

# Cyngor Cymuned Cwmllynfell Community Council

## Minutes of the Meetings at Cwmllynfell Hall on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at 6.30pm

### Present Councillors

Councillor J C Rees (Chair for the meeting)

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

### 101. Apologies for Absence

E L Morgan

A letter was sent to M Evans regarding his consecutive absences. J C Rees reported that M Evans is in ill health and wishes to resign from the Council. This was accepted.

**Resolved** for notice of the vacancy to be put in place.

### 102. Neudd Cwmllynfell Hall – Moira, Aeron and Martin

It was put to the Council to reconsider the grant amount awarded for 2018/19. In Neath Port Talbot many of the Community Councils own and manage the halls. In Cwmllynfell and Rhiwfawr this is different and is a unique situation. Irrespective of this they all have something in common which is to improve the quality of life for villagers. The Hall has to provide statistics to NPTCBC in order to be able to apply the grant from them.

18:34 D H Jones arrived

In the last 9 months there have been 525 events e.g. kick boxing etc and there have been 13,694 participants. The grant from NPTCBC has been reduced by 25% and 50% from the Council. The Hall is also under pressure to take on the lease for the building. The proposed kitchen improvements have been approved on the basis that the Hall takes on the lease. This means that an additional £1,200 has to be found for the buildings insurance.

It costs approx. £56,000 to run the hall and the grants do not cover all of this, so the shortfall has to be made up from elsewhere e.g. room hire. The Trustees and volunteers contribution to the running of the hall has been calculated to be the equivalent of a £12,400 paid staff member. A grant of £10,000 is the equivalent of 38p per household for Cwmllynfell and Rhiwfawr and 16p for Cwmllynfell only.

The Hall has lost money from various sources such as the bowls club (£7K), library (£4½K), NPTCBC (£5K) and £3K from the Council. Contact has been made with Jeremy Miles AM who is meeting with the Leader, NPTCBC 2<sup>nd</sup> March. The money that the Hall has needs to be kept if it were to close e.g. redundancy and to see it through the bad times. Based on the annual reports and payments to go out for the year is it estimated that there would be a balance of £3K.

There is a mis perception that the Hall has lots of money. The assets held within the building do not belong to the Hall and if Hall were to close these would need to be distributed to similar charities. There is a fear of closure and the Hall have come to ask for help from the Council.

D H Jones feedback that Dave Phillips, NPTCBC has reported that the lease is currently with the solicitors.

In response, the Council does not undertake any decision lightly when it comes to funding. The Council has a number of significant expenditures to consider such as the electrification of the dummy poles for the Christmas lights, the repair work to Gynol Road, Rhiwfawr Sports Field, 3-year maintenance programme for the Rushlands in Rhiwfawr. The allocated community hall grant figure had to be decided in December in order to meet a deadline set by NPTCBC. It was agreed for the Council to review the allocation. The reason why it is paid out in 3 instalments because this is how the Council receives its precept payment.

Regarding the Remembrance event it was suggested that something was done together as it is a significant anniversary. It was discussed how best to proceed.

Moira, Aeron and Martin left the meeting.

D H Jones reported that in a meeting between Hall representatives and himself that the Hall would like the grant payment to be one instalment and there be an agreement for 5-year funding.

**Resolved to:**

- a) Increase the grant payment to £8,000 for the financial year 2018/19.
- b) The payments will continue to be made in 3 instalments.
- c) Propose to the Hall that subject to a satisfactory business plan that is received before the next grant application, that an application can be submitted for 5-year funding for £6,000 per annum. This will be for financial years 19/20 – 23/24. This would remove the need to submit an annual application. The allocated figure would remain open to review.
- d) Moira is to forward a date and time to the Clerk who will in turn circulate this to all the Councillors who will attend subject to their availability.

**103. Declarations of Interest**

D A Thomas for Matters Arising Minute 42c) (16/17) Rhiwfawr Sports Field.

R M Evans for 7. Financial Matters b) East pit Community Benefit Grant Applications i. URN 011 Cylch Cwmtawe Urdd Gobaith Cymru

**104. Minutes of the Meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

**Resolved** agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.

**105. Matters Arising**

19:31 D A Thomas left the meeting.

### **Minute 42c) (16/17) Rhiwfawr Sports Field**

Rob Hatton of Redwood Environmental has been emailed again requesting evidence that the drainage system is working and to have a site visit so that the re-seeding can be discussed. No response has been received.

**Resolved** to continue to chase for an update on the field.

19:37 D A Thomas returned to the meeting.

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

The Christmas tree has been removed from Rhiwfawr. A meeting with Centre Great which has been requested and in the process of being arranged.

**Resolved** for the situation to be noted.

### **Minute 114.1 (16/17) Gynol Road**

The improvement work is scheduled for 5<sup>th</sup> March. It is estimated to be one day's work and all residents have been notified so that they are not parking on the road.

**Resolved** for the situation to be noted.

### **Minute 27.1 Rhiwfawr Play Park**

Wayne Curtis, NPTCBC was contacted for advice regarding the specification for the pathway. In turn contact details were given for Nick Taylor who is undertaking the RoSPA inspections for NPTCBC. The pathway is a 'transfer route' and can be tarmac or flagstone.

**Resolved** to get three quotes for the pathway to be improved with tarmac.

### **Minute 28.4 Llynfell Park Fencing**

D H Jones reported to the Clerk after the last meeting that the wooden fencing is the responsibility of the Council therefore MDG Building & Tiling was requested to undertake the repair work as a matter of urgency, and this has been completed.

The matter as to why the originally proposed high fence to be installed by NPTCBC has still not been resolved. If this had been installed then such repair work would not be required.

RoSPA were contacted regarding the installation of a gateway / doorway that would lead directly from the multi-use play area onto NPTCBC grounds. This led to contact being made with the technical advisors, who in turn requested photos. These were emailed 6<sup>th</sup> February. A response has been received stating that a safe gateway would be the answer here. There is still the possibility that children will approach the drop, but you have given them the safe option. Continuous repairs should also stop. As children are damaging the timber fencing, putting

themselves in danger next to the drop, the alternative access is reasonable. Monitoring of the site will be needed in the early stages after installation.

D H Jones to liaise with NPTCBC staff.

**Resolved** to:

- a) Write to NPTCBC regarding the perimeter fence.
- b) Get quotes for the installation of a safe gateway onto the adjoining NPTCBC land.

### **Minutes 38.3 Barclays Bank Account**

There has been a delay in R M Evans obtaining online banking authorisation as a result of escalating it to a complaint Barclays have made a £25 compensation payment.

The letter authorising the closure of the HSBC account has been sent and the remaining funds will be made directly into the Barclays account.

**Resolved** for the situation to be noted.

### **Minute 40.2 RoSPA Inspection Report for Llynfell Park**

An email was sent to Wayne Hock with the deadline included and no response was received. The RoSPA website was checked to see if he was still registered which he is with the same contact details.

R M Evans reported that he has met Wayne two weeks ago on another matter. Wayne explained that he has had a problem with getting the part. He has promised to undertake the work and if needs be do it free of charge.

**Resolved** to accept this offer.

### **Minute 57.1 Cemetery**

The voluntary registration application form for the Rhiwfawr land does not require a formal valuation to be included. It will require the original deeds to be submitted and this will be sent with proof of postage.

**Resolved** for the situation to be noted.

### **Minute 99.3 Grounds Maintenance 18/19**

A 3-year quote has been received from Wrenvale and a further four companies have been invited to quote. The deadline for quotes is 8<sup>th</sup> March.

## **106. Correspondence** – Refer to Clerk's Report.

All correspondence accepted.

**Resolved** to respond in writing in support of the petition under Agenda Item 6.3.

## 107. Financial Matters

### 107.1 Payment of Accounts

1938	NEST	Pension	£11.21
1939	HMRC	Income Tax	£124.63
1940	S Richards	Salary, mileage and expenses	£539.58
1041	Land Registry	Voluntary first registration	£30.00
1042	MDG Building & Tiling	Repair to Llynfell Park fence	£120.00
1043	One Voice Wales	Membership	£166.00

**Resolved** to accept all payment of accounts.

### 107.2 East Pit Community Benefit Grant Applications

#### a) URN 011 Cylch Cwmtawe Urdd Gobaith Cymru

It was agreed that only complete grant applications could be assessed and currently this application is incomplete. The following information has been requested to assist the Council in making a decision.

- i. Provision of the organisation's governing document and a set of the most recent accounts (Guideline 20) in order to abide by the guidelines.
- ii. What is the location of the Urdd, therefore the venue.
- iii. Which are the 7 local schools.
- iv. Approx how many pupils from YGG Cwmllynfell will benefit
- v. What date/s is the Urdd taking place

**Resolved** to consider once all information has been provided.

#### b) URN 012 Age Connects Neath Port Talbot

**Resolved** not to support the application.

## 108. Planning Matters

D A Thomas and R P Morgan declared interest at this point and left the meeting 20:09

### 108.1 Application to change the register of Common Land – CL25A Entry 119 (as modified by Entry 232) Application No. NPT0031

**Resolved** for the situation to be noted.

20:12 D A Thomas and R P Morgan returned to the meeting.

### 108.2 Application Number: P2018/0035

Applicants Name /Address: Grace Chan - Cleanearth, Unit 2A&2B, Bess Park Road, Trenant Industrial Estate, Wadebridge, PL27 6HB

Site Location: Land at, Pen Y Waun Farm, Rhyd Y Fro, Pontardawe, SA8 4TA  
Proposed Development: Request for screening opinion under the Town and Country Planning (Environment Impact Assessment) Regulations (Wales) 2016 Regulation 5 for the erection of one wind turbine (maximum height to tip 130m).

**Resolved** for the situation to be noted.

## **109. Reports**

Resolution: It is proposed under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meeting) Act 1960 to exclude the public and press from Agenda Item 9a of this meeting as it would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

### **109.1 Recruitment of Clerk**

**Resolved** to:

- a) To add an additional question.
- b) All questions will be circulated to the Councillors 16<sup>th</sup> February. If there are any amendments / suggestions these can be made with a deadline in the following week.
- c) The interview date is Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at 6.30pm at Cwmllynfell Hall and will involve all Councillors.
- d) Private and confidential paperwork will be circulated to all Councillors before the interviews.

### **109.2 Cemetery Charges 2018/19 – Refer to Clerk’s Report**

**Resolved** to accept the proposed increase in charges.

### **109.3 Rushlands Wildlife Maintenance Programme – Refer to Clerk’s Report**

**Resolved** for the situation to be noted.

### **109.4 Cllr D H Jones**

- a) Complaint received from Penybryn resident regarding the footpath at Coed Cae Gate.
- b) Look to have NPTCBC remove the graffiti on the cemetery wall, near the cattle grid and on Penybryn Road.
- c) The ditch on the cycle path is being cleared.
- d) Complaint regarding the amount of dog fouling in the cycle path. The dog warden has been notified.
- e) There is an issue with the parking at YGG Cwmllynfell. Martin Brumby, NPTCBC is in the process of drafting a plan. There are times when residents are unable to leave their homes.

- f) Anti-social activities have been raised regarding the residents in Samuel Road flats.
- g) The Council Tax increase has been dropped to 3.7% because NPTCBC had a better settlement than previously expected.
- h) Planning agreement is in place for two laybys to be placed on the Gwrhyd Common and has been agreed by the Commoners. Contact now needs to be made with the Chair to agree the exact locations.
- i) Signage is to be placed on the entrances to Pen Rhiw Road because HGVs are travelling to Gwrhyd Quarry because the sat navs are taking the non-local drivers there.

**Resolved** for all matters to be noted.

### **109.5 Other Reports**

D C Phillips advised D H Jones to look at the plans associated with the East Pit for when it closes. In the January Council meeting it was mentioned that chicanes were to be installed between Cefnbrynbrain and Cwmllynfell. On the East Pit plans there was a suggested 40m diameter roundabout in the same vicinity.

**Resolved** for D H Jones to look into the future plans.

R P Morgan asked about the mirror to go on the road on the sharp corner entering Rhiwfawr. This is not possible because until the policy is written NPTCBC are following the Welsh Government guidelines which would not allow any new mirrors to be installed on the highway.

**Resolved** for the situation to be noted.

G Davies was notified by a local resident that NPTCBC currently have a number of free reformed benches and these could possibly be installed around the Rushlands or in the playpark

**Resolved** D H Jones to find out more information.

### **110. Information Items – see Clerk’s Report.**

The meeting was closed at 21:01