

CYNGOR CYMUNED CWMLLYNFELL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT CWMLLYNFELL HALL
ON WEDNESDAY 16th OCTOBER 2014 AT 6.30 P.M.**

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

ATTENDING: Councillor C E Richards - Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

72. APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for his absence was received from Councillor T H J Kendrick.

73. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made at this juncture.

74. MINUTES

Resolved that the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 17th September be confirmed and signed as a correct record

75. MATTERS ARISING

(a) Minute 58(a) – Cwmllynfell Cemetery Improvements

It was reported that the contractors had arranged for the grass, including the imported weeds, in the improved area to be mown on the 3rd October. The area would also be reseeded and fertiliser applied. A further mowing would take place after a few weeks in an aim to leave a strong sward of grass for the winter period. The contractors had accordingly requested that the balance of the contract sum be released.

Resolved that the report be noted and the balance due to the contractors released for payment.

(b) Minute 58(c) - White Paper – Reforming Local Government

Details of the submission that had been made by One Voice Wales in respect of the above White Paper had been circulated to members following the last meeting and a communication had been sent on behalf of the Council in support of One Voice Wales' comments.

Resolved that the action taken be confirmed.

(c) Minute 63 - "A Shared Community" - Charter Agreement

A draft of the above agreement having been circulated at the previous meeting, consideration was given to the submission of comments.

Resolved that the following comments be submitted in respect of the under mentioned paragraphs of the draft Charter Agreement:

Recognition:

<u>Neath Port Talbot CBC</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Acknowledges and recognises that Community and Town Councils are the grass roots level of local government. In their role as democratically accountable bodies, Community and town Councils offer a means of engaging with local people, of decentralising the provision of certain services, and of revitalising local communities.	It is indicated that the County Borough Council acknowledges and recognises that Community and Town Councils are the grass roots level of local government and that they offer a means of engaging with local people. The inference is that the County Borough Council will therefore take heed of that grass roots engagement. However, in the case of Cwmllynfell Community Council the converse is the case as the County Borough Council has closed Rhiwfawr School, discontinued to run Cwmllynfell Library and ignored the Community Council's submissions on the Local Development Plan in relation to a Settlement Limit for Rhiwfawr and Coedffaldau all of which are contrary to the expressed wishes of local people. The County Borough Council should therefore pledge to strengthen its commitment to partnership working and to make every possible effort to carry out the wishes of local people that are reflected by the engagement that has been undertaken by Community and Town Councils.

<u>Community/Town CIs</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Recognise that Community and Town Councils come within the common umbrella of the Principal Council	It is unclear what is suggested by "come within the common umbrella" as Community and Town Councils are autonomous statutory bodies that are not overseen by Principal Councils except for the duties and responsibilities of the Monitoring Officer.

Information and Communication:

<u>Neath Port Talbot CBC</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Will communicate by providing, where appropriate, sufficient numbers of electronic versions of documents for members of Community and Town Councils	The County Borough Council should agree to provide sufficient hard copies of documents for members of Community and Town Councils if requested to do so.

Joint Working and Engagement:

<u>Neath Port Talbot CBC</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Will give due consideration to devolving services that would provide better value for money and/or enhanced services	The County Borough Council should engage fully with Community and Town Councils on the question of devolving services that would provide better value for money including the reallocation of funds that may become available as a result of such devolvement.

Local Elections:

<u>Neath Port Talbot CBC</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Will administer the holding of Community and Town Council elections	In circumstances where Community Council elections are held at the same time as any other election that only those costs that are greater than the cost of the other election are chargeable to the Community Council.

(d) Minute 64 - Rhiwfawr Rushlands

A communication was received from the Ms Wendy Larcombe of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council in response to the Council's enquiry as to whether the Biodiversity Section was prepared to advise the Council on the maintenance of the above wetland area. The section did not have anyone available to oversee a maintenance project but Ms Larcombe was willing to advise on the best way forward.

Resolved that the response be noted and the necessary advice be obtained.

76. REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS, POLLING PLACES AND POLLING STATIONS

A communication was received from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council in connection with the above periodic review which was carried out at four yearly intervals. The Council was accordingly invited to submit any representations with regard to the review as it affected the community.

Resolved that Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council be informed that:

1. it is the view of the Council that the present polling districts should remain unchanged as their boundaries are coterminous with the community wards which in turn form the building blocks for the County Borough Electoral Division and as such provide appropriate democratic polling arrangements;
2. the current polling places and polling stations should be retained in their current form as they are suitable for the requirements of the polling districts.

77. REVIEW OF DESIGNATED LANDSCAPES IN WALES

A letter dated 16th October 2014 was received from the Chair of the Independent Panel that had been commissioned to conduct a review of the designated landscapes of Wales comprising National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The Council was accordingly invited to submit written evidence to the panel regarding the first stage of the work which would address the purpose of designated landscapes and the merits of classifying Wales' designated landscapes under one type of designation.

Resolved that the panel be requested to consider the effect of the East Pit Opencast Coal Site on the designated landscape comprising the Brecon Beacons National Park, the boundary of which is in close proximity to the Opencast Site.

78. INDEPENDENT REVIEW PANEL – ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16

A communication dated 3rd October 2014 together with the above draft report was received from the Independent Remuneration Panel. The report included details of payments to members of community and town councils.

Resolved that the report be noted.

79. HACKNEY CARRIAGE BYELAWS

A communication dated 14th October 2014 was received from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council together with a copy of the new Byelaws that had been approved by the Welsh Government.

Resolved that the information be noted.

80. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) Payment of Accounts

Resolved that the following accounts be paid:

No			£
1704	T Richard Jones (Betws) Ltd	Final Account (balance) Cemetery	1234.50
1705	PALPS	Repair of CCTV	150.00
1706	Payroll	Net salary September	214.24
1707	HMRC	Income Tax	53.56

(b) Banking

Resolved that it be noted that the Ystradgynlais Branch of HSBC had closed.

81. PLANNING MATTERS

(a) Planning Application

Resolved no objection be raised to the following applications

App No:

P2014/0671 Conversion of Chapel to residential dwelling, plus creation of off street car parking, installation of velux windows, demolition of chimney and outbuildings at Rhiwfawr Independent Chapel, Rhiw Road, Rhiwfawr;

P2014/0918 Two outbuildings in rear garden for use as games room and workshop at 79 Rhiw Road, Rhiwfawr

82. REPORTS

The following matters were also reported:

South Wales Police Statistics	All Crime (see categories below)	August	4
	Anti Social Behaviour		2
	Criminal Damage and Arson		2

- Letters dated 13th and 16th October respectively from former Sector Inspector Huw Griffiths and new Sector Inspector Andy Davies;
- Police Neighbourhood News September 2014;
- Royal British Legion Remembrance Service – Cwmllynfell Hall 7th November 2014;
- Maintenance of highway drains;
- Parc Cymunedol Llynfell Community Park – Refuse and broken glass;
- Litter and emptying of receptacle – Rhiwfawr Park;
- Lewis Avenue – Section of unsurfaced footway and abandoned car;
- PACT – Explanatory leaflet;

Councillor C E Richards also reported on the following matters:

- PCSO change of personnel;
- East Pit East Revised Opencast Coal Site – Planning Application awaiting determination;
- Cycle Path, Cwmllynfell – Revised access arrangements – Lewis Avenue;
- NPT Homes – Improvements to properties being undertaken;
- Car park adjoining Cwmllynfell School – proposed extension to surfaced area;
- Gwrhyd Quarry – Highway improvements relating to planning conditions being explored;

The Chairman introduced the question of the Council acting in pro-active manner.

Resolved that members be invited to submit aims and objectives at the next meeting with a view to formulating a development plan for the Community.

The meeting terminated at 8.15pm