

CYNGOR CYMUNED CWMLLYNFELL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

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

144. THE LATE COUNCILLOR C EIRION RICHARDS – CONDOLENCES

The Chairman referred with deep regret to the fact that Councillor Eirion Richards had passed away. He paid tribute to Councillor Richards' dedication to the community as the County Borough Councillor, Chairman of Governors at both Ysgol Gynradd Cymraeg Cwmllynfell and Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera and also Secretary of Cwmllynfell RFC and his many other activities. His passing was a sad loss to the community but was a greater loss to his wife, daughter and family.

All present stood in silent tribute as a token of respect.

145. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for his absence was received from Councillor M Evans.

146. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made at this juncture.

147. MINUTES

Resolved that the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 19th February 2015 be confirmed and signed as a correct record

148. MATTERS ARISING

(a) Minute 125(a & b) – Gwrhyd Quarry, Rhiwfawr

A letter dated 24th February 2015 was received from Mr M Walton, Commercial Director of Artisan Stone Supplies Ltd who operate the Gwrhyd Specialist Stone Quarry. Mr Walton indicated that he would take on board the comments that had been made when he had met members of the Council on the 19th February to discuss the problems that had been experienced, the complaints regarding traffic movements and the fact that any variation of the number of journeys permitted would have to receive planning permission. He indicated further that the screening operations at the quarry had ceased and that he would not be seeking a variation of the planning permission so as to allow additional traffic movements.

The Clerk reported that he had responded to the letter emphasising that information about developments at the quarry was best disseminated through the Liaison Committee but that the quarry could also communicate information direct to the Community Council. It had also been emphasised that the Council was not condoning any increase in traffic movements.

Resolved that the situation be noted and circumstances reviewed as necessary according to traffic movements that are experienced.

(b) Minute 125(c) - Rhiwfawr Rushlands

Resolved that it be noted that the work which was being financed by Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council to benefit biodiversity had been carried out.

(c) Minute 125(d)- Planning Application No: P2012/1073 – East Pit East Revised Opencast Coal Site

The Council reflected on the proceedings at the public meeting held at Tai'rgwaith on the 12th March and concern was expressed over the lead taken by Mr S Phillips, Chief Executive of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council which gave the impression that the County Borough Council was intent on directing opinion in the direction that the only solution to the present scandalous situation would be to grant permission in respect of the so called Lakes at Rhosamman application. The remarks also seemed closely aligned to those made by Mr W Watson, Chief Executive of Celtic Energy.

The Council also reflected on the information that had emerged whereby it was being advocated by Mrs Madeline Moon MP, Huw Irranca Davies MP and others that licence moneys paid by operators upon the privatisation of the coal industry should be returned by the Treasury in order to assist with the cost of restoration of opencast sites.

The attention of the Friends of the Earth Cymru had also been drawn to the issue.

Resolved that:

1. the County Borough Council be urged not to determine planning application P 2012/1073 until the question of the recovery of licence moneys from the Treasury as proposed by Mrs Madeline Moon MP at a debate in the House of Commons on the 29th January 2015 has been pursued in co-operation with the Welsh Government;
2. the Council's concerns arising from the meeting held on the 12th March be conveyed to the County Borough Council and they be urged to fulfil their obligations as Local Planning Authority immediately by taking appropriate enforcement action and/or proceedings to secure completion of the section 106 agreement relating to planning application P2013/0530 and compliance with the conditions imposed in that planning permission;
3. the Minister for Natural Resources be pressed for a response to the representations that the Council has made in relation to the fact that the site has been allowed to operate for over two years without a valid planning permission being in force;
4. Mr Huw Irranca Davies and the Rt Hon Peter Hain MP be requested to continue to pursue representations regarding the return of licence moneys;
5. Friends of the Earth Cymru be requested to support the Council's representations concerning the restoration of East Pit.

(d) Minute 125(e)- Draft National Transport Plan 2015

A communication was received from One Voice Wales together with a copy of the corporate response that had been made on the consultation on the above plan. The comments had incorporated the observations that had been made by the Council on community transport.

Resolved that the information be noted.

(e) Minute 128 - Mineral Products Association / Aggregate Levy For Wales Award – Parc Cymunedol Llynfell Community Park

The Chairman presented to the Council the inscribed granite plaque that had been awarded by the Mineral Products Association and the Welsh Government in respect of the above park. The Chairman and the Clerk of the Council had attended the award ceremony at the St David's Hotel, Cardiff Bay on the 6th March 2015. The Council's award was one of two that were made at the ceremony with the other being awarded to the "Calch" Project which had researched the history of Limestone Quarrying on the Black Mountain.

Resolved that enquiries be made as to whether the plaque can be mounted in the stone pillar at the entrance to the park.

(f) Minute 131 - Llais Time Credits Pilot Project

A communication dated 12th March 2015 was received from Neath Port Talbot CVS in which it was confirmed in response to the Council's enquiry that the Community of Cwmllynfell had been included in the work that had been undertaken.

Resolved that the response be noted.

(g) Minute 132 - Reforming Local Government Power to Local People White Paper

It was reported that a limited number of copies of the above document had been received. A copy had been placed in Cwmllynfell Library and a link to the Welsh Government's website was also provided to members.

Resolved that consideration of the matter be deferred until the next meeting so that Members may be afforded the opportunity to view the White Paper.

(h) Minute – 137 - Tax Devolution in Wales - Land Transaction Tax and Landfill Disposal Tax

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

149. COURT DEPUTY SAVINGS PROPOSALS

A letter dated 23rd February 2015 was received from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council in which it was indicated that as part of that Authority's budget savings strategy it was proposing to raise additional charges within the Court Deputy Service to enable it to continue to provide the service at the current level. Comments on the proposal were invited by the 27th March 2015.

Resolved that the matter be noted.

150. LOCAL BUS SERVICE REVISIONS

Resolved that the proposed bus service revisions outlined in a letter dated 23rd February 2015 from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council be noted.

151. INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES - ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16

A letter dated 23rd February together with the Independent Remuneration Panel's Report were received. The report contained the Panel's determinations in respect of remunerations that were payable to elected members of local authorities etc including community and town councils. The determination included a continued authorisation for community and town councils to decide whether to make payments of a maximum of £100 per year to their members for costs incurred in respect of telephone usage, information technology, consumables etc.

Resolved that the information be noted.

152. ONE VOICE WALES – CONSULTANCY SERVICES

Resolved that the information received from One Voice Wales about the consultancy services that they were able to provide be noted.

153. WALES IN BLOOM LAUNCH EVENTS 2015

Resolved that the invitation to attend a launch event for Wales in Bloom 2015 be noted.

154. WELSH GOVERNMENT – NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT BULLETIN

Resolved that the bulletin explaining the link between the Future Generations (Wales) Bill, the Planning (Wales) Bill and the forthcoming Environment (Wales) Bill be noted.

155. REGULATION AND INSPECTION OF SOCIAL CARE (WALES) BILL

Resolved that the invitation from the National Assembly for Wales' Health and Social Care Committee to submit views on the above bill be noted.

156. NATURAL RESOURCES WALES – “COME ON BOARD”

Resolved that the invitation to attend an informal session to receive an explanation on the Board's activities be noted.

157. BT – ADOPT A KIOSK

A letter was received from BT together with details of their Adopt a Kiosk programme for redundant red telephone boxes.

Resolved that enquiries be made in respect of the telephone box at Ochr y Waun, Cwmllynfell.

158. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) Applications for Financial Assistance

Consideration was given to applications for financial assistance.

Resolved that:

1. a grant in the following sum be made to the under-mentioned organisation in the 2015/16 financial year and that the grant be paid in three instalment to coincide with the receipt of the Council's precept:

Cwmllynfell Hall £10,500 (£7,000 hall costs + £3,500 library);

2. consideration of the following application be deferred so that the applicants may submit the latest statement of accounts:

Cwmllynfell Rugby Football Club

3. it be noted that the following applicants had been provided with a copies of the Council's Policy on Grants and application forms and as such consideration of the applications be deferred until the completed forms had been received:

Côr Dathlu Cwmtawe Male Choir
Helen Walter-Morgan – Marie Curie – Vietnam Trek

(b) Payment of Accounts

Resolved that the following accounts be paid:

No			£
1727	Neath Port Talbot CBC	Christmas Lights 2014	3041.84
1728	Payroll	Net Salary February	218.95
1729	HMRC	Income Tax	54.74

159. PLANNING MATTERS

Resolved that the under-mentioned observations be submitted in respect of the following planning application:

App No:

P2014/1122 Outline application for residential development consisting of 47 dwellings including details of access and demolition of buildings on land off Samuels Road, Cwmllynfell;

1. The Council is concerned that Samuels Road is inadequate to cater for the additional 47 dwellings that is proposed and the additional traffic that would be generated would be a source of danger to road users particularly at the junction of Samuels Road and Heol Gwilym.
2. The Council questions whether resources such as primary school facilities in the village are sufficient to cater for the additional demand that the development would generate.

160. REPORTS

The following matters were also reported:

South Wales Police Statistics (within 1 mile radius)	All Crime (see categories below)	January	11
	Anti Social Behaviour		6
	Criminal Damage and Arson		2
	Other Crime		1
	Other theft		1
	Violence and sexual offences		1

- Police Neighbourhood News – February 2015
- One Voice Wales - Neath Port Talbot Area Committee
- Provision of Post Box at relocated Post Office, Cwmllynfell
- Cwmllynfell Medical Practice – deficiencies in the standard of service
- Council's Website – requirement for domain name to display on correspondence
- Land adjoining Llynfell Community Park cleared by Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council – requirement for improved safety

The meeting terminated at 9.00pm.