

CYNGOR CYMUNED CWMLLYNFELL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT CWMLLYNFELL HALL
ON THURSDAY 18th FEBRUARY 2016 AT 6.30 P.M.**

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

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

146. APOLOGY

An apology for his absence was received from Councillor R M Davies.

147. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made at this juncture

148. RHIWFAWR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Note: Councillor E L Morgan declared his personal interest in this matter and did not participate in the discussion.

The Chairman welcomed the representatives of the Rhiwfawr Community Association comprising Gareth Davies (Chairman), Emma Davies (Secretary), Geraint Bevan and Catherine Owen (Committee Members) who had been invited to the meeting to discuss their proposals for Rhiwfawr Hall.

The Chairman Mr Gareth Davies informed the Council that following a public meeting that had been held last year a new committee had been formed to run the hall. Several events had been held subsequently and the hall was also being utilised regularly for some activities. The committee also intended to organise further events.

The representatives of the association explained that repairs were required to be carried out and sought advice with regard to sources of funding and also the nature of the relationship between the Council and the Association. It was explained that the Community Council is the freeholder of the land on which the hall stands and that an annual agreement was in place whereby the Association paid an annual rent of £5 to the Council by way of ground rent. It was suggested to the Association that they seek advice and support from the Neath Port Talbot Council for Voluntary Service with regard to grants for carrying out improvements and repairs to the hall. It was also explained that a Community Benefit Scheme was due to operate under the planning conditions imposed in respect of the East Pit Opencast Coal Site.

The Chairman thanked the representatives of the Rhiwfawr Community Association for their attendance.

149. MINUTES

Resolved that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on the 21st January 2016 be confirmed and signed as a correct record subject to the sum authorised for payment in minute 136(e) (voucher no 1773) being amended from "£219.95" to "£218.95".

150. MATTERS ARISING

(a) Minute 131(b) - East Pit – Draft Community Benefit Schemes

It was reported that a considerable amount of correspondence in connection with the proposed Community Benefit Scheme and Additional Community Contribution Scheme had taken place since the meeting of the Council on the 21st January with the Project Development and Funding Manager, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council. It had been suggested to him that details of the proposed schemes that he was devising be made available by this meeting so that the Council could consider the contents and give a mandate to its representatives who had been appointed to attend the proposed meeting of interested parties that was to be held on the 23rd March 2016. A further email had been received today from him in which it was indicated that the draft schemes were nowhere ready as yet. He also emphasised that if the terms of the section 106 agreement were invoked strictly the community representatives would have already lost the opportunity to govern the Community Benefit Scheme locally as the deadline had passed on the 18th December 2015. The Project Development and Funding Manager undertook to make the background papers available to those attending the meeting as soon as possible.

A discussion ensued on the considerable amount of discussion and negotiation that had gone on before involving the three Community Councils and reference was made to the inherent weakness in the terms of the section 106 agreement. It was considered that this Council had done all it could to bring the scheme to fruition and that it was essential that details of the proposed schemes be considered by the Council so that it could issue a mandate to its representatives comprising Councillors J C Rees, R P Morgan and D C Phillips who would be attend the proposed meeting on the 23rd March.

Resolved that:

1. the Council's request for the drafts of the schemes to be forwarded as soon as possible and in any event in time for the Council to consider the contents at its meeting on the 17th March be reiterated to the Project Development and Funding Manager, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council;
2. if necessary an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council be convened to consider the matter.

(b) Minute 131(f) – Application for Financial Assistance – Cwmllynfell Hall

A communication dated 3rd February 2016 was received from the Secretary of Cwmllynfell Hall in which it was indicated that for the first time since the new hall had opened in 2000, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council had informed them that they had to apply for Third Sector Grant Funding in respect of the financial support that the County Borough Council provided. The Hall Committee had been informed in January that with effect from April 2016 the financial support that they would receive would be cut from £27,000 to £20,000 and that a fresh application would have to be made annually which would be assessed according to each the case that had been put forward. This represented a further reduction in the financial support provided by Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council as the sum of £4,500 had already been cut as a result of their withdrawing support for the library.

Resolved that the information be noted and considered in conjunction with the application to be determined under agenda item 7(a).

151. COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL/COMMUNITY COUNCILS LIAISON FORUM

It was reported that the Leader of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, Cllr A Thomas had invited the Clerks of Community Councils to attend an informal meeting to discuss the terms of reference of the Liaison Forum.

A communication dated 15th February 2016 was also received from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council together with the slides relating to the Budget 2016/17 that had been presented at the meeting of the Forum on the 1st February.

Resolved that:

1. Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council be requested to provide the Council with a draft of the proposed terms of reference for consideration;
2. the website link to the presentation slides on the County Borough Council's Budget be provided to members of the Council.

152. HM COURTS & TRIBUNALS SERVICE

Resolved that the letter dated 11th February 2016 from HM Courts and Tribunals Service in response to the proposal on the provision of court and tribunal services in Wales be noted.

153. PRINCIPLES OF GOOD ADMINISTRATION AND GOOD RECORDS MANAGEMENT

A letter dated 15th February 2016 was received from the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales together with an electronic copy of the above document. The Ombudsman had been requested to also provide a hard copy of the document.

Resolved that the matter be noted.

154. INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES – ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17

A letter dated 18th February 2016 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.

155. HM LORD LIEUTENANT OF WEST GLAMORGAN –QUEEN’S AWARD FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

An invitation was received from Neath Port Talbot CVS for the Council to be represented at an event to meet HM Lord Lieutenant for West Glamorgan and to receive information on the Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service.

Resolved that the Council be represented at the event by Councillor R P Morgan.

156. E PETER LLOYD JONES – NOTICE TO TERMINATE EMPLOYMENT

A letter dated 18th February 2016 was received from the Clerk of the Council in which he gave notice to terminate his part time employment with the Council to take effect on the 30th April 2016. Mr Lloyd Jones gave thanks for the opportunity to be associated with the Council for the last 17 years and wished the Council well in its future endeavours.

Resolved that the vacancy in the office of Clerk of the Council be advertised at the current rate of remuneration on salary scale LC1 (Spinal points 18-22 – [pro-rata – Average 6 hours per week])

157. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) Applications for Financial Assistance

i. Eglwys Brynlllynfell

Note: Councillor D C Phillips declared his personal interest in this application and withdrew from the meeting whilst it was being considered.

Further to Minute 136(d) of the meeting of the Council held on the 21st January 2016, consideration was given to the application for financial assistance from the above organisation upon receipt of additional information in support of the application.

Resolved that a grant of £2,000 be made to the above-mentioned organisation and the Council in accordance with its powers under sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972 incurs the expenditure which in the opinion of the Council is in the interests of the area or of its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure:

ii. Cwmllynfell Hall

An application for financial assistance was received from Cwmllynfell Hall to supplement the wages of the Manager, assistant, cleaner, utility bills and maintenance costs for the financial year 2016/17.

The Council also gave consideration to the Hall’s application in respect of a further grant of £1,000 for the current financial year to meet the shortfall in revenue from the Library Services that the hall had not accounted for in their original application (Minute 124(a) I of the meeting of the Council held on the 17th December 2015 refers)

Resolved that:

1. a further grant of £1,000 be made to Cwmllynfell Hall to assist in meeting the shortfall in revenue for the current financial year;
2. a grant of £12,000 be made to Cwmllynfell Hall in the 2016/17 financial year and that the grant be paid in three instalments to coincide with the receipt of the Council's precept.

iii. **Urdd National Eisteddfod 2016 - Flint**

Resolved that the application be not entertained and the applicants be informed that it is the Council's practice to assist the organisation by making a grant to the local school to defray the cost of pupils' membership subscriptions.

(b) Payment of Accounts

Resolved that the following accounts be paid:

No			£
1778	Cwmllynfell Hall	Grant	1,000.00
1779	Eglwys Brynlllynfell	Grant	2,000.00
1780	One Voice Wales	Subscription	154.00
1781	Payroll	Net salary January	218.95
1782	HMRC	Income Tax	54.74

158. PLANNING MATTERS

Resolved that the notice received from Powys County Council in connection with the submission of the Deposit Local Development Plan to the Welsh Government be noted.

159. REPORTS

The following matters were reported:

South Wales Police Statistics	All Crime (see categories below)	December	4
	Anti Social behaviour		1
	Criminal Damage and Arson		2
	Drugs		1

- Footbridge on FP14 remaining unrepaired by Carmarthenshire County Council;
- Memorial Kerb Stones, Cwmllynfell Cemetery – installation and fees;
- Gwrhyd Quarry, Rhiwfawr – alleged breach of planning conditions regarding transportation;
- Aman Loughor Heritage Walks information board at Rhiwfawr requiring reinstatement;

Councillor K Lloyd reported on the following issues:

- NPT Homes renovations;
- Pot holes temporary repairs & road improvement works during the summer;
- Gwrhyd Quarry – meeting regarding alleged breaches of transportation conditions.

160. CWMLLYNFELL CEMETERY – MEMORIAL KERB STONES - FEES

Consideration was given to the administrative fee that would be charged in respect of permissions to install memorial kerb stones at the cemetery. The cost of purchasing the kerb stones and the installation costs would be met directly by the applicants.

Resolved that the following fees be added to the Council's schedule of charges in respect of the cemetery:

Memorial Kerb Stones	Resident of Community	Non Resident of Community
Permission to install.	60.00	120.00

The meeting terminated at 8.25pm.