

**CYNGOR CYMUNED CWMLLYNFELL COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT CWMLLYNFELL HALL  
ON THURSDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2014 AT 6.30 P.M.**

**PRESENT:** Councillor R M Davies (Chairman) presided

**COUNCILLORS:** M Evans, T H J Kendrick, D C Phillips, J C Rees, and D B Thomas.

**83. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

**84. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made at this juncture.

**85. MINUTES**

**Resolved** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 16<sup>th</sup> October be confirmed and signed as a correct record

**86. MATTERS ARISING**

**(a) Minute 75(a) – Cwmllynfell Cemetery Improvements**

The Clerk reported that he had inspected the cemetery recently and it appeared that the work that the contractors had commissioned to treat the imported weeds had been successful. The inspection had been carried out jointly with officers of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council who had confirmed that the improved area could be maintained using a ride-on mower. Advice had also been obtained with regard to the maintenance of the section of the cemetery which consisted of rough grassland. The advice that had been received was that this area should be managed in a sensitive way so as to maintain the population of Whorled Caraway and to encourage other wild flowers.

The attention of the Council was again drawn to the fact that some five requests had been received from families who wished to place plaques to commemorate relatives that had been cremated. The Clerk reported that enquiries had been made previously which had revealed that the cost of plaques was somewhat prohibitive. The original design of the improved section had included a low stone wall that could have accommodated plaques but that feature had been removed in order to reduce costs.

**Resolved** that:

1. the report concerning the removal of weeds at the cemetery and its future maintenance be noted and the advice accepted;
2. further consideration be given in due course to satisfying the requests for commemorative plaques.

**(b) Minute 75(d) - Rhiwfawr Rushlands**

The Clerk reported that he had met with officers of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council recently in order to discuss the maintenance requirements of the above area when it had been concluded that the following work should be carried out. Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council would quote a “day rate” for carrying out the work:

1. Selective thinning of the Alder and Willow trees and bushes in the eastern area of the Rushlands Area nearest to footpath 106. The felled trees etc to be cut into suitable lengths and left in appropriate areas in the vicinity to form wildlife habitats;
2. Cutting back of brambles in some areas. The areas that had been identified as being a priority were alongside the fence that separated the park from the Rushlands Area so as to reveal the ditch located in that area and the area between the fence and the boundary alongside footpath 106. The Countryside Section NPTCBC could be asked to assist in the case of the latter as it was their practice to carry out some maintenance to ensure free passage on the footpath.;
3. Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council would pursue enquiries as to whether the Rushlands Area could be designated as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation and ascertain whether funding could be obtained to improve the habitats and rectify the problems that have been encountered with the ponds not retaining appropriate water levels;
4. The emptying of the litter bin within the children's play area and the brushing of the safety surface to remove algae could be added to the annual schedule of work so that this work could be priced to be included in the Council's contract.

Following the joint inspection a communication had been received from the Countryside Section of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council to confirm that enquiries were being pursued to ascertain whether assistance could be obtained to maintain the ponds. The Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust had also been contacted to see if they were able to assist with maintenance at the site. The County Borough Council also had two part time employees who carried out practical management/community engagement but they were engaged in other projects at present. However it could be possible that they would be able to assist next year with cutting and raking the rushes. The Countryside Section also had some grant moneys left in the current year, so they could potentially help out in meeting the cost of some of the work which would be charged at a day rate.

It was also reported that during the inspection it had been observed that hedge cuttings which had obviously not emanated from within the park had been dumped in the Rushlands area.

**Resolved** that:

1. the report of the joint inspection be noted and the findings accepted;
2. the quotation of a day rate from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council for carrying out the work and the outcome of the enquiries with regard to assistance be awaited;

3. letters be sent to properties abutting the park to inform them of the work that the Council intends to carry out and to express disappointment over the fact that hedge cuttings etc had been deposited in the Rushlands area with a request that the persons responsible refrain from doing so and also remove the offending cuttings.

**(c) Minute 71 (17/09/2014) – Footbridge – Path 14 – near Lewis Avenue**

A communication from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council that had been forwarded by Councillor C E Richards indicated that in the County Borough Council's opinion the abovementioned footbridge was located within the County of Carmarthenshire and as such its maintenance would be the responsibility of that authority.

An inspection of the Definitive map of Public Rights of Way however suggested that the bridge traversed the boundary between the County Borough Council of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council and the County of Carmarthenshire

**Resolved** that Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council be requested to further examine whether the bridge is the joint responsibility of the aforementioned authorities.

**87. COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL / TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS LIAISON FORUM**

**Resolved** that it be noted that agenda items had been invited for the next meeting of the Liaison Forum which will be held on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2014.

**88. NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL – ANNUAL REPORT 2013/14**

**Resolved** that it be noted that the above report had been published and was available on the County Borough Council's website.

**89. GYPSY AND TRAVELLER SITE ACCOMMODATION GUIDANCE**

**Resolved** that the consultation document received from the Welsh Government be noted.

**90. DRAFT CONTAMINATED LAND STRATEGY CONSULTATION**

**Resolved** that consideration of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council's consultation document be deferred until the next meeting.

**91. MID AND WEST WALES FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE – “HAVE YOUR SAY”**

A communication was received from the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue service in which it was indicated that they had saved £6.4million since 2005 which represented almost 15% of their budget. Future savings could impact on the way that services were delivered which could have implications for the safety of communities. As such community councils were invited to get involved in the debate and share their opinions on the value placed on their services.

**Resolved** that information be sought on the programme that the Fire and Rescue Service has for checking and maintaining fire hydrants.

## **92. NATURAL RESOURCES WALES - TREES IN WALES' TOWN AND CITIES**

A letter dated 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2014 was received from Natural Resources Wales together with summaries of two urban tree studies which had been launched at the Climate Change Commission for Wales' event held in Wrexham.

**Resolved** that the information be noted.

## **93. PRECEPT AND COUNCIL TAX BASE FOR 2015/16**

**Resolved** that the letter from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council giving notification that the Council Tax Base for 2015/16 which will be used to calculate the Council Tax in Band D in respect of the Council's precept will be 368.98.

## **94. ONE VOICE WALES – AREA COMMITTEE**

**Resolved** that it be noted that the next meeting of the Area Committee would be held on the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2014.

## **94. FINANCIAL MATTERS**

### **(a) Applications for Financial Assistance**

Consideration was given to applications for financial assistance that had been received.

**Resolved** that:

1. the following organisations be not invited to submit completed applications forms in accordance with the Council's policy:

Bobath Children's Therapy Centre Wales    Noah's Ark Children's Hospital Charity  
Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod

2. the following application be not entertained and the organisation informed that it is the Council's practice to assist by making a grant to local schools to defray the cost of pupils' membership subscriptions.

Urdd Gobaith Cymru – National Eisteddfod Caerphilly 2015

3. the following organisation be invited to submit an application form in accordance with the Council's policy:

Marie Curie Nurses in Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

### **(b) Payment of Accounts**

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

No			£
1708	Mrs C Phillips	Honorarium – Cemetery Records	200.00
1709	Royal British Legion	Poppy Wreath	20.00
1710	Payroll	Net salary October	214.24
1711	HMRC	Income Tax	53.56

## **95. PLANNING MATTERS**

### **(a) Planning Application**

App No:P2012/1073 – East Pit East Revised Opencast Coal Site:

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 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. Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council be informed in respect of the above application that the Council has previously submitted an objection to the granting of permission in respect of the application as first submitted which urged the County Borough Council to refuse permission and that the Council has now considered the application in the light of the further consultation and wishes to reiterate its objection and also reserves the right to comment further when the Officer's Report to the Planning and Development Control Committee is available for public inspection. As such the Council requests that it be given early notification of the date when the Committee report will be available for viewing so that the Community Council may review its comments in the light of the Officer's recommendations. In the interim the Council wishes to:
  - i. Place a strong holding objection to the entire application 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 originally by the Planning Committee of the National Assembly for Wales in 2004 (P/2002/917 & A-PP 185-07-014) and which has been renewed with modifications in the permission approved under planning application P2013/0530.
  - ii. Urge the County Borough Council to fulfil its duties as Local Planning Authority as the Community Council understands that the decision notice in respect of application P2013/0530 has still not been issued as legal agreements have not been signed. This situation is highly unsatisfactory as it means that the site has now been operating without a valid planning permission for over 2 years. The County Borough Council is therefore strongly urged to enforce compliance with that decision without further delay and before determining application P2012/1073.
2. an Extraordinary meeting of the Council be convened if necessary to consider the application further when the Officer's report is available for viewing.

**(b) Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan – Notification of Publication of Inspector’s Report**

**Resolved** that the letter from Carmarthenshire County Council containing the above notification be noted.

**(c) Neath Port Talbot Local development Plan Examination – Introduction & Notice of Pre-Hearing Meeting**

**Resolved** that the letter dated 13<sup>th</sup> November 2014 from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council containing the above notification be noted.

**96. REPORTS**

The following matters were also reported:

South Wales Police Statistics	All Crime (see categories below)	September	9
	Anti Social Behaviour		8
	Other Theft		1

- Councillor C E Richards had arranged with Celtic Energy and the Gwrhyd Quarry for Christmas Trees to be donated and for Mr Paul Fox to erect the trees;
- Groundwork’s Bridgend, Neath Port Talbot Office was understood to have closed;
- PACT Meeting 11<sup>th</sup> December – new PCSO – Sian Jenkins;
- Council’s website had been in operation for 12 months;
- Council’s aims and objectives – next meeting;
- Consider Young People’s Forum

The meeting terminated at 8.35pm.