

Cyngor Cymuned Cwmllynfell Community Council

Minutes of the Meetings at Cwmllynfell Hall on Thursday 15th June 2017 at 7.00pm

Present Councillors

Councillor E L Morgan (Chair)

J C Rees, D C Phillips, M Evans, H A Lewis, J G Jones, D H Jones, R P Morgan, D A Thomas, D H Jones

18. **Moira Thomas and Martin Harries, Neaudd Cwmllynfell Hall to discuss Cwmllynfell Library**

Moira Thomas and Martin Harries provided information regarding the circumstances on the library up to present day. Approx. 2 years ago due to financial cuts the library had been scheduled to close. At a public meeting, it was agreed to keep the library open with volunteers. The library has been open for limited periods on Monday and Friday, however over the two years the Hall has lost volunteers. Now the work is mainly undertaken by Martin because people come to use the library on different days and it is estimated to be 10 people a week.

When it was agreed to keep the library, the Council awarded the Hall £4,500 in lieu of lost income. A year ago, the Hall was approached by Amman Valley Surgery asking if it would be possible to replace the library and the meeting room/store room with a surgery. A meeting was held with David Phillips, NPTCBC (because the Hall is owned by NPTCBC) and the Health Authority. At this meeting, it was agreed that the surgery would help to keep the Hall open in the future and a mobile library could cover the area.

The Hall was concerned about losing a lot of space, especially storage, so plans were drawn up to have an extension built. The plans cost £750 to be submitted. As the time drew close for the work to begin on the surgery no information was forthcoming. The Hall was notified by Helen Wainwright, from the Health Authority, that the plans for the surgery could not be afforded. An email followed stating that the letter had been sent prematurely and that no decision had been made. The Hall Committee is scheduled to meet representatives of the Health Authority in a fortnight. If the surgery is not coming to the Hall then the committee want to be recompensed for the £750 expenditure on plans. The original deadline was for the surgery to be in place by 1st July. D H Jones reported that talks are underway with Dr Gilbey with respects to extending the lease.

The Hall Committee is seeking the view of the Council regarding the continuation of the library.

Resolved that the Council is fully supportive of the Hall committee in plans for the library and meeting room / storage space pending on the decision to relocate the surgery.

19. **Apologies for Absence**

G J Davies

20. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this point.

21. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 18th May 2017

Resolved agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.

22. Matters Arising

Minute 3.1 Acceptance of Office Paperwork

D A Thomas has signed the relevant forms.

Resolved for the situation to be noted.

Minute 3.3 Vacancy

The vacancy that has been out for advertisement following Councillor Lloyd's resignation has had to be re-advertised due to an incorrect date being placed on the notice. It has also been clarified that the notice should be advertised for 14 working days. The new deadline was 13th June. The nominee that has been already been received was notified of this and still wished to be considered.

Resolved that no further nominations were received therefore Richard Martin Evans has been duly elected.

Minute 6.5 Cwm Nant Lleici Site Liaison Committee

Allister Williams was emailed 26th May notifying him that J C Rees is the nominated representative and for the meetings schedule. Allister Williams responded the same day confirming that details would be forwarded once known.

Resolved for the situation to be noted.

Minute 6.6 South Wales Police

An email was sent 21st May for the attention of Superintendent Joe Ruddy. PC Jayne James telephoned in response stating that Superintendent Joe Ruddy has now retired. PC Jayne James stated that the PACT meetings have had to be cancelled due to purdah however should be re-established very soon, this is the responsibility of Claire Rogers and would be undertaken by the PCSO. Regarding the statistics, the categories are set by the Home Office and can be misleading. PC Jayne James stated that there are no significant crime issues in Cwmllynfell. PC Jayne James was invited to attend the meeting however she was not able to and in her email dated 12th June she has offered to meet with the nominated councillors.

Resolved to arrange a meeting with PC Jane James, D C Phillips and R P Morgan.

D A Thomas declared a conflict of interest and left the meeting.

Minute 42 c) Rhiwfawr Sport Field

Members are reminded of Standing Order 29 Discussions and Resolutions affecting Employees of the Council as this had not been followed in the last meeting.

If at a meeting there arises any question relating to the appointment, conduct, promotion, dismissal, salary or conditions of service, of any person employed by the Council, it shall not be considered until the Council or Committee (as the case may be) has decided whether or not the public and press shall be excluded.

Should this matter be known in advance of the meeting then it should appear on the agenda as notice to the meeting.

Redwood Environmental began work on the site 22nd May. A site visit was carried out 15th June and work has been hindered by the bad weather causing a delay. The rear trench has been dug and completed and it was anticipated that the left-hand trench be completed that day.

A letter was submitted by R P Morgan at the meeting from Paul's Plant Hire. The matter relates to Minute 137 (16/17). Minute 134 (16/17) resolved that this matter be dealt with in accordance to Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to exclude the public and press from this meeting as it would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

Resolved to seek further legal advice from One Voice Wales.

Minute 57.3 (16/17) Other Urgent Financial Matters – Christmas Lights

Emails were sent to Quarter Bach Community Council, Ystalyfera Community Council, Pontardawe Town Council and Ystradgynlais Town Council on 26th May. Quarter Bach Community Council have responded stating that NPTCBC install the Christmas garlands that they own; Pontardawe Town Council have just entered into a 3 year contract with Commercial Christmas.

Resolved for the situation to be noted.

Minute 111.1 (16/17) Street Lighting – Harris Road

The street lighting issue has been resolved and is scheduled to be replaced in August.

Resolved for the situation to be noted.

Minute 114.1 (16/17) Gynol Road and Harris Road

A site visit was conducted of both roads on 19th May. On Gynol Road the areas have been remarked by one of the local residents and the frontage addresses noted. Clarification was required regarding the properties affected whereby it is not the front of the property but along the side. Contact was made with J

Griffiths, NPTCBC 26th May and it was confirmed that permission would also need to be in place from those owners.

The site visit on Harris Road included two of the residents. The request was for improvements to be made to two existing speed bumps (the upper one being optional) and two new speed bumps; one between 3 and 4 Harris Road and the other at the end corner of 5 Harris Road. The resident, O Williams agreed to get the contact details of the landowner opposite the properties as permission would need to be in place there also. An address has been provided and a letter sent to the landowner.

Letters have been sent to all homeowners affected by the two unadopted roads seeking permission to carry out the proposed works.

Resolved for the situation to be noted.

Minute 114.3.2 (16/17) Trees at 61 Rhiw Road

D H Jones reported that the trees at this location have been inspected and it has been confirmed by NPTCBC estates section that the trees are growing on private property. There is a dead tree adjacent to 61 Rhiw Road which is within falling distance of the highway. The registered land owner will be contacted and asked to remove this tree. The relevant land owners will also be contacted regarding any overgrowth which is below the required height clearance above public highways and footpaths.

Regarding trees interfering with overhead lines it is the utility company responsibility to either maintain an adequate clearance i.e. electricity or to request the land owners to remove the branches as with telephone and fibre optics.

Resolved for the situation to be noted.

M Evans left the meeting.

Minute 123.2 (16/17) Children's Seat on Cycle Path

D H Jones reported that the area has been cleaned and cutback, and has spoken to the neighbours who have no complaints.

Resolved for the situation to be noted.

Minute 132.2 (16/17) Notice Board for Rhiwfawr

E L Morgan reported that contact has been made with the owner of the wall adjacent to the carpark and permission has been granted to place a wall mounted notice board onto the wall.

Resolved to draft a formal letter getting the agreement in writing.

132.4 (16/17) Repairs to Garage at Heol Daniel

The woodwork has been replaced however the garage door mechanics have rusted and bolts sheared off, therefore a replacement garage door is required. A quote was requested for a like for like door and this has been provided at £675 including the fitting.

Resolved to approve the quote.

Minute 12.2 Footbridge on FP14.Lgk Cwmllynfell

An email was sent 21st May, this has been passed to Alan Warner, the Manager responsible for the work and budget. A response was received 1st June stating that the budget for the bridge replacement program had only very recently been finally approved. The aim is to have the bridge replaced this summer, Carmarthenshire County Council just need to confirm a couple of minor points before the works can go ahead.

Resolved for the situation to be noted.

Minute 12.3 Trees to the rear of 89a Rhiw Road

A site visit was undertaken 22nd May with photographs taken and contact made with M Southgate. In undertaking further investigations to what had happened in previous years, a response was received from P Lloyd Jones providing background to the situation referred to in the letter from M Southgate. An email had been sent dated 9th October 2014 to M Southgate. The resulting actions were that some of the trees were thinned and residents were written to because garden waste was being deposited there; advice was obtained from NPTCBC as part of the Biodiversity Policy and to ensure that the wildlife habitat is not negatively affected.

In order to clarify if the wildlife area had been allocated any status, contact was made with Catrin Evans, NPTCBC Biodiversity section 26th May. It was agreed that they would look again at the site and provide an opinion. This was received from Wendy Larcombe 9th June and reads:

The stands of willow around the site are semi-mature and form an area of wet woodland, which is quite dense in places. They are valuable as part of the wider site but the woodland would actually benefit from being managed. Ideally, the canopy needs to be opened up in a number of places by selecting say 3-4 trees, and cutting them to the ground. They can either be left to re-grow as part of a rotational coppice (willows grow really quickly, so it will only take a couple of years for the gap to close over) or the cut stems can be treated with a stump treatment to stop them growing again.

Resolved to get a quote from Wrenvale Nurseries and Landscapes who currently carry out the grounds maintenance.

Minute 13.3 Election Booth

Jason Davies was notified 19th May about Rhiwfawr Hall being available however the portable election booth had already been ordered. Permission was obtained from Chair and Vice Chair to go ahead with putting the portable election booth on the car park again. This was agreed to and Jason Davies notified.

Resolved for the situation to be noted.

Minute 14.1 Insurance Renewal

The renewal has been completed and through the Long Term Agreement there has been a saving of £48.17. The renewal could not be completed by an electronic payment because the maximum level set is £600 and the total was £768.42. Instead a cheque was drafted.

Resolved for the situation to be noted.

Minute 14.4 Bank Mandate

The bank mandate requires signature from those to be added. The mandate to remove persons has also been completed.

Resolved for the situation to be noted.

23. Standing Order 48 Amendment

The numbering of the Standing Orders is incorrect therefore this needs to be amended to ensure that the numbers run concurrently. As a result, Standing Order 48 is Standing Order 47.

Unless the Council decides otherwise, the County Borough Councillor(s) representing the Electoral Division(s) affecting the Community shall be invited to attend meetings of the Council and shall be invited to participate but not vote in the business referred to in Standing order 14(i) or such other business as may be deemed appropriate at the discretion of the Chairman. This standing order would not apply in the case of the County Borough Councillor having also been elected as a Community Councillor when he/she will have the same rights and responsibilities as other Community Councillors.

Resolved to accept the amendment to Standing Order 47.

24. Correspondence – Refer to Clerk's Report.

In addition to the correspondence in the Clerk's Report the following has been received.

24.1 Email received through Council website 13th June. Comment:
On Sunday 11th of May at about 3 PM my partner and I walked the dog along Pen Y Bryn and down the public footpath adjacent to Number 26. We were shocked to find that someone had defaced the walls of the ruin with graffiti

using white emulsion paint, and had also tipped paint over the kissing gate at the end of the alleyway.

This must have happened sometime between 9:30 PM on Saturday and 3 PM Sunday as we had walked the dog on Saturday at 9:30 PM and there was no graffiti.

In the last month there had been some paint thrown over the kissing gate.

This is another case of mindless vandalism. The owner of number 26 has had some trouble in the last few months with children/teenagers loitering in and around the ruin and starting grass fires in the field behind it.

The fact that we have no PCSO presence, at the very least, in the village is beyond sad. The rural villages are the places that kids get bored easily.

Regards, Sal Townsend & Garry Hayne

This email was forwarded to both D H Jones and Samantha Brookman, PCSO. An email was sent replying stating that this had been done and that it would be raised at the Council meeting.

Resolved that graffiti has also been noted on the cemetery wall and on Rhiwfawr cattle grid and to raised at the meeting with the police.

24.2 Email received 14th June regarding One Voice Wales' Larger Councils and Innovative Practice Awards Conference - 5 July 2017 - Hafod a Hendre, Royal Welsh Showground.

Resolved for the situation to be noted.

24.3 A letter was received from Celtic Energy Ltd dated 9th June stating that the next Site Liaison meeting scheduled for 21st June has been postponed due to key local authority personnel being unavailable.

Resolved for the situation to be noted.

25. Financial Matters

25.1 Payment of Accounts

1884	Zurich Municipal	Insurance Renewal	£768.42
1886 DD	NEST	May Pension	£11.21
1887	A T Plastering	URN 003 East Pit Grant	£2,270
1888	Wrenvale	Grounds Maintenance	£1,178.40
1889	HMRC	Income Tax	£124.63
1890	S Richards	Net Salary, Mileage and Expenses	£625.21
1891	Open Spaces	Annual membership	£45.00

Note payment of account made 1881 / 101703 to One Voice Wales for £158 as membership payment has been returned. The membership invoice was wrongly sent.

Resolved for the situation to be noted.

25.2 Annual Return

The Annual Return documentation has been completed requiring approval.

Statement of income and expenditure / receipts and payments		
	Year ending 31 March 2016	Year ending 31 March 2017
Balances brought forward	51,712	60,787
(+) Income from local taxation /levy	29,000	29,000
(+) Total other receipts	14,210	58,015
(-) Staff costs	3,986	6,808
(-) Loan interest / capital repayments	0	0
(-) Total other payments	30,149	51,018
(=) Balances carried forward	60,787	89,976
Statement of balances		
(+) Debtors and stock balances	0	0
(+) Total cash and investments	60,787	89,976
(-) Creditors	0	0
(=) Balances carried forward	60,787	89,976
Total fixed assets and long terms assets	79,519	79,519
Total borrowing	0	0

Resolved to approve the Annual Return.

26. Planning Matters

Received after the notices for the meeting was sent:

26.1 Application Number: P2017/0524

Applicants Name /Address: MRS KAREN COLES, 13 HEOL DANIEL, CWMLLYNFELL, SWANSEA SA9 2GJ

Site Location: 13 HEOL DANIEL, CWMLLYNFELL, SWANSEA, SA9 2GJ

Proposed Development: Retention of outbuilding

Resolved for the situation to be noted.

26.2 Application Number: P2017/0036

Applicants Name / Address: Artisan Stone Supplies Ltd, Gwrhyd Quarry, Gwrhyd Road, Pontardawe, Swansea SA9 2SB

Site Location: Gwrhyd Specialist Quarry, Gwrhyd Uchaf Farm , Gwrhyd Road, Pontardawe, Swansea SA9 2SB

Proposed Development: Variation of Condition 15 of planning permission P2010 / 0026 in order to allow for a) an output of 750 tonnes of dimensional blockstone

and masonry products per working for the duration of the planning permission and b) the removal of 700 tonnes per working week of aggregate produced from waste stone resulting from the dimensional stone and masonry production process for a limited period of 2.5 years.

Resolved to object to the proposed planning application with the following reasons:

- a) Highway safety. There are insufficient crossing points when cars meet the lorries leaving the quarry causing the cars to reverse to enable clearance; there is concern of the speed of the lorries; it is unsafe to walk the road as when the lorries meet a pedestrian they must climb up the verge.
- b) The quarry operator has breached the traffic times condition with lorries travelling within school times.
- c) The quarry operator has breached the current stipulations within Condition 15.
- d) The lorries are damaging the verges and drainage systems.
- e) There has not been a site liaison meeting held in over a 12-month period.

J G Jones left the meeting.

27. Reports

27.1 Rhiwfawr Play Park – In the Clerk’s Report additional information.

The Grant Officer has been contacted to advise him that it is unlikely that a third quote will be forthcoming because HAGS – SMP had not been able to do so in January and would know by now that the community consultations will have been held. It was agreed for copies of the emails stating that they were unable to quote at the time will be considered.

Resolved for the situation to be noted.

27.2 Local Resolution Protocol

Resolved to adopt the Local Resolution Protocol.

27.3 A Shared Community: Charter Agreement

Resolved to sign up to the A Shared Community: Charter Agreement.

28. Information Items – see Clerk’s report.

Additional information received:

28.1 ICCM Summer Issue: The Journal

28.2 Federation of City Farms & Community Gardens: Plant a Seed – Grow a Community

28.3 National Framework for wales – Newsletter June 2017

Resolved for the situation to be noted.

28.4 J C Rees received a report that Llynfell Park was being vandalised. This is not the case, the children are climbing over the wooden fence when the football

goes out of the area. This could be resolved by a gateway being put into the fencing.

Resolved J C Rees and the Clerk to view the situation and report back.

The meeting was closed at 8:39pm.