

## **CYNGOR CYMUNED CWMLLYNFELL COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT RHIWFAWR HALL ON**

**WEDNESDAY 16<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2014 AT 6.15P.M.**

**PRESENT:** Councillor R Evans (Chairman) presided  
**COUNCILLORS:** R M Davies, M Evans, D Lloyd, N L A Price, D B Thomas and S Williams

#### **162. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

#### **163. SOUTH WEST WORKWAYS**

The Chairman welcomed Messrs Robert Locke and Mark Williams of South West Workways who had been invited to the meeting to provide information about the project.

The Council was informed that the project which was led by Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council in collaboration with Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire Bridgend and the City and County of Swansea Councils was backed through the Welsh Government by £17million from the European Social Fund. Workways tackled the barriers that prevented individuals from finding employment. The project provided support via a mentor with job searching, CVs, application forms, interview skills, telephone techniques and access to training. Participants were also matched with local businesses, helping them gain the vital experience needed to find long term employment. Individuals were able to obtain support from Workways provided that they were not working or working less than 16 hours, claiming Job Seekers Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance (but not on the work programme), claiming any other benefits and living within the administrative areas of the above-mentioned authorities.

Members were given the opportunity to ask questions and obtain further explanation on the project. They were also asked to convey information about the project within the community and encourage eligible persons to participate in the scheme.

The Chairman thanked Messrs Locke and Williams for attending the meeting and for their informative address.

#### **164. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made at this juncture.

#### **165. MINUTES**

**Resolved** that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on the 20<sup>th</sup> March 2014 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

## **166. MATTERS ARISING**

### **(a) Minutes 152(a) - Cwmllynfell Cemetery Improvements**

A quotation was received from T Richard Jones (Betws) Ltd for carrying out further work, as follows, to improve the condition of the ground in the areas that had been disturbed during the course of the scheme:

Roll, rake, and prepare ground to receive topsoil	£1,860
Spread, level and rake topsoil to required levels	£1,256
Provide new timber edging to path alongside ash graves	£84
Total	£3,200

**Resolved** that the above quotation from T Richard Jones (Betws) Ltd for carrying out the described work be accepted.

### **(b) Minute 152(b) - Planning - Deposit Local Development Plan**

It was reported that a communication dated 11<sup>th</sup> April 2014 had been received from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council in response to the Council's objection to the way that the process was being hampered by the unrealistic and onerous demands that were being placed on a community council to prepare and submit a Sustainability Appraisal which was consistent with the scope and level which had been undertaken by the Local Planning Authority.

The communication indicated that the submission of a Sustainability Appraisal was a requirement of the regulations and that the absence of such an appraisal may be viewed by the Planning Inspector as a reason to reject a submission for an alternative site. The Local Plan section of the County Borough Council offered to explain each question in the appraisal form.

The Clerk reported that he had drawn the matter to the attention of Councillor C E Richards, who had been instrumental in persuading the Community Council to object to the omission of a settlement limit for Rhiwfawr and had suggested that the County Borough Council should reconsider its definition of Rhiwfawr as a dormitory area and modify the Local Development Plan to include a settlement limit for Rhiwfawr thereby obviating the possibility of the Community Council's submission being rejected by the Inspector.

The Clerk also reported on his discussions with Councillor Neil Price who was prepared to attend at the County Borough Council's offices in order to prepare a sustainability appraisal

**Resolved** that:

1. the report be noted;
2. Councillors Neil Price and Richard Davies be authorised to attend at the County Borough Council's offices in order to prepare a sustainability appraisal.

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

A copy of the notice that had been published by Cwmllynfell Hall to announce the revised opening times for the library with effect from the 14<sup>th</sup> April had been circulated to members. The notice referred to the fact that the library had been

closed since the 31<sup>st</sup> March due to Council cutbacks and had indicated that the reduced hours reflected the number of volunteers available but acknowledged the help that had been received from the library service

**Resolved** that Cwmllynfell Hall be informed that the Council is disappointed that the notice had not acknowledged the assistance that the Community Council was providing by defraying of the loss of rental income that the hall had suffered as a result of County Borough Council's cut backs.

**(d) Minutes 152(e) & 159 - Applications for Financial Assistance**

i. Cwmllynfell and District Bowls Club

**Resolved** that it be noted that the cheque in payment of the approved grant had been released upon production of an audited statement of accounts.

ii. Rhiwfawr Community Association – Rhiwfawr Hall

Note: Councillor R Evans (Chairman) declared her interest in the above application and withdrew from discussion on the matter.

**Councillor R Davies (Vice-Chairman) presiding**

A statement of accounts for the period ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012 was received in support of the above application.

**Resolved** that the association be requested to produce an audited statement of accounts for the most recent yearly accounting period in accordance with the Council's grant's policy.

**Councillor R Evans (Chairman) presiding**

**(e) 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.

**(f) Minute 160 – Planning Application P2012/1073 – East Pit East Revised Opencast Coal Site**

Letters dated 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> April respectively were received from Ms Bethan Jenkins AM and Mr Peter Black AM confirming that they had supported the concerns that the Council had raised in connection with the above planning application. Ms Jenkins had written to the Head of Planning at Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council reinforcing the comments that she had already made that the application should be rejected. Mr Black had written to the Minister for Housing and Regeneration supporting the concerns raised by the Council and enquiring whether the Welsh Government had decided to call in the application.

**Resolved** that the information be noted.

**(g) Minute 161 – Cycle Track and Bryn Road Fencing**

It was reported that Councillor C E Richards had made representations about the Council's concerns that a fence had not been erected to separate the new cycle track from a deep ditch.

Councillor Richards had also indicated that he intended to convene a meeting with officers of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council in May in order to discuss arrangements for making a new application under Section 194 of the Law of Property Act 1925 in respect of the proposed fence at Bryn Road and Coedffaldau to prevent animals straying.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

**167. AWEL AMAN TAWE – “EGNI” SOLAR PV CO-OPERATIVE**

A letter dated 6<sup>th</sup> March 2014 was received from Awel Aman Tawe inviting support for the above co-operative which had been established by Awel Aman Tawe to install solar panels on seven community buildings in the area. The organisation was inviting investment in their share offer which had a projected 4% annual return which would increase to 10% with the Seed Enterprise Investment Scheme.

**Resolved** that the information be noted.

**168. MID AND WEST WALES FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE – ANNUAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2014-15**

**Resolved** that the publication of the above plan which contained the following objectives be noted:

- To Improve Internal and External communication / Public Engagement
- Manage Reduce Budgets to Support Safer Communities
- Improve their Evaluation Processes

**169. VELINDRE COMMUNITY SCHOOL, YSGOL HENDRE SPECIAL SCHOOL AND BRYNCOCH PUPIL REFERRAL UNIT**

**Resolved** that it be noted that the report on the consultation undertaken by Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council into proposals affecting the above schools had been published.

**170. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (WALES) MEASURE 2011 – PART 7 – COMMUNITIES AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS**

A notification was received from the Welsh Government in which attention was drawn to the fact that guidance had been issued to Principal Councils and Town and Community Councils in respect of the above matter. The guidance acknowledged that the developing role of community councils could create new demands on their finances. The measure therefore included provision to enable Welsh Ministers to provide direct grant funding to community councils akin to that which already existed in relation to principal councils.

**Resolved** that the Welsh Government be informed that the Council is of the view that direct grants should be forthcoming to support community and town councils in providing services that are provided under powers that are concurrent with those held by principal councils.

**171. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR WALES – COMMITTEE INQUIRY: MAKING LAWS IN THE FOURTH ASSEMBLY**

A letter was received from the Chair of the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee of the Assembly inviting views on how laws are made in the assembly.

**Resolved** that the documentation be referred to Councillor Richard Davies for his appraisal.

**172. “MEDDYGFA’R CWM” – GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTICE**

A communication dated 4<sup>th</sup> April 2014 was received from the Head of Primary Care and Planning for the Neath Port Talbot Locality of the Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board. It was indicated that the two General Practitioners at the practice had given notice of their resignation from their contract and were dissolving the practice. The Health Board had invited expressions of interest from general practitioners wishing to take over the practice. The Head of Primary Care and Planning also offered to attend a meeting of the Community Council to answer queries.

**Resolved** that the Head of Primary Care and Planning be invited to meet the Council.

**173. FINANCIAL MATTERS**

**(a) Audit of Accounts for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014.**

A letter dated 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014 was received from Mazars the Council’s Auditors in which a notification was given of the arrangements for the audit of the Council’s accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014. The appointed date for the exercise of electors’ rights in respect of the audit was the 21<sup>st</sup> July 2014. The initial certification of the Annual Return would have to be completed by the Council by the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014

**Resolved** that:

1. the necessary arrangements be made for the audit and the submission of the Annual Return;
2. Mr A Pedrick be appointed as the Council’s Internal Auditor.

**(b) Summary Receipts and Payments Statement and Balance Sheet 2013/2014**

The Summary Receipts and Payments Statement and Balance Sheet for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014, showing the following totals was presented to the Council:

	£
Balance Brought Forward 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2013	96,252.73
Add Total Receipts	69,154.24
Deduct Total Payments	110,288.37
Balance Carried Forward 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2014	55,118.60

