

**CYNGOR CYMUNED CWMLLYNFELL COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT CWMLLYNFELL HALL  
ON THURSDAY 15<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2015 AT 6.30 P.M.**

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

**111. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

**112. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made at this juncture.

**113. MINUTES**

**Resolved** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 18<sup>th</sup> December 2014 be confirmed and signed as a correct record

**114. MATTERS ARISING**

**(a) Minute 100(a) - Rhiwfawr Rushlands**

A communication was received from the Biodiversity Unit of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council in which it was confirmed that they would contribute funds to cover two days' work which was estimated at £721.64. The contribution would be made on the proviso that the work carried out would be for the direct benefit of biodiversity. The work that would qualify was outlined in the communication and significantly it excluded the thinning of trees in the eastern part of the area. The Biodiversity Officer also indicated that she was prepared to compile a management plan for the site on the proviso that there would be a commitment from the Community Council for the long term management, preferably with the aid of a volunteer group.

**Resolved** that:

1. the offer received from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council to fund two days' work be accepted;
2. the local resident who had complained about the lack of maintenance and the fact that trees in the eastern part of the site had become overgrown be informed that the work that the Council is able to carry out must be sympathetic to the biodiversity of the area.

**(b) Minute 100(b) – Footbridge – Path 14 – near Lewis Avenue**

It was reported that a communication had been received from Carmarthenshire County Council in which it was indicated that the issue concerning the above footbridge had been recorded in their maintenance system. An inspection would be carried out as soon as possible and the Council would be kept informed of the situation.

**Resolved** that the information be noted.

**(c) Minute 100(d)- Planning Application No: P2012/1073 – East Pit East Revised Opencast Coal Site**

The contents of a letter that had been sent to Mr Carl Sargeant AM., Minister for Natural Resources had been circulated for the information of members. The invitation had been extended to the Assembly Members representing the South Wales West Region in addition to the invitees referred to in Minute 100(d).

A recent Mine Manager's report in relation to the site had indicated that operations on site were advancing well with less than 10% of the current phase remaining. The excavation was currently 120 metres below the original surface in the north and 140 metres in the south. Some 1,674,343 tonnes had been recovered of which some 1,564,343 tonnes had been transported off site. Currently, employment excluding coal haulage drivers totalled 97, consisting of 60 hourly paid, 11 staff and 26 sub-contractors.

**Resolved** that:

1. the report be noted and a response from the Minister for Natural Resources be awaited;
2. the action taken in extending invitations to the Regional Assembly Members be ratified.

**(d) Minute 105 - Draft National Transport Plan 2015**

The website link to the above document had been circulated.

**Resolved** that consideration be given at the next meeting of the Council to the submission of comments via One Voice Wales.

**115. "SECTION 137 EXPENDITURE " – LIMIT FOR 2015-16**

A letter dated 5<sup>th</sup> January 2015 was received from the Welsh Government in which notification was given that for the financial year 2015 -16 the discretionary expenditure limit for the purposes of section 137 would be increased to £7.36 per local government elector.

**Resolved** that the matter be noted.

**116. HIGH SHERIFF'S AWARDS 2015**

An application form was received to enable the Council to nominate for an award anyone in the community who worked voluntarily in the community with young people or young persons who worked voluntarily in their own community. The closing date for nominations was the 20<sup>th</sup> February 2015.

**Resolved** that the matter be considered further at the next meeting of the Council

**117. NEATH PORT TALBOT CVS – BRIEFING EVENTS**

**Resolved** that the invitation received for the Council to be represented at various briefing events be noted.

## **118. COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL / COMMUNITY COUNCILS LIAISON FORUM**

A notification was received from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council that the next meeting of the Liaison Forum would be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2015 and as such agenda items were invited by the 19<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

**Resolved** that the matter be noted.

## **119. FINANCIAL MATTERS**

### **(a) Cemetery Charges 2015-16**

**Resolved** that:

1. the following cemetery charges be retained with effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015:

	Description	Proposed Charges with effect from 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2015	
		Resident of Community	Non Resident of Community
	<b>Standard Graves</b>		
1.	Purchase of New Grave including first interment.	280.00	560.00
2.	Re-opening of Grave or First interment after earlier purchase of grave space (as per 6 below).	110.00	220.00
3.	Burial of ashes in standard grave already purchased.	60.00	120.00
4.	Scattering of Ashes on existing purchased standard grave.	32.00	64.00
5.	Installing Monument.	60.00	120.00
6.	Purchase of new grave space.	170.00	340.00
	<b>Ashes Graves</b>		
7.	Purchase of new Ashes Grave including first interment	200.00	400.00
8.	Reopening of Ashes Grave or First interment after earlier purchase of grave (as per 10 below)	50.00	100.00
9.	Installing Monument on Ashes Grave	60.00	120.00
10.	Purchase of new Ashes Grave	150.00	300.00

### **(b) Investment Strategy – 2015-16**

**Resolved** that the following categories of investments be undertaken in 2015/16:

1. deposits be made in a Deposit Bond (or similar) to a maximum of £45,000, the duration on each occasion to be reviewed according to market conditions;
2. deposits be made in a Business Money Manager Account (or similar) of all sums in excess of the working balance in the Council's Community Account (normally £4,000 - £10,000) with the maximum figure reviewed at each

renewal of the Deposit Bond and as necessary to take account of the cash flow requirements.

**(c) Budget 2015/16**

The Clerk submitted his report on the review of the budget for the current financial year and the draft budget for 2015/16. Expenditure was estimated at £30,757.41 and miscellaneous income including bank interest was estimated at £1,757.00 leaving net expenditure of £29,000.41 to be met from balances and the precept. The anticipated reserve at the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 which would be carried forward into 2015-16, was estimated at £51,290.24. No provision had been made for capital expenditure during the coming year. A notification had been received from the Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council that the Council Tax Base for the community for 2015/16 would be 368.98. The estimated expenditure for 2015/16 was summarised as follows:

**Revenue Expenditure Summary 2015/16**

	£
Cemetery	3,181.00
Parks and Open Spaces	4,810.00
General Administration	2,104.00
Payroll and Expenses	3,816.28
Grants Halls	12,000.00
Grants other	2,000.00
Highways Paths, seats etc	50.00
Contingency	2,796.13
Total Expenditure	<u>30,757.41</u>

**Resolved** that:

1. the Budget for 2015/16 showing total expenditure of £30,757.41 be approved;
2. a precept of £29,000 be made upon the Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council for the financial year 2015/16, which together with estimated miscellaneous income of £1,757.00 would meet the anticipated expenditure.

**Payment of Accounts**

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

No			£
1718	Mazars LLP	Audit Fee	528.00
1719	Payroll	Net salary December	218.95
1720	HMRC	Income Tax	54.74
1721	E P Lloyd Jones	Travelling 2014	106.38 }
		Postages 2014	143.73 }
		Stationery (Printer Ink) 2014	64.16 }
		Telephone 2014	132.00 }

**120. PLANNING MATTERS**

**(a) Neath Port Talbot LDP Examination – Draft hearing Sessions Programme**

**Resolved** that the arrangements for the hearings in connection with the examination of the Neath Port Talbot Local Development Plan be noted.

## **(b) Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan**

**Resolved** that it be noted that the above plan had been adopted on the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2014.

### **121. REPORTS**

The following matters were also reported:

South Wales Police Statistics	All Crime (see category below)	November	5
	Anti Social Behaviour		3
	Criminal Damage and Arson		1
	Violence and sexual offences		1

- Aman Group of Local Councils meeting 15<sup>th</sup> January 2015;
- Christmas Tree – Rhiwfawr lighting defects and stability issues;
- Cwmllynfell Doctors' Surgery – service issues;
- Gwrhyd Quarry, Rhiwfawr – highway issues;
- Defective light near Lewis Avenue;
- Cycle track – use by horses.

**Resolved** that Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council be requested to consider erecting signs to indicate that horse riders are prohibited from using the cycle track/footpath.

The meeting terminated at 8.15pm.