsh Government has a degree of moral responsibility for the development.
  3. The plans include an extension to the opencast beyond the 500m exclusion zone recommended by the Minerals Technical Advice Note 2. The proposed development would therefore be in conflict with national planning guidance.
  4. The construction of man-made lakes of the dimensions proposed in the application could constitute a novel planning issue. There have been few reservoirs on this scale constructed in recent years and the possible consequences of their failure would be significant. Given this I believe the expert advice that could be provided by the Welsh Planning Inspectorate could be especially important in this case."

The planning application had also been received for consultation by the Council (Minute 112 below refers).

**Resolved** that the communication from Mrs Gwenda Thomas AM be noted.

**(c) Minute 94(c) - Cwmllynfell Post Office**

A letter dated 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2013 was received from the Post Office's National Consultation Team to confirm that they would be proceeding with the relocation of the service to 18 Gwilym Road. It was also confirmed that they would be talking to the new operator to make sure that there was an appropriate level of privacy at the Post Office till point. They also addressed the concerns regarding parking and had noted that there was a space directly opposite the branch and on a side road. They were however aware that there was some traffic congestion in the area. It was also indicated that the current branch would close on the 28<sup>th</sup> January and the new branch would open on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2013.

**Resolved** that the situation be noted and the Council's appreciation for the service that they have provided to the community be conveyed to Mr & Mrs Thomas the operators of the present Post Office.

**(d) Minute 94(d) - Exploratory Driveage and Associated Engineering Works to Investigate Coal Seam at Pen y Darren, Cwm Du, Godre'rgraiq – P2012/0759**

A communication was received from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council in response to the concerns that the Council had conveyed on behalf of local residents 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. The County Borough Council had stated that it appeared that there was widespread knowledge of the application and as it was considered that undertaking individual consultations with some residents would set a dangerous precedent that the planning authority would not be carrying out such an exercise.

A further examination of the Transport Statement that had been submitted with the application had also revealed that it was intended that lorries transporting coal from the mine would travel through Rhiwfawr and Cwmllynfell.

**Resolved** in view of the information revealed by the Transport Statement and in view of the concerns that had been expressed by some local residents with regard to the point of access that the Council's objection on highway grounds be conveyed to Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council.

**(e) Minute 95 - Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Bill**

**Resolved** that:

1. after considering whether to submit comments in respect of the above bill the matter be noted;
2. the initial information provided by Councillor R Davies in connection with establishing a Council web site be noted and the matter be considered further at the next meeting when it will be possible to dedicate more time to the matter.

**(f) Minute 96 - Sustainable Development Bill**

**Resolved** that the invitation received from the Welsh Government to attend consultation events on the above bill be noted.

**(g) Minute 97 - Local Authority Budget Briefing for the Third Sector – 31<sup>st</sup> January 2013**

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

**(h) Minute 100 - One Voice Wales – Policy Consultation – Volunteer Responders**

Councillor Richard Davies reported that he had opted to volunteer to respond to One Voice Wales on consultations regarding planning and improving public services.

**Resolved** that Councillor Davies be thanked for agreeing to volunteer.

**107. NEATH PORT TALBOT COLLEGE AND COLEG POWYS**

**Resolved** that the letter from Neath Port Talbot College inviting comments on the proposal to merge the above colleges be noted.

**108. MID AND WEST WALES FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE – ANNUAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT**

**Resolved** that the announcement of the publication of the Fire and Rescue Services' Annual Performance Assessment for 2011-12 be noted.

**109. SOUTH WALES POLICE – WESTERN DIVISION COMMANDER**

A communication of introduction was received from Chief Superintendent Julian Williams who had been appointed Divisional Commander for the Western Division. The Chief Superintendent also offered to attend a future meeting to formally introduce himself.

**Resolved** that:

1. the Council's congratulations on his appointment be conveyed to Chief Superintendent Williams and he be invited to announce his intentions with regard to the future Community Policing in the division;
2. it be suggested to Chief Superintendent Williams that he may wish to consider offering to attend a future meeting of One Voice Wales' Area Committee where there would be representatives from several community councils in the division and also attending a future PACT meeting in the community.

**110. ONE VOICE WALES TRAINING PROGRAMME**

**Resolved** that the details of the training programme for the period ending July 2013 be noted.

**111. BUCKINGHAM PALACE GARDEN PARTIES 22<sup>nd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> MAY & 6<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2013**

A notification dated 19<sup>th</sup> December 2011 was received from One Voice Wales offering the opportunity for the Council to nominate the current Chairman and guest

to be selected to attend a Buckingham Palace Garden Party on one of the above dates. Twenty places had been allocated to One Voice Wales which would be distributed by drawing lots.

**Resolved** that the current Chairman, Councillor D Lloyd be offered the opportunity to be nominated.

## **112. STRONG ROOTS PROJECT – ‘GREEN FUTURES’ TRAINING PROGRAMME**

**Resolved** that the invitation received from One Voice Wales for the Council to be represented at a training event under the above programme, be noted.

## **113. COMMEMORATION OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR**

A notification was received from One Voice Wales that CyMAL in conjunction with the Heritage Lottery Fund would be holding two events to start discussion with organisations in Wales on how to develop ideas, partnership and events to mark the First World War.

**Resolved** that the matter be noted.

## **114. SPINAL INJURIES ASSOCIATION**

A communication was received from the above association requesting co-operation in publicising their appeal for a fish and chip supper fundraising event to be held on Friday 17th May 2013 to raising awareness of spinal cord injury.

**Resolved** that the event be publicised where possible.

## **115. FINANCIAL MATTERS**

### **(a) Cemetery Charges 2012-13**

**Resolved** that:

1. the following cemetery charges be continued with effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013:

Details	Charges from 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2013	
	Resident of Community	Non-resident
Purchase of New Grave including first interment	£260.00	£520.00
Re-opening of Grave or first interment after earlier purchase	£105.00	£210.00
Burial of ashes in grave already purchased	£55.00	£110.00
Scattering of Ashes on existing purchased grave	£30.00	£60.00
Installing Monument	£55.00	£110.00
Purchase of new grave space	£155.00	£310.00

2. a reminder be issued to Mr Norwyn Gimblett (trading as D J Greenwood and Anthony John & Co) that the relevant fees are payable when installing monumental monuments in the cemetery.

**(b) Investment Strategy – 2013-14**

**Resolved** that the following categories of investments be undertaken in 2013/14:

1. deposits be made in a High Interest Deposit Bond (or similar) to a maximum of £45,000, the duration on each occasion to be reviewed according to Market Conditions;
2. deposits be made in a Business Money Manager Account (or similar) of all sums in excess of the working balance in the Council's Community Account (normally £4,000 - £10,000) with the maximum figure reviewed at each renewal of the High Interest Deposit Bond and as necessary to take account of the cash flow requirements.

**(c) Budget 2013/14**

The Clerk submitted his report on the review of the budget for the current financial year and the draft budget for 2013/14. The estimated expenditure for 2012/13 as revised at the meeting was summarised as follows:

<b>Expenditure Summary 2013/14</b>		
	<b><u>Revenue</u></b>	<b>£</b>
Cemetery		3,030.00
Parks and Open Spaces		5,099.00
General Administration		2,288.00
Payroll and Expenses		4,209.00
Grants Halls		9,500.00
Grants other		2,000.00
Highways Paths, seats etc		50.00
Contingency		<u>2,587.60</u>
Total Revenue Expenditure		<u>28,763.60</u> <u>28,763.60</u>
	<b><u>Capital</u></b>	
Cemetery		6,000.00
Total Capital Expenditure		<u>6,000.00</u> <u>6,000.00</u>
<b>Grand total expenditure</b>		<u>£34,763.60</u>

Estimated miscellaneous income, for 2013/14, including bank interest, amounted to £2,197.00 leaving net expenditure of £26,197.00 to be met from balances and the precept. The anticipated reserve at the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013 which would be carried forward into 2013-14, which included an unspent allocation towards the proposed cemetery work was estimated at £58,064.58. A notification had been received from the Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council that the Council Tax Base for the community for 2013/14 would be 373.49.

**Resolved** that:



was being considered. Councillor T H J Kendrick also departed from the meeting at this juncture.

**Resolved** that a grant in the following sum be made to the under mentioned:

Cwmllynfell Primary School (London Visit)	£100
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**(e) Payment of Accounts**

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

No			£
1618	The Consortium	Stationery	96.31
1619	Neath Port Talbot CBC	Grounds Maintenance work	267.99
1620	Cwmllynfell Primary School	Grant	100.00
1621	Macmillan Cancer Support	Grant	150.00
1622	Wales Air Ambulance	Grant	150.00
1623	Payroll	Additional hours 2012 – net salary	360.73
1624	Payroll	Net salary December	212.11
1625	Inland Revenue	Income Tax re: 1623	90.18
1625	Inland Revenue	Income Tax re: 1624	53.03
1564	E P Lloyd Jones	Travelling 2012	177.30 }
		Postages 2012	129.06 }
		Stationery (printer ink)	131.98 }
		Telephone 2011	132.00 }

**116. PLANNING APPLICATION – EAST PIT EAST REVISED OPENCAST COAL SITE - P2012/1073**

A notification of the above planning application was received from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council. The proposals were described as follows:

Matters of Outline with all matters reserved: leisure facilities to include: a 120-bedroom hotel (Use Class C1); 78 holiday lodges (Class C3) of 2, 3 and 4 bed-units; a campsite (Sui Generis) of 6.35ha. with facilities block of 210m<sup>2</sup> and Visitors Centre (Class D1) of 300m<sup>2</sup>; dive centre with ancillary dive centre shop (Class D2) of 1630m<sup>2</sup>; all to include appropriate parking provision, recreational open space, internal access routes, services and drainage provision; and associated works including access, footpaths, cycle routes and bridleways, landscaping and layout details;

Matters of Detail (as set out in the application at Annex 1: Mineral Extraction and Processing) the proposed north eastern extension to East Pit East Revised for the purposes of coal extraction along with the completion of coaling at the existing site and the retention of associated ancillary development and Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen Railhead together with the development of a Country Park and recreational lake.

**Resolved** that:

1. he Council notes that the applicants have insisted that the entire proposed development is dealt with as one application and as such the Council wishes to make a holding objection to the entire application as it defies the requirements of

Mineral Technical Notes 2 and as it defies the conditions imposed in the 2004 planning permission;

2. The County Borough Council and the Welsh Government be notified that the Council would not in principle raise an objection to a limited extension of time for working within the perimeters of the site which is the subject of the 2004 planning permission subject to there being appropriate safeguards and a substantially increased contribution to the escrow account and subject also to there being approval of details with regard to restoration that comply with the conditions of the 2004 and in particular exclude the abandonment of a massive water filled void which by a misnomer by the applicants is termed to be a lake;
3. Additionally Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council in co-operation with the Welsh Government should carry out a comprehensive assessment of the situation that prevails at the entire East Pit site so as to ensure that there is correct restoration in accordance with planning permissions that have been granted previously with appropriate measures incorporated so as to reduce the deprivation in surrounding communities by improving road, rail, footpath and cycleway communications thereby improving and enhancing the area and attracting inward investment by the creation of employment opportunities. Such measures should not include the creation of a lake / reservoir from an opencast void which would be a source of danger and the possible cause of flooding.
4. The Council reserves the right to add to the above comments if deemed appropriate.
5. A copy of the observations be sent to the Mr John Griffiths, Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development and Mrs Gwenda Thomas AM;
6. Planning Aid be requested to advise the Council on the application if deemed necessary.

## **117. REPORTS**

The following matters were reported:

South Wales Police Statistics	All Crime (see categories below)	November	6
(Note: Statistics include Cefn Bryn Brain and Ystradowen)	Anti Social Behaviour		3
	Criminal Damage and Arson		1
	Drugs		1
	Vehicle crime		1

- PACT meeting – Dates for 2013 – to be reviewed;
- Bus Services;
- Dog Bins Lewis Avenue inaccessible and Rhiwfawr footpath removed
- Pot hole at kerb side near 103 Rhiw Road, Rhiwfawr

The meeting terminated at 8.55pm.