MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT PENYRHEOL COMMUNITY CENTRE
ON THURSDAY, 16th JULY 2015

Present:

Chair
Cllr S Skivens

Community Councillors
Cllr W H Allen, Cllr Ms M Britton, Cllr C Coombes, Cllr H R Davies, Cllr Mrs S ap Hywel, Cllr T ap Hywel, Cllr A Pennington, Cllr P Slarke

Clerk to the Council - Mrs Helen Treherne

Miss Meg Owen, Youth Ambassador

47. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Cllr Mrs M E Sargent.

48. MINUTES OF MEETING

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 18th June 2015, having been previously circulated were considered and duly accepted and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

49. MATTERS ARISING

(a) The Clerk gave an update on the list of items from the previous meeting that she had been asked to raise with Caerphilly County Borough Council.

(b) Cllr W H Allen asked about the certificate for Mr Prem Bhoji. The Chairman informed Councillors that the template he had had not worked and that the Clerk would now be outsourcing the certificate as soon as possible. (Reference : Council minutes 18.06.15, reference 26 (d).

(c) The Chairman reported that a reply had been received from CCBC regarding the traffic concerns within the wards. It was felt that the reply was not sufficient and he would be seeking to meet with the Interim Chief Executive of CCBC and would report back to the next meeting.

(d) Cllr P Slarke reported that he had not heard from the Allotment Association regarding the proposed fruit and vegetable competition. He said that he would try again and arrange something for next year.
(e) The Chairman said that he and Cllr Mrs Sargent had not yet met with CCBC officers regarding the planting of seeds flowers and would report back to the next meeting.

50. **CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS**

**Declarations of Interest – Public Register**

The Clerk reminded Members that it is their responsibility and duty to declare any interest they may have in matters that come before meetings of the Community Council.

RESOLVED – Noted (to comply with requirements of the Local Government Act 2000)

51. **POLICE AND RELATED MATTERS**

There was no Police presence, as per agreement.

RESOLVED : Noted

52. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The following planning applications were considered:

(a) 15/0378/FULL - 86 Brynglas Penyrheol Caerphilly CF83 2PL
    - Convert existing garage to living accommodation

(b) 15/0412/OUT Land North Of Hendredenny Drive Hendredenny Caerphilly
    - Erect residential development of up to 260 dwellings with open space

The above planning applications were considered by the Council.

RESOLVED – in the general interest of the community that:

having been previously circulated to Members and having received no comments or objections in respect of application (a) the Clerk’s action in informing the Planning Authority that the Council does not wish to make any comments or raise any objections to the application be noted.

having been previously circulated to Members in respect of application (b), Councillors asked the Clerk to submit objections on the following grounds:

Highway safety/traffic management. There is a lot of traffic congestion in that area already at the moment and Councillors feel this would only worsen with the proposed housing development, with more traffic being generated and no extra roads or provision for this. Councillors are concerned that the town of Caerphilly and villages of Abertridwr and Senghenydd could potentially one day merge into one and there is only one road going into and out of Abertridwr. Hendredenny Estate also only has one road in and out and is very busy at peak periods already.
Lack of additional infrastructure. Schools, GP surgeries, dentists etc are full to breaking point as it is and extra residents would impact greatly on the current infrastructure.

Environmental/nature conservation. The green belt between Caerphilly and Abertridwr would become less and also many sewerage, water, gas pipes etc would have to be inserted into the ground. Councillors understand that there were difficulties with main sewers when the last two developments took place off Hendrenny Estate. This caused problems for other residents. The sewerage system is at capacity and will require major works, creating further unacceptable disruption to the whole area. The green belt visual aspect would also be affected.

Loss of visual and amenity space, especially in relation to the three-storey properties and flats having an overbearing effect on the green belt area between Caerphilly and Abertridwr.

The proposed entrance to the planned site is in a dangerous location, whereby there are already problems with speeding traffic and residents of Ty Isaf having problems getting onto the main road.

There could potentially be a problem with the proposed flats having an overbearing effect on the properties already on the Ty Isaf Estate, which could lead to less light to those particular properties.

RESOLVED – Clerk to submit objections re : (b).

53. REPORTS ON MISCELLANEOUS MEETINGS

a) Various

Cllr W H Allen reported that he had attended:

Penyrheol Community Centre management meeting;
Proms in the Park;
Summer playscheme registration.

b) Various

Cllr Ms M Britton reported that she had attended:

Summer playscheme registration;
Cwm Ifor Primary School sports days.

c) Various

Cllr C Coombes reported that he had attended:

Summer playscheme registration;
Cwm Ifor Primary School sports days.

d) **Various**

Cllr H R Davies reported that he had attended:

Proms in the Park;

Mayor’s Charity Evening.

e) **Various**

Cllr S Skivens reported that he had attended:

Summer playscheme registration.

f) **Various**

Cllr P Slarke reported that he had attended:

Proms in the Park.

54. **MEMBERS ITEMS**

(a) **Various**

The Clerk gave an update of matters that have been resolved and matters that are still under discussion with CCBC.

**RESOLVED – Noted**

(b) **Various**

The Clerk requested Members to advise her of any matters they have previously requested to be raised with CCBC that are still unresolved or outstanding.

The Clerk advised Members that if they report any matters to the Customer Care Line of CCBC that they obtain the log number as this is very important in following up matters.

**RESOLVED – Noted**

(c) Cllr Ms M Britton reported that she was looking into arranging a ‘Bands in the Park’ day next year, called Penyrheol Live. A proposal was being put together and she would bring the proposal to the next meeting.

**RESOLVED – Noted**

(d) Cllr C Coombes reported that there was a problem with overgrown trees by the bus stop in Heol Aneurin. Also, there were a lot of brambles in the compound in Penyrheol.

**RESOLVED – Clerk to contact CCBC**
(e) Cllr W H Allen reported that there was a problem with overgrown trees in Bowls Lane.

RESOLVED – Clerk to contact CCBC

55. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Press Items

The Clerk outlined press cuttings of interest that affected the Council’s area.

RESOLVED – Noted

(b) Caerphilly County Borough Council

An email had been received from CCBC informing that it would be removing financial support for Christmas lighting in towns and villages across the county. Councillors were dismayed to hear about yet another funding cut but agreed that the shortfall would be made up, as they felt the community needed some festive cheer at Christmastime.

RESOLVED – Christmas lighting to be erected, as per usual, this year

(c) General correspondence

No general correspondence had been received.

RESOLVED – Noted

56. QUARTERLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The quarterly financial statement had been distributed prior to the meeting. Councillors resolved to accept the quarterly financial statement as a true record.

RESOLVED – Quarterly financial statement accepted as a true record

57. ISSUE OF OVERGROWN TREES AT Y FELIN FFRWD

This issue had been ongoing for a long time now and the Chairman said he would have one last attempt at speaking to CCBC regarding the issue. If he did not make any progress, the matter would be taken off future agendas as there was nothing else that could be done. The important thing was that the dangerous branches had been cut down and no longer posed a threat to the residents.

RESOLVED – Chairman to speak to CCBC officers
58. **COMMUNITY COUNCILLOR VACANCY UPDATE**

   The Clerk reported that an election would be held on Thursday, 3rd September for the Community Council vacancy.

   RESOLVED – Noted

59. **YOUTH EVENT**

   Councillors felt that the children’s party had not been particularly successful and therefore decided that the money that would have been spent on the Civic Service would be best given to the Chairman’s Charities for the forthcoming year.

   RESOLVED – Equivalent of monies spent on Civic Service to be given to Chairman’s Charities

60. **YOUTH AMBASSADOR**

   The Youth Ambassador, Miss Meg Owen reported that the Us Girls programme was up and running and was going well and funding was being sourced. A further report would follow at the next meeting.

   RESOLVED – Noted

61. **PENYRHEOL SKATE PARK**

   The Chairman reported that the application to the Police & Crime Commissioner’s funds had not been successful. The Chairman said he would speak to Rebecca regarding sourcing alternative funding and report back to the next meeting.

   RESOLVED – Chairman to meet with Rebecca to discuss funding sources

62. **SUMMER PLAYSHEME**

   The Clerk informed Councillors that everything was on track for the summer playschemes. Registration had taken place and both playschemes were full. The playschemes would be starting the following week.

   RESOLVED – Noted

63. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF DONATIONS**

   Acknowledgement of donation had been received from the Over 50’s and the Mayor’s Charity Appeal.
64. **DONATIONS**

   a) **Senghenydd Drop-in Centre**

   RESOLVED – in the interest of benefit to the community that a donation of £200 be approved.

   b) **Home Start Caerphilly Borough**

   RESOLVED – in the interest of benefit to the community that a donation of £100 be approved.

   c) **Eisteddfod y Cymoedd**

   RESOLVED – in the interest of benefit to the community that a donation of £150 be approved;

   d) **Undercurrents**

   RESOLVED – in the interest of benefit to the community that a donation of £200 be approved;

   e) **Chairman’s Charities**

   The total of the Chairman’s Charities came to £310 per charity. The Chairman asked if Councillors would like to make up that amount. Cllr W H Allen declared an interest because he was a member of St Andrews Church and took no further part in discussions. It was resolved that each of the three charities would receive £400 each.

   RESOLVED – Each of the three charities to receive £400 each

65. **APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS FOR JULY 2015**

   The following payments were approved by the Council:

   (a) Clerk’s salary – July 2015;
   (b) Clerk’s expenses – July 2015;
   (c) Inland Revenue – July 2015;
   (d) Members’ expenses – July 2015;
   (e) Summer playscheme expenditure;
   (f) Zurich Insurance annual policy - £1446.77.

66. **ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED AT NEXT MEETING**

   Penyrheol Live to be discussed at next meeting.

67. **NEXT MEETING**

   RESOLVED that the next meeting be held on Thursday, 17th September 2015 at Penyrheol Community Centre.
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