

CYNGOR CYMUNED CWMLLYNFELL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT CWMLLYNFELL HALL
ON THURSDAY 19th FEBRUARY 2015 AT 6.30 P.M.**

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

122. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for their absence were received from Councillors R Evans, T H J Kendrick, N L A Price, S Williams and Cllr C E Richards (Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council).

123. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made at this juncture.

124. MINUTES

Resolved that the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 15th January 2015 be confirmed and signed as a correct record

125. MATTERS ARISING

(a) Minute 121 – Gwrhyd Quarry, Rhiwfawr

It was reported that Mr Michael Walton, Business Development Manager of the Gwrhyd Specialist Stone Quarry had requested the opportunity to address Members of the Council in connection with the concerns that had been raised regarding traffic movements associated with the quarry.

(b) Adjournment – Gwrhyd Quarry, Rhiwfawr

Resolved that the meeting stand adjourned in order for Members to hold an informal discussion with Mr Michael Walton of the Gwrhyd Quarry in connection with traffic movements associated with the quarry. (Notes of the discussion appear in the Appendix hereto).

Following the discussion referred to above the meeting reconvened.

(c) Minute 114(a) - Rhiwfawr Rushlands

The Clerk reported that he had met Laura Palmer and Adrian Moore of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council at Rhiwfawr in order to agree the work that would be carried out to benefit biodiversity, which would be charged to the County Borough Council. It was expected that the work would be carried out in the near future. The Community Council could undertake additional work if deemed necessary in accordance with its previous decision.

Resolved that the information be noted.

(d) Minute 114(c)- Planning Application No: P2012/1073 – East Pit East Revised Opencast Coal Site

A notification was received from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council that a Public Meeting would be held at Tai'rgwaith on the 12th March at 6.30pm in relation to the current position associated with East Pit. Both the former operators of the site and the owners would be invited to attend which would also be attended by a number of officers of the Council.

Resolved that the matter be noted.

(e) Minute 114(d)- Draft National Transport Plan 2015

Further consideration was given to the consultation document on the above plan.

Resolved that a comment be submitted via One Voice Wales to indicate that the Council supports the proposed interventions in relation to Community Transport.

(f) Minute 116 - High Sheriff's Awards 2015

Resolved that the invitation to submit nominations for a High Sheriff's Award be noted.

(g) Minute 121 – Aman Tawe Medical Practice – Cwmllynfell Surgery

A communication was received from the Head of Primary Care and Planning to the Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board in response to the Council's representations regarding perceived difficulties at the Cwmllynfell Surgery.

The communication indicated that the Board's staff had been in the process of following through on promised commitments prior to setting up promised follow up discussions with patients / elected members etc. The Head of Primary Care and Planning had also confirmed that the doctors had indicated that academics would be involved in evaluating the new model that they had put in place but that it was understood that those arrangements had not been implemented whilst the practice had been engaged in recruiting staff and endeavouring to get the basics right. It was also indicated in the communication that a further more constructive response would be provided to the Council as soon as possible.

Resolved that the request for a substantive response be pursued with the Head of Primary Care and Planning.

(h) Minute 121 – Cycle Track – Use by Horse Riders

A response was received from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council to the Council's complaint that horse riders were utilising the cycle track and as such signs should be erected to prevent misuse. It had been indicated that enquiries would be made to ascertain who was responsible for the matter and that a further response would be provided.

Resolved that the situation be noted.

126. NEATH PORT TALBOT PHYSICAL DISABILITY & SENSORY IMPAIRMENT COMMISSIONING STRATEGY AND CARERS PARTNERSHIP JOINT CARERS COMMISSIONING STRATEGY

Resolved that the consultation on the above strategies be noted.

127. ONE VOICE WALES – EVENT – 14TH MAY 2015

Resolved that the invitation received from One Voice Wales for the Council to be represented at an event which will focus on topics such as community governance, devolution of services/asset transfer, financial governance and accountability be noted.

128. MINERAL PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION / AGGREGATE LEVY FOR WALES AWARD – PARC CYMUNEDOL LLYNFELL COMMUNITY PARK

A notification was received from the Department of Natural Resources of the Welsh Government that the project undertaken at the park had been selected to receive an award under the 'Community' category. The Chairman and the Clerk had been invited to attend a ceremony at Cardiff on the 6th March in order to receive the award.

Resolved that the pleasing information be noted.

129. NEATH PORT TALBOT MODEL CHARTER AGREEMENT

A communication was received from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council in which the Council was invited to indicate whether it agreed with the Model Charter Agreement that had been circulated.

The Council was reminded that an initial consultation had been considered at the meeting of the Council held on the 16th October 2014 (Minute 75[c] refers). The agreement had not however been amended to reflect the comments that the Council had submitted.

Resolved that Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council be informed that the Council rejects the Model Charter Agreement.

130. POWERS OF THE PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES

A letter dated 26th January 2015 was received from the Chair of the Finance Committee of the National Assembly for Wales together with a consultation document on extending the powers of the Public Services Ombudsman. The proposals involved providing own-initiative powers, enabling oral complains to be considered, enabling the Ombudsman to advise on complaints handling across public services, extending the Ombudsman's jurisdiction to include private health care and the removal of the statutory bar to allow consideration of cases that has or had the possibility of recourse to a court.

Resolved that the proposed extension of powers to the Public Services Ombudsman be supported.

131. LLAIS TIME CREDITS PILOT PROJECT

A letter dated 30th January 2015 was received from Neath Port CVS in which details were given of the pilot time credits project which would be undertaken in the Upper Swansea and Amman Valley areas. The communities mentioned did not however include the Community of Cwmllynfell.

Resolved that the omission be drawn to the attention of Neath Port Talbot CVS.

132. REFORMING LOCAL GOVERNMENT POWER TO LOCAL PEOPLE WHITE PAPER

A communication dated 3rd February 2015 was received from the Welsh Government in which comments were invited on the above mentioned White Paper. The closing date for comments was the 28th April 2015. The Clerk reported that he had requested sufficient copies for circulation to all members.

Resolved that consideration of matter be deferred until the next meeting.

133. COMMEMORATION OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR IN 2015

Resolved that the First Minister's press release announcing plans for the Welsh Government's commemoration of the First World War in 2015 be noted.

134. SOUTH WALES POLICE AND CRIME PLAN CONSULTATION 2015

A notification dated 11th February 2015 of the above consultation which closed on the 27th February 2015 was received from the Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales.

Resolved that the Commissioner be informed that insufficient time had been allowed for the consultation to be effective.

135. AWEL AMAN TAWE – PROPOSED COMMUNITY WIND FARM

A communication dated 11th February 2015 was received from the above organisation in which it was indicated that they would be seeking common land consent for some small additional areas of land in order to make the construction process easier. The Project Manager was prepared to attend a meeting of the Council to discuss the matter if necessary.

Resolved that details of the application be awaited before considering whether a meeting with a representative of Awel Aman Tawe is necessary.

136. NEATH PORT TALBOT CVS – BRIEFING EVENTS

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

137. TAX DEVOLUTION IN WALES - LAND TRANSACTION TAX

Resolved that consideration of the consultation document on the above matter be deferred until the next meeting of the Council.

138. E-PETITION – FURTHER EDUCATION FUNDING

Resolved that Unison’s e-petition in which the Welsh Government is asked to reverse the decision to cut funding for further education be supported.

139. ONE VOICE WALES – NEW WEBSITE

Resolved that it be noted that One Voice Wales had launched a new website which was available to all members and clerks of councils.

140. MARINE STRATEGY FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE – STAKEHOLDER EVENT

Resolved that the invitation to attend a stakeholder event in connection with the above directive on the 6th March 2015 be noted.

141. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) Application for Financial Assistance – Cwmllynfell Hall

Resolved that consideration of the above application be deferred until the next meeting so that the applicants may submit a financial statement in support of the application.

(b) Payment of Accounts

Resolved that the following accounts be paid:

No			£
1722	Neath Port Talbot CBC	Grounds Maintenance 2014/15	4866.00
1723	One Voice Wales	Subscription 2015/16	149.00
1724	G Harding (PALPS)	Additional CCTV Camera	320.76
1725	Payroll	Net Salary January	218.95
1726	HMRC	Income Tax	54.74

142. PLANNING – NEATH PORT TALBOT LDP – PRE-HEARING MEETING

Resolved that the record of the above proceedings be noted.

143. REPORTS

The following matters were also reported:

South Wales Police Statistics	All Crime (see category below)	December	7
	Anti Social Behaviour		4
	Burglary		1
	Other Theft		2

- Cwmllynfell PACT Meetings 2015 (6.30pm other than for 19th February):

19 th February – 6.00pm	16 th April	25 th June
20 th August	1 st October	10 th December

- County Borough Council/Community Councils Liaison Forum Meeting Report
- Councillor A N Woolcock assisting with planning issues during Councillor C E Richards’ indisposition.

Resolved that Councillor Woolcock be invited to attend a meeting of the Council.

The meeting terminated at 8.40pm.

APPENDIX

CYNGOR CYMUNED CWMLLYNFELL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**NOTES OF INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS HELD BETWEEN
MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL AND MR M WALTON OF GWRHYD QUARRY
19th FEBRUARY 2015**

Members of the Council met with Mr Michael Walton, Business Development Manager of the Gwrhyd Specialist Stone Quarry in response to his request.

Mr Walton stated that he wished to dispel some misconceptions about the quarry and the situation that prevailed. He indicated that as a result of the quarry making a loss during a previous trading period under the direct control of the owners Marshalls his company Artisan Stone Supplies Ltd had entered into a lease with Marshalls and was presently in control of the quarry.

Mr Walton explained that the produce of the quarry resulted in some 80% waste material and 20% stone. During a recent period the company had been carrying out a "tidying up" at the quarry because waste material had been preventing safe access to the material that needed to be worked. Equipment had been brought in to carry out a screening operation to separate the fine material that would be used to restore the quarry. He acknowledged that the transportation of saleable material away from the quarry had resulted in the traffic movements that were permitted under the planning permission being exceeded at times and particularly during the current school half-term week. However, he disputed the excessive numbers that had been quoted by complainants. He emphasised that his company was striving to maintain the viability of the quarry and he believed that the current situation had been addressed with the Liaison Committee and on an individual basis with elected representatives. He also stated that the company was exploring means of gaining an alternative access in order to avoid traffic movements being undertaken via the Rock Hill, Coedffaldau and Bryn Road.

Members raised matters of concern with Mr Walton. In particular concern was expressed about the danger to other road users caused by the lorries travelling to and from the quarry which was accentuated by the fact that the construction of passing places that had been a requirement of the planning permission had not been carried out. Members also sought a commitment on the intended duration of the extra traffic movements and emphasised that any variation of the conditions of the planning permission to allow additional traffic movements should be the subject of another planning application. Reference was made to the resurfacing work carried out on Rock Hill under the terms of the planning permission and Mr Walton indicated that he would have preferred if an anti-slip surface had been provided. He also confirmed that drainage was a problem.

Mr Walton indicated that the screen activities would cease at the end of the current week and gave an undertaking that he would endeavour to operate within the terms of the planning permission and that he would assess in the near future whether it was necessary to seek a variation of the planning conditions. He also undertook to keep the Council informed of the situation.
