

**CYNGOR CYMUNED CWMLLYNFELL COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT CWMLLYNFELL HALL  
ON THURSDAY 19<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2015 AT 6.15 P.M.**

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

**87. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for their absence were received from Councillors T H J Kendrick, R P Morgan, D C Phillips and Councillor K Lloyd (Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council).

**88. NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE**

The Chairman welcomed Ms Sue Ireson, Volunteering Development Officer of Neath Port Talbot Council for Voluntary Services.

Ms Ireson gave a presentation on the work of the CVS and provided information on their activities in the following areas of support:

- Development and Support
- Representation and Partnership
- Consultation
- Practical Services
- Addressing Challenges
- Working with Town and Community Councils

A discussion ensued when members of the Council referred to various issues that were affecting the community including the urgent need of alternative accommodation for the medical practice in Cwmllynfell and the assistance that Rhiwfawr Hall may require in promoting the use of the hall.

The Chairman thanked Ms Ireson for attending the meeting and imparting useful information.

**89. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made at this juncture

**90. MINUTES – COUNCIL MEETING – 15<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2015**

**Resolved** that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on the 15<sup>th</sup> October 2015 be confirmed and signed as a correct record subject to the inclusion of the following minute:

**Minute 83(a) - YOUTH REPRESENTATION AT MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL**

Consideration was given to the scheme for seeking two youth representatives to attend meetings of the Council as outlined in the following discussion paper that had been presented to the Council:

“The Council recognises the benefits of involving young people in local democracy and decision-making. The appointment of youth representatives will be of mutual

benefit to the Council and young people. Such an arrangement will help the Council in improving relationships and trust with young people in the community and to develop and support appropriate services for them. Young people appointed as youth representatives will gain confidence and self esteem, become engaged in local politics, leading to active citizenship.

Prospective candidates will be asked to write to the Council explaining why they wish to become a Youth Representative on Cwmllynfell Community Council. References will not be required.

The initial applications will be assessed by the Chair and nominated members of the Community Council. Applicants will be shortlisted to no more than four, unless applications are of a standard that require a longer shortlist. The final candidates will then be invited to attend an interview with the Chair and up to three nominated members of the Community Council. Two youth representatives will be selected after being interviewed.

The youth representatives will be issued with an induction pack explaining the work of the Council, its procedures, and the role of a youth representative.

Councillors may have to undertake a DBS check before young representatives attend Council meetings. Awaiting formal response from the DBS. However, Pontardawe Town Council had made enquiries and was advised that DBS checks are not required as long as the youth representatives only attend Council meetings.

A young person can only be appointed as a Youth Representative if he or she satisfies the criteria below:

1. Candidates must be over 15 years of age but under 19 years of age at the date of appointment.
2. Candidates must live within the community of Cwmllynfell Community Council or within three miles of the boundary.
3. Only two representatives may be appointed each calendar year.
4. The Calendar years run from the 1<sup>st</sup> January to the 31<sup>st</sup> December each year.
5. Youth Representatives may not vote on Council matters.
6. Youth Representatives must resign prior to standing for election or co-option to full Council."

**Resolved** that the scheme as outlined above be approved.

**91. MINUTES – CEMETERY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE – 26<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2015**

**Resolved** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Cemetery and Environment Committee held on the 26<sup>th</sup> October 2015 be approved, adopted and signed as a correct record.

**92. MATTERS ARISING**

**(a) Minute 71 – Chief Inspector Joanna Williams**

A letter dated 16<sup>th</sup> November 2015 was received from Chief Inspector Joanna Williams in which she indicated that she had been transferred to the Communities

and Partnership role. The new Chief Inspector for operations in Neath, Pontardawe and Port Talbot was Steve Rees.

**Resolved** that the matter be noted.

**(b) Minute 75 - Active Travel Existing Route Map**

Further consideration was given to the consultation which was being undertaken by Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council in accordance with the requirements of the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013. Enquiries had been pursued as to why the Community of Cwmllynfell had been excluded from the settlements identified in the map and it had been established that the areas to be included had been determined by the Welsh Government and were based on population.

**Resolved** that it be indicated that the Council is of the view that the Welsh Government's direction in respect of the matter is unnecessarily restrictive and as such will probably result in some Active Travel Routes being omitted.

**(c) Minute 81(a) - External Audit Arrangements**

A communication was received from the Wales Audit Office in response to the Council's enquiry as to why external auditors from Wales had not been appointed to undertake the Council's audit. It was indicated that a competitive tendering process compliant with the EU Directives and Procurement Regulations had been undertaken and at the pre-qualification stage the tenderers had been required to provide evidence of experience and ability to provide bilingual services.

**Resolved** that the response be noted.

**(d) Minute 82(a) – Planning Applications P2015/0810 & 0875 – East Pit**

The Clerk reported that in submitting the Council's comments on the above planning application he had indicated to Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council that it was assumed that the developers had not submitted an application for Commons Consent to the Welsh Government and it had also been enquired what measures were being undertaken by the County Borough Council to ensure compliance with the Commons Act 2006.

A response had been received from the County Borough Council in which it was indicated that it was their understanding that Celtic Energy was still preparing their submission under the Commons Act. The works being undertaken at East Pit were being closely monitored by Officers who were content with the way the works were progressing and the Council had no intention at present to take action under the Commons Act.

**Resolved** that:

1. Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council be informed that the Council is concerned over the obvious contradiction in the response in which it is acknowledged that Celtic Energy has not yet applied for Commons consent in respect of the area where work is being carried out at East Pit but maintains that Council Officers are content with the way that works are progressing at the site and also that the Council has no intention at the present time of taking any action in respect of the breach of the Commons Act 2006;

2. the Council's concerns be also conveyed to the Minister for Natural Resources.

**(e) Minute 85 – Memorial Kerb Stones, Cwmllynfell Cemetery**

It was reported that Mrs C Phillips would be arranging for a sample of a memorial kerb stone to be provided for the Council to examine.

**Resolved** that the matter be noted.

**(f) Minute 86 – Wildflower Meadow, Cwmllynfell Cemetery**

**Resolved** that it be noted that an application had been made for Grow Wild seeds and that the submission of an application for grant had been discussed with Groundwork.

**93. PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE DEFIBRILLATORS**

A letter dated 20<sup>th</sup> October 2015 was received from Ms Suzy Davies AM in which she referred to a project that had been undertaken at Reynoldston, Gower to provide publicly accessible defibrillators.

**Resolved** that:

1. Ms Davies AM be informed that the Council has grant aided a local First Responders Group and that a defibrillator has been donated to Cwmllynfell Hall by a family in memory of a relative who had passed away;
2. in view of the fact that as the First Responders Group is no longer functioning that enquiries be made of the All Wales Ambulance Service at the Old School in Cefn Bryn Brain as to whether they would be able to provide a First Responder Service in the area.

**94. DRAFT PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN (WALES) BILL**

A letter dated 21<sup>st</sup> October 2015 was received from the Chair of the Finance Committee of the National Assembly for Wales in consultation on the above bill. The changes to the Ombudsman's powers included the ability to initiate own investigations.

**Resolved** that no objection be raised to the proposals.

**95. "OUR HEALTH, OUR HEALTH SERVICE" GREEN PAPER**

**Resolved** that the above green paper, which looks at improving the quality of healthcare in Wales, be noted.

**96. COMMUNITY AND TOWN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2015**

**Resolved** that the newsletter containing an update on the Welsh Government work which affects Community and Town Councils be noted.

**97. NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL - ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15**

**Resolved** that it be noted that the above newsletter had been published and was available on the County Borough Council's website.

**98. POLICE AND CRIME PLAN AND BUDGET CONSULTATION 2016/17**

**Resolved** that the consultation on the above plan and budget be noted.

**99. TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL GUIDE TO YOUTH REPRESENTATION - MEETING 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2015**

An invitation was received for the Council to be represented at the above meeting.

**Resolved** that the Chairman, Vice chairman and Councillor Richard Davies be authorised to attend the meeting.

**100. RAMBLERS' ASSOCIATION**

A communication was received from the Ramblers' Association in which it was indicated that Ramblers Cymru were keen to work with Community and Town Councils to protect and improve paths in the area.

**Resolved** that enquiries be made to ascertain the current subscription rate for Community and Town Councils.

**101. ALLOTMENTS AND COMMUNITY LED GARDENING PROJECTS**

**Resolved** that the consultation paper received in relation to the Welsh Government's guidance on allotments and community led growing projects be noted.

**102. EAST PIT – DRAFT COMMUNITY BENEFIT SCHEME**

A letter dated 4<sup>th</sup> November 2015 was received from Celtic Energy together with a draft scheme in respect of the administration of the community benefits which were a condition of the recent planning permission.

**Resolved** that the following comments on the draft scheme be submitted to Celtic Energy:

"The Council accepts the scheme in principle and notes that paragraph 4 enables the scheme to be different in each Community Council area subject to approval by those listed. The wording of the scheme suggests that the fund can only be used to make grants to other bodies and organisations which would appear to prevent the Community Council itself from utilising any of the fund for a "Community Benefit" that the Council itself wishes to promote or develop. The Council requests that the necessary amendments be made to enable the Community Council to also utilise the fund. It may also prove necessary to review the conditions of the scheme at intervals so provision for doing so should be included in the scheme."

### **103. CCTV CONSULTATION**

A communication dated 17th November 2015 was received from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council's Safer NPT Partnership in consultation on the review that was being undertaken in respect of CCTV in the County Borough.

**Resolved** that as the Community of Cwmllynfell is not served by CCTV that no comments be offered.

### **104. FINANCIAL MATTERS**

#### **(a) Applications for Financial Assistance**

##### **i. Cwmllynfell Hall**

Note: Councillor R M Davies declared his personal interest in this matter and withdrew from the meeting whilst it was being considered.

An application for a grant was received from the Cwmllynfell Hall in which it was indicated that they had failed to apply for the full amount required to defray the loss of revenue from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council's withdrawal of funding for the library for the financial year 2015-16. As such the Hall were applying for a further grant of £1,000.

The Clerk reported that he had asked the Hall to submit a completed application form and provide the latest statement of accounts in accordance with the Council's policy. The documents had not been received but the Secretary of the Hall had responded indicating that the accounts would not be available until January 2016 and that they had understood that the Council had budgeted for the additional £1,000.

The Clerk clarified that the amount budgeted by the Council to assist the hall in the current year was £10,500 (£7,000 [Hall] + £3,500 [Library])

**Resolved** that:

1. consideration of the application for an additional grant of £1,000 be deferred so that the required documentation may be produced;
2. the remaining balance of the grant already approved for the current financial year amounting to £3,500 be paid immediately in order to assist the Hall's finances.

##### **ii. Rhiwfawr Community Association – Rhiwfawr Hall**

Note: Councillor Mrs R Evans declared her personal interest in this matter and withdrew from the meeting whilst it was being considered.

An application for financial assistance was received from the Rhiwfawr Community Association towards the running and operational cost of Rhiwfawr Hall. The Association emphasised in their application that as a result of the issues that had affected the operation of the hall during the last year they had been unable to function and their funds were extremely depleted. The last grant that had been made to the Hall was in October 2012.

**Resolved** that:

1. in view of the circumstances, a grant of £3,000, covering two years' support be made to the Rhiwfawr Community Association;
2. that representatives of the Rhiwfawr Community Association be invited to meet the Council to discuss their plans for Rhiwfawr Hall.

**(b) Payment of Accounts**

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

No			£
1760	Cwmllynfell Hall	Stage payment of grant	3,500.00
1761	Rhiwfawr Community Assoc	Grant	3,000.00
1762	Neath Port Talbot CBC	Hire of Commercial Bin	62.06
1763	Payroll	Net salary October	218.95
1764	HMRC	Income Tax	54.74

**105. PLANNING MATTERS**

**(a) Planning Applications**

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

App No: P2015/0624

Engineering works including ditches and mounds together with installation of kissing and equestrian gate and construction of culvert by Awel Aman Tawe at Mynydd y Gwrhyd.

**106. VACANCY - PENRHIWFAWR WARD**

The Clerk reported that Mr N L A Price had been absent from meetings for a period of six months and as such had created a vacancy in the office of Councillor representing the Penrhiwfawr Ward, pursuant to section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.

**Resolved** that the casual vacancy in the office of Councillor representing the Penrhiwfawr Ward be advertised in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1972.

**107. REPORTS**

The following matters were reported:

South Wales Police Statistics	All Crime (see categories below)	September	4
	Anti Social behaviour		1
	Bicycle theft		1
	Criminal Damage and Arson		1
	Violent and sexual offences		1

- East Pit East Site Liaison Committee
- Amman Group of Local Councils – meeting.
- Pedestrian entrance gate at Rhiwfawr Park defective;
- Youth Representation – meeting held with Children's Rights Unit - Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
- Cwmllynfell School Governors – Cllr R M Davies appointed as Education

Authority Representative

- Cllr R M Davies – notification of forthcoming absence;
- Rhiwfawr – highway visibility problems 61 Rhiw Road, speeding reported & dog fouling nuisance;
- Proposed housing development off Samuels Road – local objection;
- County Borough / Community Councils Liaison Forum meeting.

**Resolved** that:

1. it be noted that arrangements had been made for Secondary Schools, Colleges etc to be notified of the arrangements for interested youths to apply to become Youth Representatives to attend meetings of the Council;
2. the applications from persons interested be submitted to the Chairman of the Council and arrangements be made for a small group of Councillors to interview the applicants;
3. an item be placed on the agenda of the next meeting of the Council to appoint a Minor Authorities representative to serve on the Governing Body of Cwmllynfell School in place of Councillor R M Davies.

The meeting terminated at 9.20pm.