

CYNGOR CYMUNED CWMLLYNFELL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT RHIWFAWR HALL

ON WEDNESDAY 15th APRIL 2015 AT 6.30 P.M.

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

161. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for their absence were received from Councillors M Evans and J C Rees.

162. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made at this juncture.

163. MINUTES

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

164. MATTERS ARISING

(a) Minute 148(c)- Planning Application No: P2012/1073 – East Pit East Revised Opencast Coal Site

A letter dated 25th March together with additional correspondence were received from the Mr S Phillips, Chief Executive of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council in response to the Council's concerns that had been conveyed to him in writing following the public meeting that had been held at Tai'rgwaith on the 12th March 2015. Mr Phillips countered Council's comments that his address at the meeting had given the impression that he was intent on directing opinion in the direction that the only solution to the situation concerning East Pit was to grant permission in respect of the Lakes at Rhosamman application. He also reiterated his view that the privatisation of the coal industry and the way in which the sites had been disposed of in the 1990's was the root of the current problem. He however agreed that the community had been short changed when set against the commitments that had been given. He did not however believe that taking enforcement action would improve the current situation. He confirmed that the County Borough Council was pressing the case for Treasury funding but emphasised that as the issue was not unique to Neath Port Talbot the Welsh Government should pursue the matter.

Letters dated 20th March and 10th April 2015 were also received from the Planning Directorate of the Welsh Government in which the stance taken by the Minister of Natural Resources not to accede to the Council's request for a meeting on the grounds that it could infringe the Ministerial Code was re-emphasised. It was also indicated in the letter that the decision whether to call in the planning application would be considered upon having sight of the report of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council's Head of Planning. It was also confirmed that any action taken by the Minister in response to the report that had been commissioned on the restoration of opencast sites must be capable of, or at least not inhibit the chances of, securing the best solution for ensuring the full restoration on all operating sites in Wales.

A letter dated 2nd April 2015 was received from the Rt Hon Peter Hain in which he commented on the Council's correspondence to both Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council and the Welsh Government that had been forwarded to him. Disappointingly he had expressed the view that the East Pit lakes application should be agreed as quickly as possible to protect many local jobs and guarantee funding for the restoration

The Council gave consideration to the further consultation that had been received from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council in respect of amended and additional noise monitoring data in relation to application P2012/1073.

Resolved that:

1. the abovementioned correspondence in response to the Council's representations be noted;
2. the Council's comments as indicated below be reaffirmed and that as the Council understands that the application is scheduled to be considered by the Planning Committee on the 28th April and as the Head of Planning has undertaken to provide the Council with her report as soon as it is available that the County Borough Council be informed that the Council reserves the right to review its comments in the light of the contents of the report and her recommendations:
 - i. The Council objects strongly to the entire proposal 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 by the Planning Committee of the National Assembly for Wales in 2004 (P/2002/917 & A-PP 185-07-014) and subsequently in planning application P2013/0530. The proposals include a restoration scheme which is tantamount to the abandonment of a massive water filled void to create a lake/reservoir which would be a source of danger;
 - ii. The County Borough Council is therefore urged to refuse the application and to enforce compliance with Planning Application P/2002/917 & A-PP 185-07-014 as varied by the conditions that were approved in planning application P2013/0530
 - iii. The Council notes also that recently it has been advocated that representations be made to the Treasury urging that monies that were paid for licences to carry out opencast operations should be returned in order to aid restoration costs. As such the Council is of the view that unless the County Borough Council is minded to refuse the application that there is no valid reason for determining the application until the matter has been pursued with the Treasury.
3. an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council be convened on the 28th April to consider the report of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council's Head of Planning on the application.

(b) Minute 148(g) - Reforming Local Government Power to Local People White Paper

Further consideration was given to the submission of comments in respect of the above White Paper. The draft response of One Voice Wales was also submitted for information.

Resolved that the Welsh Government be informed that the Council supports the comments submitted by One Voice Wales and also wishes the following additional comments to be taken into consideration:

- i. The Council is firmly of the opinion that established communities must continue to form the "building blocks" that are represented by Community and Town Councils and as such that there should not be a merger of councils merely in order to form larger Councils with an artificially imposed minimum income of £200,000 per annum.
- ii. The Council wishes to comment on the fact that in many parts of Wales communities are divided by an artificial boundary both at Community Council and Principal Authority level. An adjustment of such boundaries away from valley floors to the watershed of hills and mountains would improve community identity and governance.

(c) Minute – 148(h) - Tax Devolution in Wales - Land Transaction Tax and Landfill Disposal Tax

Further consideration was given to the Welsh Government's consultation paper on the review of the above taxes.

Resolved that no objection be raised to the proposals subject to a proportion of the proceeds of the Landfill Disposals Tax being allocated to enhance the wellbeing of communities including the financing of projects by eligible Community and Town Councils.

(d) Minute 157 - BT – Adopt a Kiosk

Further to minute 157 of the last meeting, consideration was given to the implications of adopting the telephone kiosk at Ochr y Waun under the above scheme. It was noted that the kiosk would cease to be functional and that the Council would be responsible for all support, maintenance and any liability resulting from the kiosk following completion of the transfer.

Resolved that the proposal to adopt the Ochr y Waun kiosk be abandoned.

(e) Minute 160 – Cwmllynfell Medical Practice

A response to the Council's complaints was received from the Head of Primary Care and Planning, Abertawe, Bro Morgannwg University Health Board. She suggested that the nature of the queries merited discussion as well as explanation and enquired whether it would be helpful if she attended a meeting of the Council.

Resolved that an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council be held on the 23rd April 2015 to meet Ms Lindsay Davies, Head of Primary Care and representatives of the Amman Tawe Partnership.

165. ONE VOICE WALES – ANNUAL CONFERENCE – 3rd OCTOBER 2015

Resolved that the invitation from One Voice Wales to submit motions to the Annual Conference be noted.

166. ONE VOICE WALES – SEMINAR – 28th APRIL 2015

Resolved that the invitation from One Voice Wales for the Council to be represented at a seminar with Julian Dobson, Author of 'How to save our town centres' be noted.

167. REVIEW OF DESIGNATED LANDSCAPES IN WALES

A letter dated 24th March 2015 was received from the Chair of the Review Panel on Designated Landscapes in Wales in which comment was invited on the second stage of the review which would be examining the governance arrangements for National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The closing date for submissions was the 29th May 2015.

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

168. MID AND WEST WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY – FIVE YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN 2015 – 2020 & ANNUAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2015-16

The Council was invited to comment of the above plans.

Resolved that the Fire and Rescue Authority be requested to:

1. indicate what arrangements are in place to review the effectiveness and monitor the continued suitability of the fire safety measures that were introduced some time ago which consisted of providing deep fat fryers and electric blankets to householders;
2. confirm that routine checking of fire hydrants is carried out in the community.

169. COMMUNITY REVIEW 2015

A communication dated 13th April 2015 was received from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council together with further draft proposals on the review of community boundaries and electoral arrangements within the County Borough. No changes had been proposed for the Community of Cwmllynfell.

Resolved that the draft proposals be noted with approval.

170. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) Audit of Accounts for the Year Ended 31st March 2015.

A letter dated 30th March 2015 was received from Mazars the Council's Auditors in which a notification was given of the arrangements for the audit of the Council's accounts for the year ended 31st March 2015. The appointed date for the exercise of electors' rights in respect of the audit was the 31st July 2015. The initial certification of the Annual Return would have to be completed by the Council by the 30th June 2015

Resolved that:

1. the necessary arrangements be made for the audit and the submission of the Annual Return;
2. Mr A Pedrick be appointed as the Council's Internal Auditor.

(b) Summary Receipts and Payments Statement and Balance Sheet - 2014/2015

The Summary Receipts and Payments Statement and Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st March 2015, showing the following totals was presented to the Council:

	£
Balance Brought Forward 1 st April 2014	55,118.60
Add Total Receipts	33,542.85
Deduct Total Payments	36,949.55
Balance Carried Forward 31 st March 2015	51,711.90

Resolved that the Summary Receipts and Payments and Balance Sheet for 2014/15 be approved and signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.

(c) Applications for Financial Assistance

Consideration was given to the following application for financial assistance.

Resolved that a grant in the following sum be made to the under-mentioned organisation

Cwmllynfell Rugby Football Club	£500
---------------------------------	------

(d) Payment of Accounts

Resolved that the following accounts be paid:

No			£
1730	Zurich Municipal	Insurance Premium	727.68
1731	Cwmllynfell RFC	Grant	500.00
1732	Cwmllynfell Hall	Grant – 1 st stage payment	3500.00
1733	Payroll	Net Salary March	218.95
1734	HMRC	Income Tax	54.74

171. PLANNING MATTERS

Resolved that no objection be raised to the following planning application:

App No:

P2015/0212 Conversion of Rhiwfawr Independent Chapel to residential dwelling plus the creation of off street car parking, installation of velux windows, 2 new windows and door, demolition of chimney and outbuildings plus outline planning permission for a detached two storey dwelling with details of access.

172. REPORTS

The following matters were also reported:

South Wales Police Statistics (within 1 mile radius)	All Crime (see categories below)	February	5
	Anti Social Behaviour		1
	Criminal Damage and Arson		2
	Other theft		1
	Violence and sexual offences		1

- Police Neighbourhood News – March 2015
- Council’s website – domain name
- Condition of Rhiwfawr play area -
- Damage to seats at Cycle Path
- Car Park near Cwmllynfell Chapel – damaged pillars and seats

Resolved that the domain name “www.cwmllynfell.cc” be registered with the company that hosts the Council’s web site.

173. THE LATE MRS BETTY EVANS

The Chairman referred with regret to the fact that Mrs Betty Evans, a former member of the Council and participant in community facilities such as Cwmllynfell Hall had passed away.

Resolved that the Council’s condolences be placed on record.

The meeting terminated at 8.40pm.