

CYNGOR CYMUNED CWMLLYNFELL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD AT CWMLLYNFELL HALL
ON THURSDAY 21st MAY 2016 AT 6.30 P.M.**

PRESENT: Councillor J C Rees (Chairman) presiding pro-tem
COUNCILLORS: R M Davies, M Evans, D Lloyd, E L Morgan, R P Morgan,
D C Phillips and D B Thomas.

ATTENDING: K Rocharad – Youth Representative
Councillor K Lloyd (Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council)

1. KEELAN ROCHARD – YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE

The presiding Chairman welcomed Keelan Rocharad to his first meeting following his selection as a Youth Representative.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE YEAR 2016/17

Resolved that Councillor Robert Paul Morgan be elected Chairman of the Council for the ensuing Municipal Year.

Councillor R P Morgan then subscribed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and Undertaking to comply with the Council's Code of Conduct.

The Chairman thanked his predecessor Councillor J C Rees for the work that he had carried out during his year of office.

3. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN FOR THE YEAR 2016/17

Resolved that Councillor Eifion L Morgan be appointed Vice Chairman for the ensuing Municipal Year.

Councillor E L Morgan then subscribed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and Undertaking to comply with the Council's Code of Conduct.

4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for their absence were received from Councillors R Evans, and THJ Kendrick.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest were made in connection with agenda item 11(a) – Applications for Financial Assistance:

Councillor D B Thomas – Ystradowen Community Centre;
Councillor D C Phillips – Cwmllynfell RFC;
Councillor E L Morgan – Rhiwfawr Community Association.

6. DAY, HOUR AND VENUE FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Resolved that:

1. future ordinary meetings during the ensuing municipal year be held at the following venues at 6.30pm. (6.15pm. when the Council is due to receive a

presentation or address) on the third Thursday of each month, other than the month of August when there shall not be a meeting:

Rhiwfawr Hall

June 2016
September 2016
November 2016

April 2017

Cwmllynfell Hall

July 2016
October 2016
December 2016
January 2017
February 2017
March 2017
May 2017 (Annual Meeting)

2. the above arrangements be varied if necessary, as circumstances require, at the discretion of the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman.

7. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

Resolved that:

1. a Cemetery and Environment Committee be appointed comprising all Members of the Council.
2. a Rhiwfawr Park Liaison Committee be appointed comprising the following members to promote the use of the facilities at the park and to liaise with local organisations and individuals to encourage voluntary effort in managing and monitoring the use of facilities:

Councillors:
Chairman
Cllr R Evans

Councillors:
Vice-Chairman
Cllr J C Rees

3. consideration be given to the appointment of an Ad-Hoc Committee to deal with the Community Benefit Scheme at the time when the Council gives consideration to the adoption of a grant scheme to deal with the funds.

8. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

(a) Governing Bodies of Local Schools

Resolved that the under-named be appointed to represent the Council on the governing body of the following school and that the term of office shall be as follows:

Cwmllynfell School - Councillor J C Rees - term of office expires May 2020

(b) Cwmllynfell Hall Committee

Resolved that:

1. Councillor R P Morgan be authorised to represent the Council at meetings of the Committee of Cwmllynfell Hall;
2. in the event of Councillor R P Morgan being unavailable to attend a particular meeting that Councillor M Evans be authorised to deputise.

(c) One Voice Wales

Resolved that:

1. the Council be represented on the above-mentioned association by the Chairman, Councillor R P Morgan and the Vice-Chairman Councillor E L Morgan;
2. Councillor D Lloyd be appointed to deputise in the event of either representative being unable to attend;
3. Councillor R P Morgan be appointed as the Council's Training Champion to liaise with One Voice Wales on training matters.

(d) Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council - Liaison Forum

Resolved that:

1. the Council be represented on the above Liaison Forum by the Chairman, Councillor R P Morgan and the Vice-Chairman Councillor E L Morgan;
2. Councillor D Lloyd be appointed to deputise in the event of either representative being unable to attend.

(e) Cwm Nant Lleici Site Liaison Committee

Resolved that the Council be represented on the above Committee by Councillor J C Rees.

(f) South Wales Police - Spotlight on Police Meetings & Partnerships and Communities Together (PACT) Meetings

Resolved that the Council be represented on the above by Councillor D Lloyd.

(g) East Pit East Revised Opencast Site Liaison Committee

Resolved that the Council be represented on the Liaison Committee by Councillor D C Phillips;

(h) Gwrhyd Quarry Site Liaison Committee

Resolved that the Council be represented on the Liaison Committee by Councillors R P Morgan and E L Morgan.

(i) Aman Group of Local Councils

Resolved that the Council be represented on the above group by the Chairman, Councillor R P Morgan and the Vice Chairman Councillor E L Morgan.

9. MINUTES

Resolved that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on the 21st April 2016 be confirmed and signed as a correct record subject to Minute 188(b) being amended to read as follows:

“188(b) – Grow Wild Wales

It was reported that seeds had been received from Kew Gardens. Following consultation with the Chairman, pupils of Cwmllynfell School had been invited to participate in the sowing the seeds at Cwmllynfell Cemetery. Wernvale Nurseries and Landscapes, the contractor engaged in grounds maintenance at the cemetery, had been engaged to prepare the ground and supervise the sowing at an agreed cost of £150.

Resolved that the action taken be approved.”

10. MATTERS ARISING

(a) Minute 178(a)- Automated External Defibrillators

The Clerk reported that a response had been received from the Chairman of Rhiwfawr Community Association in which he indicated that there was no objection to the Council’s proposal to site an Automated External Defibrillator at Rhiwfawr Hall. The Manager of Cwmllynfell Hall had also responded indicating that he did not foresee a problem with the proposal to locate the equipment at the hall but that the matter would be considered by the Management Committee and the Council would be informed of the decision in due course.

Information had been received from the Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust in response to the Council’s request for guidance. The Trust recommended that either a Zoll AED Plus or a WelMedical iPad SP1 defibrillator be installed.

The Clerk referred to the offer that had been received from the registered charity, Welsh Hearts to provide two items of equipment, including training at a cost of £1,800. The Council would however have to make separate arrangements to acquire cabinets and arrange the installation, which included an electricity supply.

Resolved that appropriate enquiries be pursued with a view to the supply of the AEDs, cabinets, installation and training being carried out by one supplier.

(b) Minute 178(b) - East Pit – Draft Community Benefit Schemes

It was reported that the sum of £50,000 for the Community Benefit Scheme had been received from Celtic Energy Ltd on the 26th April and paid directly into the Council’s Bank Account. A communication had also been received from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council in which it was indicated that it was in a position to launch the Additional Community Contribution Scheme and as such the availability of the scheme would be publicised shortly. The Project Development and Funding Manager to Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council had therefore enquired whether the Council’s Community Benefit Scheme was operational so that local groups could be advised accordingly when making approaches to Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council in respect of the Additional Community Contribution Scheme.

Resolved that:

1. Councillor R M Davies be requested to draft a Community Benefit Scheme for the Council’s consideration by adapting the Grants Scheme that the Council had adopted in 2013;

2. the draft scheme be considered at the next meeting of the Council.

(c) Minute 178(c) - Appointment of Clerk of the Council

It was reported that advice had been received from One Voice Wales and the Society of Local Council Clerks that Section 116 of the Local Government Act 1972 precluded the Council from engaging a member of the Council as Clerk in the manner that had been considered. As such a further advertisement inviting applications for the post had been publicised and a closing date of the 31st May 2016 had been set. The Clerk suggested that an Extraordinary meeting of the Council be convened on the 9th June 2016 to interview applicants for the post and that arrangements be also made to shortlist applicants if deemed necessary.

Resolved that:

1. an Extraordinary meeting of the Council be held on the 9th June 2016 to interview applicants for the post of Clerk of the Council;
2. in the event that shortlisting is necessary the duty be delegated to a Committee comprising Councillors R M Davies, E L Morgan and J C Rees.

(d) 178(e) – Youth Representative Event

An invitation was received from the Young Trustee Coordinator of the Children's Rights Unit for the Council to be represented at a 'Speed Matching' Event on the 14th June 2016 at Neath.

Resolved that Councillor J C Rees and Keelan Rochard be authorised to attend.

(e) Minute 182 - Local Bus Service Revisions

Resolved that it be noted that the revisions referred to in minute 182 would not be implemented.

(f) Minute 186(f) – Cwmllynfell Cemetery – Dilapidated Grave (Block 1 Row 3 Grave 12)

It was reported that Griffiths Memorials of Ammanford who had been working at the cemetery had been very helpful in carrying out a temporary repair to the dilapidated gravestone. The Clerk had pursued enquiries with regard to the ownership of the grave and had discovered that the next of kin of those that had been interred in the grave was a Dr Gething Morgan Lewis who had also passed away. Dr Lewis had connections to Swansea University and enquiries were therefore being pursued to ascertain whether any remaining members of the family could be contacted.

Reference was also made to the fact that the Council had a duty to check the condition of memorials at the cemetery and take appropriate action in respect of any that were unstable.

Resolved that:

1. the situation concerning the dilapidated grave be noted;

2. enquiries be made of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council as to whether their staff would be able to undertake an examination of the memorials at the cemetery on a rechargeable basis.

**(g) Minute 188(d) – Rural Development Plan - “Working with Nature”–
“Cwmllynfell and Rhiwfawr Environmental Scheme” (CARES)**

Further to minute 188(d) it was reported that the Council’s contribution to the scheme would be £6,000 spread equally over three years. The County Borough Council would raise an invoice for the first instalment later in the year.

Councillor R M Davies also indicated that due to forthcoming personal arrangements he would be relinquishing his role in leading the scheme on behalf of the Council.

Resolved that Councillor R P Morgan be delegated the duties in connection with the programme when Councillor Davies ceases his role.

(h) Minute 188(e) – Aman Tawe Medical Practice

A communication dated 19th May 2016 was received from the Head of Primary Care and Planning, Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board in response to the issues that the Council had raised concerning the surgery at Cwmllynfell. She had indicated that Dr Alan Stevenson had left the partnership in December 2015 and the practice had also struggled for some time before and following the death of one of the nurse practitioners. The partnership had been liaising with the Management Committee of Cwmllynfell Hall to progress proposals to transfer the Cwmllynfell Surgery to the hall and the Health Board had secured a Welsh Government grant to fund the proposed alterations to the hall. A further meeting with the Committee, the Practice, the Health Board’s Estates personnel and Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council as the leaseholder to discuss the practicalities would be held on the 1st June 2016.

The Head of Primary Care and Planning also confirmed that the Health Board would be conducting a formal monitoring visit and report on progress and compliance within the practice during the year and would clarify with Dr D Williams the extent to which discussions with the University on evaluating the effectiveness of the model being delivered by the practice had progressed. She also referred to the fact that when the last meeting with the Community Council had been held that quite a few concerns had been raised but it had been impossible to respond on the specifics as individual details such as dates, times etc as well as names would have had to be investigated in order to supply answers. She hoped therefore that since that time concerns had been raised with the practice. She recalled however that the only common theme, which was also reflected in those received at the Health Board, had been about access, either insufficient telephone lines or being asked to go to an alternative site to see a named doctor. She hoped that the first issue has been largely addressed by the installation of a new practice wide telephone system plus additional lines, earlier in the year and she was also aware that the practice had, over the past year, changed its initial ‘rotation’ of all doctors through all sites, acknowledging that it was not working well.

The Head of Primary Care and Planning had liaised with colleagues who also had responsibilities in connection with the matter and confirmed that it was and remained their intention to have further ‘meet the GP’-type open meetings as well

as meetings with the Community Council over the coming months when the themes referred to above or others could be discussed.

Resolved that the response of the Head of Primary Care and Planning be noted and informed that the Community Council is in favour of the Cwmllynfell Surgery being located at Cwmllynfell Hall subject to appropriate and adequate financial arrangements being agreed with the management Committee of the Hall.

11. CWMLLYNFELL HALL VIS A VIS NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

A letter dated 22nd April 2016 was received from the Director of Corporate Services, in which he was responding on behalf of the Leader of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council to the Community Council's representations regarding their financial contribution to Cwmllynfell Hall.

The Director indicated that the County Borough Council had been paying £27,000 per annum to the Hall Committee and as such had paid £108,000 over the last four years. He claimed that given the current period of austerity and Government Funding cuts that all public bodies and local authorities were currently assessing all areas of expenditure and seeking to secure greater value for money. The letter also referred to the Council's comment that the County Borough Council was failing in its duty as trustee of the hall and in breach of the agreement that had been entered into with the Hall Committee in 2000. The Director claimed that no trustee was obliged to contribute to the charity of which it was a trustee. He claimed further that the grant paid by the County Borough Council benefitted the 'Cwmllynfell Welfare Hall' rather than the charity of which it was the trustee. He confirmed further that the County Borough Council had in March 2016 submitted the annual returns for the 5 years to March 2015. He also suggested that it was not unreasonable to expect the Community Council to contribute towards the running of Cwmllynfell Hall. He also emphasised that he appreciated the importance of keeping the hall open for the benefit of the inhabitants of the community and this was reflected in the County Borough Council's continued support for the hall. He stressed however that in difficult times communities must explore all avenues to maximise income generation and the efficient running of their own community facilities

Resolved that the Director of Corporate Services be informed that:

1. his response does not offer an explanation as to why the County Borough Council had failed for a period of over five years to submit the required returns to the Charity Commission and as such it demonstrated the County Borough Council's lack of commitment to the hall;
2. further that his suggestion that the reduction in the contribution made by the County Borough Council to the hall was attributable to Government Funding cuts was misleading as the County Borough Council had reduced its contribution to the hall by over 25% in the current financial year whereas the County Borough Council's Revenue Support Grant settlement for 2016/17 had only been reduced by 0.5%

12. OPEN SPACES SOCIETY

Resolved that the information received from the Open Spaces Society regarding their 'Ten years left to find our way' campaign, to prevent paths being omitted from the definitive map of rights of way, be noted.

13. RoSPA – ANNUAL INSPECTION OF PLAY AREAS

It was reported that the annual inspection of the play area at Rhiwfawr Park and Parc Cymunedol Llynfell Community Park would take place in June.

Resolved that the matter be noted.

14. CENTENARY FIELDS – COMMEMORATING WORLD WAR 1

A joint letter was received from the Chairman of the Fields in Trust and the Director General of the Royal British Legion in which town and community councils were encouraged to nominate a recreational space to be dedicated as a Centenary Field in order to secure the spaces in perpetuity in honour of the millions of people who lost their lives in the conflict.

Resolved that the matter be noted.

15. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) Applications for Financial Assistance

Consideration was given to applications for financial assistance.

Note: Councillors D C Phillips, D B Thomas and E L Morgan each withdrew from the meeting whilst consideration was given to the applications by Cwmllynfell RFC, Ystradowen Community Centre and Rhiwfawr Community Association respectively.

Resolved that:

1. a grant in the following sum be made to the under-mentioned organisation as the Council is aware of the financial pressures that the club is under but that the club be also informed that the grant is made on the understanding that the Council will be provided with a copy of the audited accounts as soon as they are available:

Cwmllynfell RFC	£500
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2. consideration of the following application be deferred until the next meeting so that the organisation may complete the Council's grant application form and provide additional information on their accounts:

Ystradowen Community Centre

3. a grant in the following sum be made to the under-mentioned organisation:

Cwmllynfell & District Bowls Club	£500
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4. a grant in the following sum be made to the under-mentioned organisation in recognition of the efforts that the members of the Association are making to promote the use of the hall and subject to the accounts for 2015 being presented when they are ready:

Rhiwfawr Community Association	£1,500
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(b) Payment of Accounts

Resolved that the following accounts be paid:

No			£
1793	Cwmllynfell & Dist Bowls Club	Grant	500.00
1794	Rhiwfawr Community Assoc	Grant	1,500.00
1795	Cwmllynfell RFC	Grant	500.00
1796	Griffiths Bwtrimawr	Repair to memorial	72.00
1797	Wrenvale	Grounds Maintenance April	828.00
1798	Wrenvale	Sowing wildflowers	180.00
1799	Newsquest	Press Advertisement	36.00
1800	Payroll	Net salary April	218.95
1801	HMRC	Income Tax	54.74

16. PLANNING MATTERS

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

App No:

P2016/0352 Lawful Development Certificate for a car port at Gwynant, Coedffaldau Road, Rhiwfawr.

17. REPORTS

The following matters were reported:

South Wales Police Statistics	All Crime (see category below)	March	2
	Anti Social behaviour		2

- Defective CCTV Cameras at Parc Cymunedol Llynfell Community Park;
- Memorial Kerb Stones – Engraving in progress;
- Provision of Smoke Alarms by Fire & Rescue Service;
- Common land investigation – Gwilym Road;
- Cwmllynfell & District Patient Fund – wound up and funds distributed to halls;
- Website maintenance;
- Youth Representatives – additional representative being encouraged

Councillor K Lloyd also reported on the following issues:

- Cycle track – horses prohibited – signs requested;
- Provision of signs prohibiting dog fouling;
- Removal of abandoned cars;
- Provision of weekly bus service to Rhiwfawr.

Resolved that the necessary arrangements be made to either repair or renew the defective CCTV cameras at Parc Cymunedol Llynfell Community Park

The meeting terminated at 9.15pm.