

**CYNGOR CYMUNED CWMLLYNFELL COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT RHIWFAWR HALL ON  
WEDNESDAY 18<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2013 AT 6.30 P.M.**

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

**62. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for their absence were received from Councillors M Evans, D C Phillips and C E Richards (Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council).

**63. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made at this juncture.

**64. MINUTES**

**Resolved** that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on the 18<sup>th</sup> July and the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on the 7<sup>th</sup> August 2013 be confirmed and signed as correct records.

**65. MATTERS ARISING**

**(a) Minutes No 42 and 55 - Cwmllynfell Cemetery Improvements**

It was reported that the tenders for the scheme had been invited from the six tenderers on the list that had been approved by the Council. Three completed tenders had been returned which had had been opened in the presence of the Chairman Councillor R Evans and Vice Chairman Councillor R M Davies on the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2013. The tenders had then been referred to Mr Brian Crawford (NPTCBC) for vetting and arithmetical checking and his report on the tenders as indicated below had been received:

1. £29,890.00 (corrected figure)
2. £41,384.67
3. £26,149.90

During discussions with Mr Crawford it had been ascertained that the bill of quantities that he had prepared and issued with the tender documents did not match the details on the drawings as the quantities in respect of the ground beam (headstone foundations) had allowed for some 12 metres less than the drawing and the ashes slab was some 3-4 metres shorter. The addition of these items would add £2,875 and £1,351 respectively to the cost.

Initial discussions with the lowest tenderer had secured a reduction of £750 in the preliminaries aspect of the work, making the adjusted tender figure £25,399.90. The bill of quantities included a contingency figure of £2,000 which if unspent and after allowing for the reduction in the preliminaries would reduce the cost further to £23,399.90.

The situation was therefore summarised as follows:

Tender	£26,149.90
Deduct adjustment preliminaries	750.00
Adjusted tender figure	25,399.90
Add extra ground beams	2,875.00
Add extra ashes graves	1,351.50
Probable Contract figure	29,626.40
10% NPTCBC Fee	2,962.64
Total project cost	32,589.04
Deduct NPTCBC Grant	14,000.00
Net cost	18,589.04
CCC budgeted contribution	6,000.00
Overspend	12,589.04

**Resolved** that:

1. the lowest tender being that received from T Richard Jones (Betws) Ltd in the adjusted tender sum of £25,399.90 (including £2,000 contingency) be accepted as a basis for the carrying out of the proposed improvement works at the cemetery subject to discussions being entered into with the contractor in respect of the additional ground beams and ashes graves as referred to in the above table and subject also to further discussions in respect of other minor adjustments with a view to achieving some reductions in the cost of other aspects of the scheme before entering into a formal contract;
2. the attention of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council be drawn to the discrepancy between the bill of quantities and the drawings provided to the tenderers;
3. a request be made to Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council to consider making a further Minor Projects Grant to the Council in respect of the overspend as estimated above.

**(b) Minutes No 44(a) and 60 – Parc Cymunedol Llynfell Community Park**

Members commented on the success of the official opening by the Rt Hon Carwyn Jones AM on the 12<sup>th</sup> September 2013.

It was reported that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman had authorised that a cheque in the sum of £220 be drawn to Y Gegin Fach, Ystalyfera to pay for the cost of the refreshments. It was also reported that the plaque to commemorate the opening had been supplied by Image Design and Print, Ammanford at a cost of £196.80 (including VAT). The sign would be repositioned at a later date on an extension of the posts that supported the previous name sign.

**Resolved** that:

1. the action taken by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman in authorising the payment of £220 to Y Gegin Fach, Ystalyfera for the refreshments be ratified;
2. the action taken in commissioning a sign from Image Design and Print at a cost of £196.80 be confirmed;
3. it be suggested to Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council that measures be taken to ensure that the entrance gates cannot be lifted from their hinges.

**(c) Minute 46 – Police Open Days**

Inspector Huw Griffiths had responded initially to the Council's suggestion that open days be held at location more convenient to communities such as Cwmllynfell and Rhiwfawr by offering to receive members of the Council at Neath. A further request had been made emphasising that the Council's wish was for information to be disseminated to members of the public particularly in order to raise awareness about drugs misuse. Inspector Griffiths had however responded to indicate that it would be difficult to redirect operational officers for such purposes because resources were limited. He would however consider whether the local police constable could be utilised to make presentations.

**Resolved** that the matter be noted.

**(d) Minute 47 – Rhiwfawr Park**

**Resolved** that in the event of an acceptable quotation being received for the maintenance work before the next meeting of the Council the Chairman and Vice Chairman be authorised to grant approval for the work.

**(e) Minute 48(b) – Christmas Lights 2013**

It was reported that a grant of £1,000 had been received from the East Pit East Revised Community Benefit Fund towards the cost of the Christmas Lights.

**Resolved** that the Council's appreciation be conveyed to Celtic Energy Ltd.

**(f) Minutes No 49 & 59(c) – East Pit East Revised Opencast Coal Site**

A copy of a letter dated 9<sup>th</sup> August 2013 from the Minister for Housing and Regeneration to Mrs Gwenda Thomas AM was received in which the Minister indicated that no decision had been taken as yet on her request for a call-in of application P2012/1073 as officials were awaiting the report of the County Borough Council's Planning Officers on the application.

**Resolved** that the situation be noted.

**(g) Minute 61 – Fracking**

A communication was received from the Senior Planner – Minerals and Waste to Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council in response to the Council's enquiry about permissions for fracking.

The communication indicated that all applications to date in the County Borough of Neath Port Talbot for exploratory drilling for what is generally called unconventional gas resources had been in relation to coal bed methane. These had been mainly in the Port Talbot area with the concentration of exploratory boreholes in the middle and east of the coalfield although applications had also been made in Abernat, Cwmgors and Glynneath. Fracking was not a technique that would normally be utilised for coal bed methane exploration or indeed production.

**Resolved** that:

1. Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council be thanked for the information;

2. enquiries be made of the Welsh Government with regard to their policy on fracking and whether any permissions have been granted in respect of unconventional gas resources, both coal bed methane and shale gas.

#### **66. VACANCY ON STANDARDS COMMITTEE – NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**Resolved** that the letter dated 20<sup>th</sup> August 2013 from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council inviting nominations for a Community Council representative to fill a vacancy on the Standards Committee, be noted.

#### **67. COMMISSION ON PUBLIC SERVICE GOVERNANCE AND DELIVERY**

**Resolved** that the invitation for representatives of the Council to attend an open session of the Commission at Gorseinon on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2013 be noted.

#### **68. EXPERT GROUP ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT DIVERSITY – CALL FOR EVIDENCE**

**Resolved** that the invitation received to submit evidence to the above group be noted.

#### **69. FINANCIAL MATTERS**

##### **(a) Annual Return of Accounts 2012/13**

A letter dated 7<sup>th</sup> August 2013 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 on the Annual return for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013. They however wished to draw the Council's attention to the following matters which did not affect their opinion:

- "Please ensure that the Annual Return is fully completed before submission for audit. No entry was made for 2013 in Section 1, Boxes 5 and 8. The Clerk has confirmed that '£0' should have been entered in both these boxes.
- Minor point: section 1, Box 7 does not agree to Boxes 1+2+3-(4+5+6) due to a rounding error of £1"

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

**Resolved** that:

1. the Auditors' report be noted;
2. 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) Application for Financial Assistance**

Consideration was given to an application for financial assistance.

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

Cwmllynfell RFC                      £500

**(c) National Salary Award for Local Council Clerks 2013/14.**

A notification was received from the One Voice Wales of the national salary award and car allowances applicable from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013.

**Resolved** that the Clerk's salary be increased as follows to reflect the approved salary scale and the above-mentioned award:

£3,213.60 (6/37 of spinal point 22) with effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013

**(d) Payment of Accounts**

**Resolved** that:

1. it be noted that payment of the following account had been ratified in minute 65(b) above:

1656	Y Gegin Fach	Buffet – official opening of park	£220.00
------	--------------	-----------------------------------	---------

2. the following accounts be paid:

1657	Cwmllynfell RFC	Grant	£500.00
1658	Payroll	Gross salary August	267.80
1659	Payroll	Salary Award – April-July	10.64
1660	Image Design & Print	Sign – official opening of park	196.80

**70. PLANNING MATTERS**

**(a) Deposit Local Development Plan**

A letter dated 21<sup>st</sup> August 2013 was received from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council together with the Deposit Local Plan which had been published for consultation for a period ending on the 15<sup>th</sup> October 2013.

Concern was expressed that the Plan did not include a settlement limit for Rhiwfawr.

**Resolved** that the Head of Planning to Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council be invited to attend a meeting of the Council to discuss and explain why a Settlement Limit has not been shown for Rhiwfawr.

**(b) Permitted Development Rights**

A communication received from One Voice Wales in which it was indicated that changes to permitted development rights of householders introduced in the Town and Country (General Permitted Development) (Amendment) (Wales) Order 2013 would come into effect on the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013.

**Resolved** that the matter be noted

## **GWRHYD QUARRY SITE LIAISON COMMITTEE**

A letter dated 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2013 was received from Marshalls Mono Ltd together with proposals for the establishment of a Liaison Committee for the quarry in accordance with the terms of planning permission P2010/0026. The proposed membership of the Liaison Committee was as follows:

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council	2
Pontardawe Town Council	2
Cwmllynfell Community Council	2
Residents' Representatives	
Rhiwfawr and Cwmllynfell	3
Rhydyfro/Pontardawe	1

The Council was accordingly invited to appoint two representatives to serve on the Committee and also make arrangements for the appointment of three residents' representatives for Rhiwfawr and Cwmllynfell. Notices had been displayed in the community inviting residents to apply to serve on the Committee.

**Resolved** that:

1. Councillors R P Morgan and N L A Price be appointed to represent the Council on the Liaison Committee;
2. residents' representatives for Rhiwfawr and Cwmllynfell be appointed at the next meeting of the Council.

### **71. REPORTS**

The following matters were reported:

South Wales Police Statistics (within 1 mile of centre of Cwmllynfell)	All Crime (see categories below)	July	6
	Anti Social Behaviour		3
	Vehicle Crime		1
	Violence and sexual offences		2

- New street lights Rhiw Road – installation has interfered with drainage ditches;
- Drainage near Cwtch ineffective;
- Resurfacing Rock hill has not corrected defective drainage;
- Old Cemetery Cwmllynfell – proposed footpath improvements

The meeting terminated at 8.05pm.