

# CYNGOR CYMUNED CWMLLYNFELL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT CWMLLYNFELL HALL ON THURSDAY 15<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2015 AT 6.15 P.M.

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

**ATTENDING** Councillor K Lloyd - Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

### **70. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for their absence were received from Councillors M Evans, R Evans and R P Morgan.

### **71. CHIEF INSPECTOR J WILLIAMS & SERGEANT J JAMES**

The Chairman welcomed Chief Inspector Joanna Williams and Sergeant Jayne James. The officers had been invited to the meeting in response to the Chief Inspector's letter of introduction in which she had indicated that she had hoped to meet the Council. The officers introduced the discussions by claiming that crime figures were in general reducing. The Police service was also faced with the requirement to reduce budgets in order to achieve the savings of £71m that were required by 2018.

A discussion ensued and members raised the following matters and suggestions:

- Reintroduction of the "Blue Light Disco" at Cwmllynfell;
- Limited number of Police Stations open to the public at certain times;
- Perception by the public that crime was increasing and the fact that some crimes are not reported;
- Desire for police to be on the beat;
- Community Police Officer surgeries in the community;
- Notification of PACT meetings in the local press;
- The holding of public awareness sessions on drug misuse and "open days" on policing in the locality;
- Reintroduction of co-operation between Community Police Officer and farming community;

The Police Officers responded individually to the above-mentioned issues and in so doing provided the following explanations on policing practices:

- Consideration will be given to PCSOs holding "Blue Light Discos";
- 83% of calls made to the Police are non crime related;
- Public Call Centres – introduction of new control system;
- Reduction in "front desk service" - telephone call boxes to be provided;
- Important that crimes are reported as resources can only be allocated if reports have been received – co-operation from the community essential to make policing effective;
- No evidence that random Police patrols are effective in combating crime – patrol duties carried out by PCSOs;
- Community Safety Department proving to be effective in combating crime;

The Chairman thanked the Officers for their attendance.

## **72. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made at this juncture

## **73. MINUTES**

**Resolved** that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on the 17<sup>th</sup> September 2015 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

## **74. MATTERS ARISING**

### **(a) Minute 60(f) – Christmas Lighting Provision 2015**

It was reported that Celtic Energy had agreed to provide a Christmas tree for Rhiwfawr again this year and that the necessary arrangements would be made for its installation. The Council had already decided that a live tree at Cwmllynfell be dressed with lights.

A communication dated 12<sup>th</sup> October was also received from the Electrical Supervisor at Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council in which he indicated that he had been trying to obtain prices for the additional wrap around garlands that the Council had requested but had not been able to obtain the information. He had indicated however that it was possible to lend an extra eight garlands for installation on the existing steel poles. The cost for the additional work would be £431.28 which included erecting and removing the displays, the supply and carrying out of the electrical alterations required to adapt the columns.

**Resolved** that:

1. the arrangements for the installation of a tree at Rhiwfawr be noted;
2. the quotation received from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council in the sum of £431.28 for the additional work as described above be accepted.

### **(b) Minute 62 - Welsh Government's Draft Directions to the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission**

Consideration was given to submitting comments in respect of the above direction.

**Resolved** that the following comments be submitted to the Welsh Government:

The Council notes that the Draft Directions are based on the Welsh Government's stated preferred configuration for the future of Local Authorities in Wales following consultation on their "Reforming Local Government - Power to Local People White Paper". The preferred configuration and the resultant directions on the number of councillors for a local authority raises questions on the White Paper's claimed objective to "power local people" as the configuration fails to acknowledge the natural building blocks formed by communities. The proposal that each ward should have roughly the same number of electors per elected representative would also diminish the democratic representation that results from utilising identifiable communities as the unit which forms the electoral division that is represented by an elected member(s). The directions that are proposed therefore prevent the Commission from bringing forward proposals that

would ensure that truly democratic, effective and convenient local government is delivered as it is proposed that areas that are different in character are thrust together. Isolated communities are likely to suffer as a result of being part of a large conurbation. The Community of Cwmllynfell comprising the rural villages of Cwmllynfell and Rhiwfawr is one such community. There is however scope for making some improvements as it is a 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. The implication for Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries should also factor into the guidance and the reconfiguration of local authorities should possibly be delayed until those boundaries have been determined.

**(c) Minute 63 - "Shared Purpose: Shared Future" – Draft Statutory Guidance for The Well-Being Of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**

Consideration was given to submitting comments in respect of the above draft guidance.

**Resolved** that the draft guidance be noted.

**(d) Minute 68 – Rhiwfawr Hall**

It was reported that a public meeting had been held recently and that a new management committee for the hall had been formed.

**Resolved** that the next meeting of the Council be held at Cwmllynfell as Rhiwfawr Hall is currently in transition.

**(e) Minute 68 – Cwmllynfell Cemetery – Proposed Commemorative Edging Stones and "Grow Wild" Seed Kits**

Consideration was given the feasibility of allowing commemorative edging stones to be installed at the cemetery.

A communication dated 13<sup>th</sup> October 2015 was received from the Grow Wild Wales Partnership Manager in which details were provided of the opportunity to register for the 2016 free "Grow Wild" seed kits. A communication dated 13<sup>th</sup> October was also received from Groundwork announcing the green space project which they were organising in partnership with Tesco to fund capital projects that provide a community benefit.

**Resolved** that a meeting of the Cemetery and Environment Committee be held on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2015 to discuss:

- (a) the feasibility of allowing commemorative edging stones to be installed at the cemetery;
- (b) the potential of taking advantage of the free "Grow Wild" seed kits and the Groundwork Green Space Project to enhance the undeveloped area within the cemetery as a wildflower meadow.

**75. ACTIVE TRAVEL EXISTING ROUTE MAP**

A communication dated 21<sup>st</sup> September 2015 was received from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council in consultation on the above-mentioned map

which was being prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013. "Active Travel" as defined in the act meant walking and cycling for everyday short distance journeys such as those to school, work or for access to shops or services. The settlements to be included in the maps had been designated by the Welsh Government and were derived from the Office for National Statistics' Built Up Areas definition. The Community of Cwmllynfell had not been included in the map. Comments had been invited by the 14<sup>th</sup> December 2015.

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

**76. PREPARING FOR PUBLIC SERVICES BOARDS CONFERENCE – CARDIFF – 26<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2015**

**Resolved** that the invitation from the Minister for Public Services for the Council to be represented at the above conference be noted.

**77. GAMBLING ACT 2005 – DRAFT STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES - 2016**

**Resolved** that the letter dated 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2015 from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council in consultation on the above-mentioned draft principles be noted.

**78. NEATH PORT TALBOT CVS**

A letter dated 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2015 was received from Neath Port Talbot CVS in which they requested to meet with the Council to explain their role and the work that they did in the community and how they and the Council could work more effectively together to help meet the ever increasing challenges facing communities.

An invitation had also been extended to the Chairman to attend their Annual General Meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> November.

**Resolved** that representatives of Neath Port Talbot CVS be invited to the next or next following meeting of the Council whichever suits their arrangements.

**79. MID AND WEST WALES FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE – DRAFT ANNUAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2016/17**

A communication dated 6<sup>th</sup> October 2015 was received from the Fire and Rescue Service in which their 12 strategic objectives for the year 2016/17 were set out. Comments were invited by the 11<sup>th</sup> December 2015.

**Resolved** that the matter be noted.

**80. INDEPENDENT REVIEW PANEL – ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17**

A communication dated 8<sup>th</sup> October 2015 together with the above draft report was received from the Independent Remuneration Panel. The report included details of payments to members of community and town councils.

**Resolved** that the report be noted

## **81. FINANCIAL MATTERS**

### **(a) External Audit Arrangements 2015-16, 2016-17 & 2018-19**

A letter dated 24<sup>th</sup> September 2015 was received from the Wales Audit Office in which it was notified that BDO LLP, Arcadia House, Maritime Walk, Ocean Village, Southampton would become the Council's External Auditors for the above years.

**Resolved** that the information be noted but it be enquired of the Wales Audit Office as to why auditors from Wales are not appointed to carry out the work and what the arrangements will be for 2017-18 which not listed in their letter.

### **(b) Application for Grant – Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod**

An application for a grant was received from the above organisation

**Resolved** that the application be not entertained.

### **(c) Payment of Accounts**

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

No			£
1757	Payroll	Net salary September	218.95
1758	HMRC	Income Tax	54.74

## **82. PLANNING MATTERS**

### **(a) Planning Applications**

**Resolved** that:

1. no objection be raised to the following planning applications:

App No: P2015/0810

East Pit East Revised Opencast Coal Site – Discharge of Condition 80 attached to planning permission P2012/1073 – formation of Site Liaison Committee -

App No: P2015/0794

Construction of two storey rear extension and lower ground floor extension to front elevation at Min y Mynydd, Rhiwfawr

App No: P2015/0875

Discharge of Conditions 19 (Pumping Scheme), 26 (Noise Scheme), 32 (Blasting Scheme), 37 (Dust & Air Quality Scheme), 52 (Coal Transport Plan), 61 (Maintenance Programme for Water Treatment Areas), 64 (Pollution Prevention Measures), 71 (Programme of Archaeological Works), 73 (Restoration & Aftercare Phase 2) and 81 (Land Stability Scheme) of planning permission P2012/1073 (approved 18th June 15)

2. no objection be raised to the following planning application subject to the fuel tank that was located at the site having either been removed or made safe:

App No: P2015/0886

Two detached residential dwellings (Outline with all matters reserved) on Land off Lewis Avenue, Cwmllynfell.

3. the under-mentioned observations be submitted in respect of the following application:

App No: P2014/1122

Outline Residential Development consisting of 41 dwellings including details of access and demolition of the existing buildings (amended layout) on land off Samuels Road, Cwmllynfell

- i. The Council is concerned that Samuels Road is inadequate to cater for the additional 41 dwellings that is proposed and the additional traffic that would be generated would be a source of nuisance and danger to road users particularly at the junction of Samuels Road and Heol Gwilym;
- ii. 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.

### **83. REPORTS**

The following matters were reported:

South Wales Police	All Crime (see categories below)	August	6
Statistics	Anti Social behaviour		4
	Vehicle Crime		1
	Violent and sexual offences		1

- Surface water on Rock Hill due to defective drains;
- Welsh Government vaccination programme for students;
- Rural Development programme update;-

Councillor Mrs K Lloyd also reported on the following:

- Heol Daniel – renewal of bollards;
- Footpath maintenance – Bryn Road to Gwernant;
- School field fencing repairs;
- Cycleway maintenance to be undertaken by Neath Port Talbot CBC;
- Rhiwfawr Community Association – meeting held with a view to rejuvenating Rhiwfawr Hall;
- East Pit – Community Fund proposals being finalised.

The meeting terminated at 9.00pm.