

CYNGOR CYMUNED CWMLLYNFELL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT CWMLLYNFELL HALL ON
THURSDAY 20th MARCH 2014 AT 6.30P.M.**

PRESENT: Councillor R Evans (Chairman) presided
COUNCILLORS: R M Davies, M Evans, D Lloyd, N L A Price, J C Rees and
D B Thomas

149. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for their absence were received from Councillor R P Morgan, D C Phillips and S Williams.

150. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made at this juncture.

151. MINUTES

Resolved that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on the 20th February 2014 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

152. MATTERS ARISING

(a) Minutes 134(a) - Cwmllynfell Cemetery Improvements

It was reported that tarmac had been laid on the new roadway. The only work that remained under the contract was seeding of the disturbed areas. The Clerk suggested however that the Council may wish to consider asking the contractor to quote for importing some top soil in order to improve the surface which had eroded considerably during recent periods of inclement weather.

It was also reported that an account for the design and supervision fee had been received from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council which had been calculated at 10% of the tender price rather than at 10% of the reduced final cost.

Resolved that the report be noted and that T Richard Jones (Betws) Ltd be requested to provide a quotation for importing and spreading top soil prior to seeding.

(b) Minute 134(b) - Planning - Deposit Local Development Plan

A communication was received from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council in which it was indicated that the Council had not submitted a "Sustainability Appraisal" to accompany its Alternative Sites proposal for a settlement limit for Rhiwfawr and Coedffaldau. The County Borough Council had also indicated that a Sustainability Appraisal would have to be consistent with the scope and level of detail in the appraisal undertaken by the County Borough Council which as a minimum should include assessments on Climate Change, Resources & Waste, Biodiversity & Geodiversity, Landscape, Townscape & Historic Character, Pollution (Air Quality, Noise & Light), Community Cohesion, Health & Well Being and Economy.

The Clerk had raised concerns with Councillor C E Richards who had approached the County Borough Council's Head of Planning who had conceded that the process which had been set by the Welsh Government was rather onerous and alternative processes were being explored. The Clerk advised further that it may be necessary for the Community Council to engage a planning consultant if the Council was minded to prepare a sustainability appraisal.

Resolved that:

1. Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council be advised that the Council is satisfied that it has reflected the requirements of the community correctly in its Alternative Sites proposal and:
2. the Council objects to the way that the process is being hampered by the unrealistic and onerous demands that are being placed on a community council to prepare and submit a Sustainability Appraisal which is consistent with the scope and level which was undertaken by the Local Planning Authority.

(c) Minute 134(c) - County Borough of Neath Port Talbot – Library Service Review

It was reported that a public meeting had been held on the 24th February in relation to Cwmllynfell library which was not very well attended. Training sessions for volunteer librarians were due to commence.

Resolved that the report be noted and further reports on the effectiveness of the arrangements be awaited.

(d) Minute 140 - South Wales Workways Project

Resolved that it be noted that Mr R Locke, a Mentor on the above project would be attending the next meeting of the Council.

(e) Minute 146(a) - Applications for Financial Assistance

i. Cwmllynfell Hall

A letter dated 4th March 2014 was received from Cwmllynfell Hall to thank the Council for approving a grant of £10,500.

The Clerk reminded the Council that the Hall Committee had invited the Council to appoint a representative to attend meetings.

Resolved that the Chairman or Vice Chairman, depending on availability, be authorised to represent the Council at meetings of the Committee of Cwmllynfell Hall.

ii. Cwmllynfell and District Bowls Club

Further to Minute 146(a) the Clerk reported that the cheque for the grant awarded to the Bowls Club had not been released as yet as an audited statement of accounts was awaited.

Resolved that the matter be noted.

iii. Teenage Cancer Trust

Resolved that it be noted that the above organisation had submitted a completed application form but as it did not indicate that there was a direct benefit to residents of the community that the decision contained in minute 146(a) be reaffirmed.

iv. St Margaret's Church Cwmllynfell – Grass Cutting

It was reported that a quotation in the sum of £649.96 had been received from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council for cutting the grass at St Margaret's Church on four occasions during 2014. The application for grant that had been received from the Church had indicated that their contractor had quoted £70 per cut.

Resolved that a grant of £280 be made to St Margaret's Church towards the cost of grounds maintenance and that the grant be paid at the April meeting of the Council.

(f) Minute 147(c) - Planning System Consultation

Resolved that the details of the response that One Voice Wales had made to the above consultation be noted.

153. CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2014-17

A communication was received from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council in which the six improvement objectives that they intended to carry out during the next twelve months were outlined.

Resolved that no objection be raised to the proposed objectives but that the County Borough Council be informed that the consultation period that they had allowed was too short in view of the fact that community councils usually meet monthly.

154. COMMUNITY REVIEW

A letter dated 1st March 2014 was received from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council together with their stage 2 draft proposals which had taken into consideration the comments that had been received during stage 1.

The draft proposals proposed no change to the existing community arrangements for the Community of Cwmllynfell.

Resolved that the County Borough Council be informed that Cwmllynfell Community Council welcomes and supports the draft proposals in respect of the community.

155. DRAFT PLAYING FIELDS (COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN DISPOSAL DECISIONS) (WALES) REGULATIONS 2014

A notification was received that the Welsh Government was consulting on the above proposed regulations.

Resolved that the proposed measure be supported.

156. REPEAL OF SECTION 150(5) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

A notification was received from One Voice Wales that a Legislative Reform Order had been made by the Minister to repeal Section 150(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 which would remove the requirement for two signatures on cheques. It was however necessary for every Council to put in place effective systems and arrangements in accordance with the guidance on Governance and Accountability for Local Councils.

The Clerk indicated that new Financial Regulations would therefore be submitted for the Council's consideration in due course

Resolved that the matter be noted.

157. NEATH PORT TALBOT LOCAL SERVICE BOARD – AIR QUALITY PROJECT

Resolved that the invitation for the Council to be represented at an Air Quality Event at Port Talbot on the 2nd April 2014 be noted.

158. ONE VOICE WALES – TRAINING MODULE ON DEVOLUTION OF SERVICES

Resolved that the information received from One Voice Wales be noted.

159. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) Applications for financial Assistance

Consideration was given to applications for financial assistance.

Resolved that:

1. the Council having assessed the purpose for which a grant was being sought and evaluated the funds that the organisation had in hand decided that the following application be not entertained:

Cerddwyr Llynfell Walkers

2. consideration of the following application be deferred as the applicants had not completed a grant application form or provided a statement of accounts:

Rhiwfawr Community Association – Rhiwfawr Hall

3. the following application be not entertained:

NSPCC – Childline School service

(b) Payment of Accounts

Resolved that the following accounts be paid:

1680	Neath Port Talbot CBC	Fee cemetery project	£3138.00
1681	Neath Port Talbot CBC	Translation Fees - website	£232.26
1682	One Voice Wales	Membership subscription	£146.00
1684	Payroll	Salary February	£267.80

(c) Grass Cutting 2014 Season

A communication dated 20th March 2014 was received from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council quoting the following sums plus VAT for carrying out the Council's grass cutting requirements for the 2014 season, (4 cuts during the season other than as indicated below):

1	Cemetery including herbicide alongside roadway	£2,695.39
2	Cwmlynnfell Chapel Grounds (inc Watcyn Wyn memorial)	365.34
3	Rhiwfawr Park (Note: – Former bowling green and play area - fortnightly cut), (Remainder excluding wildflower meadow but including Wetland area alongside paths – 4cuts), (Wildflower meadow 2 cuts)	777.79
5	Litter Picking and herbicide application	173.90
	Total	<u>4,012.42</u>

Resolved that the quotation received from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council in the sum of £4,012.42 plus VAT be accepted;

160. PLANNING MATTERS

(a) Planning Applications

Proposed Development - App No: P2012/1073

A planning application at the site currently known as East Pit East Revised OCCS, Gwaun-cae-Gurwen, SA18 1UP for development comprising:

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 210m² and Visitors Centre (Class D1) of 300m²; dive centre with ancillary dive centre shop (Class D2) of 1630m²; 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.(Welsh Language Impact Assessment Rec 24-4-13) (23-5-13 Additional information, plans and reports)

Resolved that:

1. the following comments be submitted to Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council in respect of the above application:
 - i. The Council objects strongly to the entire proposal as it does not meet the requirements of Mineral Technical Notes 2 and as it does not comply with the conditions imposed in the planning permission granted by the Planning Committee of the National Assembly for Wales in 2004 (P/2002/917 & A-PP 185-07-014);
 - ii. The County Borough Council be therefore urged to **refuse** the application and to enforce compliance with Planning Application P/2002/917 & A-PP 185-

07-014 as varied by any conditions that may be imposed in the determination of the section 73A planning application (P2013/0530) in respect of which the Community Council has already commented.

- iii. That the County Borough Council and the Welsh Government be notified that the Council is extremely concerned that working has been allowed to continue at East Pit since the 30th November 2012 without the benefit of planning permission and as such the County Borough Council be urged to determine planning application P2013/0530 in the terms suggested by the Community Council without further delay even if any additional enhancing conditions and community benefits are reserved for subsequent determination.
 - iv. If the applicants and the owners are not prepared or are unable to provide a bond to cover the entire cost of the approved restoration scheme that the County Borough Council with the support of the Welsh Government (including a financial guarantee) take immediate steps to stop the development and implement measures to restore the site in accordance with the permission granted in 2004.
2. a copy of the comments made by the Community Council to the County Borough Council be forwarded to the Rt Hon Carwyn Jones AM, Mr Carl Sargeant AM (Minister for Housing and Regeneration), Mrs Gwenda Thomas AM and the Regional Assembly Members Ms Suzy Davies AM, Mr Peter Black AM, Mr Byron Davies AM and Ms Bethan Jenkins AM.

Proposed Development App No: P2014/0199:

Scheme under condition 54 of planning reference P2006/0853 for the setting up, operation and regular convening of a Site Liaison Committee for Cwmnantlleici Quarry, Pontardawe

Resolved that no objection be raised to the above application.

Proposed Development App No: P2014/0110

Garage at 91 Rhiw Road, Rhiwfawr

Resolved that no objection be raised to the above application subject to the accesses to Rhiwfawr Park (both pedestrian and vehicular) not being impeded by the use of the garage.

161. REPORTS

The following matters were reported:

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------|---|
| • South Wales Police Statistics | All Crime (see categories below) | January | 3 |
| | Drugs | | 2 |
| | Violent Crime | | 1 |
- Police – Neighbourhood News;
 - Aman Group of Local Councils – meeting postponed
 - Cycle Path – former railway line – fencing required alongside drainage ditches
 - Fencing to prevent animal trespass at Bryn Road and Coedffaldau

Resolved that the issues concerning the cycle path and the fencing be raised with Councillor C E Richards and Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council.

The meeting terminated at 8.43pm.