

CYNGOR CYMUNED CWMLLYNFELL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT CWMLLYNFELL HALL
ON THURSDAY 16th JULY 2015 AT 6.30 P.M.**

PRESENT: Councillor J C Rees (Chairman) presiding
COUNCILLORS: R M Davies, M Evans, D Lloyd, R P Morgan, D C Phillips,
and D B Thomas.
ATTENDING Councillor K Lloyd - Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

36. APOLOGIES

Apologies for their absence were received from Councillors R Evans and T H J Kendrick.

37. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made at this juncture

38. MINUTES

Resolved that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on the 18th June 2015 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

39. MATTERS ARISING

(a) Minutes 22(b) – East Pit East Revised Opencast Coal Site and Opencast Summit

The Clerk of the Council reported on his attendance at the Opencast Summit which had been held at Cardiff on the 9th July 2015. Representatives of various bodies and organisations including, the Welsh Government, Assembly Members, Local Authorities, the Coal Authority, Industry representatives and Action Groups had been in attendance at the summit. The only Community Councils represented were Pyle Community Council and Cwmllynfell Community Council. Following a welcome and introduction from Mr Carl Sargeant AM., Minister for Natural Resources, the summit had been divided into three sessions as follows:

Session	Speakers
The overall context for opencast development and restoration	Neil Hemington – Head of Planning, Welsh Government D Gwyn Griffiths OBE – ERM Consultants Jan Adamson – Pyle Community Council and ‘Protecting and Conserving Together’
The local authority perspective – current and future working	Hugh Towns – Mineral Planning Officer – Carmarthenshire County Council Councillor Andrew Morgan – leader Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC
Technical solutions and the workers’ role	Clare McCallan Head of Regulation & Tim Marples – Planning Engineer, The Coal Authority Gareth Jones – Deputy Regional Secretary – Unite Union

Of particular interest was the information that had been provided by the Leader of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council that his authority had been successful in securing bonds for the two opencast sites within the County Borough whereby the developers had deposited cash bonds to the full value of the restoration costs.

In conclusion the Minister for Natural Resources had indicated that there was a clear consensus that further work was necessary in the following areas:

- Improving the resilience of the minerals planning service in Wales by pooling skills and expertise;
- Engaging local authorities, industry and communities in the joint Welsh Government/ Coal Authority work to prepare best practice guidance on the calculation, accumulation and management of bonds which would seek to establish a consistent basis for negotiations across Wales;
- a focused review of MTAN2, the scope of which would include consideration of the exceptions to the buffer zone policy;
- starting a dialogue with UK Government, particularly their stake on legacy sites (especially the portfolio sites on which there was immunity from bonding) and to feed back to a follow up event at a later date.

Concern was expressed that noise nuisance emanating from the East Pit site had seemed to be more prevalent recently and questions were raised with regard to the measures that were in place to monitor noise.

The Clerk reported that he had also submitted a complaint on behalf of the Council in relation to the manner in which the letter containing the Council's observations on planning application P2012/1073 had been prevented from being submitted to the County Borough Council's Planning Committee on the 28th April.

Resolved that:

1. the report of the Opencast Summit be noted;
2. enquiries be pursued with regard to the measures in place to monitor noise from the East Pit Site.

(b) Minute 28 Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service - Five Year Strategic Plan 2015 – 2020 & Annual Improvement Plan 2015-16

A communication was received from the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service in response to the Council's enquiry about the process for triggering home fires safety checks. It was indicated that members of the community could contact the Fire and Rescue Service to request the check. They prioritised the delivery of the service to the most vulnerable based on a series of risk assessment questions. Households that were rated as low risk and were able to fit their own smoke alarms were provided with the alarms and home fire safety information by post. The Fire Service also collaborated with a range of partner agencies.

Resolved that the Fire and Rescue Service be asked to carry out a mailshot to all householders to explain the above procedure.

40. PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES – ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15

Resolved that the above report be noted.

41. COMMUNITY REVIEW 2015 – THIRD STAGE

A communication dated 25th June 2015 was received from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council in which it was indicated that following the conclusion of the consultation process and approval by the Council's Policy and Resources Cabinet Board the final community review proposals would be submitted to the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for scrutiny. No changes had been proposed for the Community of Cwmllynfell.

Resolved that the information be noted.

42. RURAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN – REGENERATE NPT – “CWMLLYNFELL AND RHIWFAWR ENVIRONMENTAL SCHEME” (CARES)

A communication was received from the RDP Marketing and Development Project Officer, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council stating that the Council's expression of interest for the above project had been considered by the Local Action Group along with seven other projects under the relevant leader theme. The Group had considered that the Council's project along with two other projects proposed by Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council could be linked and as such the Local Action Group wished to see a revised project that combined all three projects. The submission that had been made on behalf of the Council was for a two year period and a financial commitment of £4,000 had been agreed (Minute 35(c) of the 17th July 2014 refers). The two projects submitted by Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council were however for a three year period. As such the Council was asked to consider whether its own project should also run for three years thereby committing the Council to an additional financial contribution in the region of £2,000.

Resolved that:

1. it be noted that the Local Action Group had suggested that the Council's CARES project be combined with the two similar Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council projects and that the proposed arrangement be approved;
2. an additional financial commitment of £2,000 be pledged thereby making the Council's total contribution £6,000;
3. Councillor R M Davies be thanked for the work he has carried out in the preparation and submission of the Council's project.

43. WELSH GOVERNMENT – COLLECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF DEVOLVED TAXES

Resolved that the written statement issued by the Minister of Finance in relation to the above matter be noted.

44. BIRTHDAY 2016 HONOURS LIST NOMINATIONS

A letter dated 30th June 2015 was received from the Welsh Government in which invitations nominations were invited for the Birthday 2016 Honours List.

Resolved that:

1. a nomination be submitted in respect of Councillor D Clive Phillips in recognition of his contribution to the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme;
2. the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Councillors D B Thomas and D Lloyd be authorised to prepare the nomination on the Council's behalf.

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

Resolved that the details of the theme for the Conference and the invitation to attend be noted.

46. LOCAL BUS SERVICE REVISIONS

A letter dated 3rd July 2015 was received from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council giving details of revisions to local bus services including the withdrawal of Service 501 from Ystradgynlais to Ammanford which travelled through Cwmllynfell.

Resolved that the information be noted with regret.

47. YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS

It was reported that an invitation had been received from Neath Port Talbot's Children's Rights Unit Director for the Council to be represented at a meeting on the 11th August 2015 to discuss a project aimed at encouraging councils to engage with young people in a meaningful and ongoing way.

Resolved that the Chairman and Councillor R M Davies be authorised to represent the Council at the meeting.

48. CHRISTINA REES MP

A letter of introduction dated 4th June 2015 was received from Ms Christina Rees Member of Parliament for Neath. Ms Rees invited the Council's comments on the Queen's Speech, pledged to work hard for the people of the Neath Constituency and do her utmost to support local causes.

Resolved that the letter be noted.

49. COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL / COMMUNITY COUNCILS LIAISON FORUM

A notification dated 7th July 2015 was received from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council that the next meeting of the Liaison Forum would be held on the 27th July 2015. Agenda items had been invited by the 10th July.

Resolved that the matter be noted.

50. E-PETITION – “TO WORK TO PROTECT LOCAL GOVERNMENT WHEN DETERMINING THE BUDGETS THIS AUTUMN”

A communication dated 14th July 2015 was received from the Unison Neath Port Talbot Branch which invited support of the above e-petition.

Resolved that Members be invited to support the petition.

51. GWRHYD QUARRY

A communication dated 14th July 2015 was received from the Business Development Manager of Gwrhyd Quarry in which the Council's views were sought on his proposal to hold an open day at the quarry for all local residents.

Resolved that the proposal be supported and it be suggested that the event takes place before the first Monday in September so that it precedes that the commencement of the autumn school term.

52. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) Christmas Lighting Provision 2015

A quotation dated 29th June 2015 was received from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council in respect of the Christmas lights for 2015 which was made up as follows:

Erection, dismantling and maintenance	£2,221.00 plus VAT
Estimated Energy Cost: 2302 Kwh x £0.1423	£372.58 plus VAT
Outages or repairs	£56.12 per hour plus VAT

(Note: Upon switch on of the installation a joint inspection will be undertaken to ensure all lamps are lit)

The Clerk reported that upon the receipt of the quotation he had enquired of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council how much of a saving would be achieved if the Council decided not to provide Christmas trees. He had also drawn attention to the fact that the 'Nadolig Llawn' rope light which was normally installed at the entrance to Heol Daniel appeared to be causing a strain on the supporting columns and as such the installation of wrap around garlands could be considered as an alternative.

A response had been received stating that the saving in not dressing Christmas trees would be £127.83 per tree. It had also been indicated that the natural tree at the junction of Heol Daniel and Bryn Road could be dressed with the Christmas lights rather than installing a cut tree. Quotations were also being invited for wrap around garlands.

Resolved that the above quotation from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council be accepted to include the dressing of trees with Christmas lights, with the natural tree being utilised at Cwmllynfell.

(b) Application for Grant – Cwmllynfell and District Bowls Club

An application for a grant was received from the above organisation.

Resolved that a grant of £500 be made to assist the Club in meeting its running costs for the current season.

(c) Payment of Accounts

Resolved that the following accounts be paid:

No			£
1745	Cwmllynfell & Rhiwfawr OAP Assoc	Replacement for cheque 101571	400.00
1746	Cwmllynfell & Dist Bowls Club	Grant	500.00
1747	Cwmllynfell Hall	Grant – stage payment	3500.00
1748	Mr A Pedrick	Internal Audit Fee	60.00
1749	Payroll	Net salary June	218.95
1750	HMRC	Income Tax	54.74

53. PLANNING MATTERS - NEATH PORT TALBOT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Resolved that the notification of ‘Matters Arising Changes’ received from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council be noted.

54. DELEGATION ARRANGEMENTS – AUGUST RECESS

Resolved that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, acting together, or in the event of their being unavailable any other two Members of the Council, acting together, be authorised to discharge the functions of the Council in respect of any matter referred to them by the Clerk of the Council as requiring urgent attention before the next ordinary meeting of the Council.

55. REPORTS

The following matters were reported:

South Wales Police Statistics (within 1 mile of centre of Cwmllynfell)	All Crime (see categories below)	May	11
	Anti Social Behaviour		4
	Criminal damage and arson		1
	Other theft		1
	Possession of Weapons		1
	Shoplifting		1
	Violent and sexual offences		3

- Concern expressed at the increase in crimes reported during recent months, a PACT meeting cancelled at 6 short notice and alleged incidents concerning drugs and alcohol;
- Councillor R M Davies appointed as LEA appointed school governor in place of retired governor Councillor D C Phillips;
- Cycle track routine maintenance required;

Councillor Mrs K Lloyd also reported on the following:

- ‘No dogs’ signs to be installed at play area;
- Grass cutting imminent;
- Car park adjoining Cwmllynfell School – improvements scheduled;
- Caedu Road to Ystradowen cycle track extension scheduled;
- Pot hole repairs scheduled;
- Cattle grid repairs scheduled;
- Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council – allocation of money for works.

Resolved:

1. the Chief Inspector of Police for the sector be invited to attend the next meeting of the Council to discuss the concerns expressed about crime rates;

2. at the next meeting of the Council a replacement Minor Authorities representative be appointed to the Governing Body of Cwmllynfell School to replace Councillor R M Davies;
3. Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council be requested to allocate funds to make footways in the area wheelchair friendly.

The meeting terminated at 8.25pm.