
**CYNGOR CYMUNED
PENYRHEOL TRECENYDD ENERGLYN
COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT PENYRHEOL COMMUNITY CENTRE
ON THURSDAY, 20th FEBRUARY 2014**

Present :

Chair

Cllr Mrs M E Sargent (Acting Chairman)

Community Councillors

Cllr W H Allen, Cllr Mrs S ap Hywel, Cllr Mrs A Nash Cllr R Phillips, Cllr P Slarke

Clerk to the Council - Mrs Helen Treherne

120. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllr Ms M Britton, Cllr H R Davies, Cllr A W Pennington and Cllr S Skivens.

121. **MINUTES OF MEETING**

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 16th January 2014 having been previously circulated were considered and duly accepted and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

122. **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. She was still awaiting a reply on all items.
- (b) Cllr Mrs M E Sargent said that she had attended the opening of the new Energlyn train station (ref : minutes of meeting 16.02.14, ref item number: 105 (e)).

RESOLVED : Noted

- (c) Cllr Mrs M E Sargent said that she had met with Mr Simon Beacham of CCBC to discuss the siting of the bench to commemorate the life of Cllr Mrs Anne Collins. A location had been selected and the bench would now be purchased and sited, with the plaque in situ (ref : minutes of meeting 16.01.14, ref : item number 101 b)).

RESOLVED : Noted

- (d) The Clerk submitted to Council an email received from CCBC in response to the query about the play area in Penyrheol Park. CCBC informed that the Association of Play Industries recommend that to prevent animal access, all pedestrian gates should open outwards, unless opening directly onto a footpath where they could cause a collision and there was no latch to prevent any finger entrapments. However, the groundsman would be instructed to ensure the grass is mechanically blown off any play surfaces and he would be asked to check for broken glass. (ref : minutes of meeting 16.01.14, item number 106 (f)).

RESOLVED – Noted

- (e) The Clerk submitted to Council an email received from CCBC in response to the query about the drain on the footpath adjacent to St Andrew’s Church. The response said that the site was visited when it was raining and it was noted that outside the church there were drop kerbs and when it is raining it would pool very slightly. Either side of the drop kerbs were two carriageway gullies and they were working and taking the surface water away. Cllr Slarke said he was not sure if this was the correct area that Cllr Phillips had raised concerns about and would go and do a site visit before getting back to CCBC (ref : minutes of meeting 16.01.14, ref : item number

RESOLVED – Cllr Slarke to do site visit at St Andrew’s Church and report back to next meeting

- (f) The Clerk submitted to Council an email received from CCBC in response to the query about lighting at the end of Court Road. The response said that there was no available budget within Street Lighting to cater for additional lighting, at a time when future budgets were likely to be insufficient to maintain the extent of asset that was already in existence (ref : minutes of meeting 24.10.13, item number 68 (c)).

Cllr Mrs M E Sargent suggested that an item could be placed on the agenda to discuss possible ways that the Community Council could help, in relation to items that could not be paid for/purchased by CCBC in light of the current financial situation.

RESOLVED – Clerk to place item on agenda for next meeting

123. **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)

124. **POLICE AND RELATED MATTERS**

Inspector Gareth Jones, PC Steve Dyer and PCSO Ryan Herbert were in attendance.

RESOLVED : Noted

125. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The following planning applications were considered :

- (a) 14/0022/FULL – 6 Bardsey Island Way, Caerphilly CF83 2DD
- Convert garage into play room
- (b) 14/0029/FULL – 3 Y Cilffordd, Caerphilly CF83 2LS
- Erect single-storey side extension
- (c) 14/0051/FULL – 7 Skomer Island Way, Caerphilly CF83 2AR
- Convert existing integral garage into additional sitting room
- (d) 14/0079/FULL – Hendredenny Hall, Morlais Court, Hendredenny, Caerphilly CF83 2RL
- Construct new driveway and new gates to replace existing fence

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 applications (a), (b), (c) and (d), 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 applications be noted.

RESOLVED – Noted

126. **REPORTS ON MISCELLANEOUS MEETINGS**

a) **Various**

Cllr Mrs S ap Hywel reported that she had attended a Twinning Committee meeting.

b) **Various**

Cllr Mrs A Nash reported that she had attended :

Several meetings of the Trecenydd Management Committee, including AGM;

Senghenydd Memorial Trust Committee meeting;

Hendre Infants School Governors’ meetings;

St Cenydd Community School Special Memorial Assembly for the Universal Pit Disaster;

Charity event at Beddau Church, St Cenydd Road;

Prince’s Trust Awards presentation;

Trecenydd Community Centre Christmas pantomime.

c) **Various**

Cllr Mrs M E Sargent reported that she had attended several Hendre Junior School meetings.

127. **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) **Various**

Cllr Mrs S ap Hywel reported that the trench in Hendredenny, by the foot bridge had collapsed.

RESOLVED – Clerk to report issue to CCBC

Cllr Mrs S ap Hywel also said she had received complaints from residents living in Glenfields about the change of bus times to and from Caerphilly.

RESOLVED – Clerk to write to Stagecoach to raise the issue

(f) **Various**

Cllr Mrs M E Sargent said that taxis were blocking the lane adjacent to Penyrheol Community Centre, making it difficult for visitors to get in and out of the car park.

RESOLVED – clerk to write to Castell Taxis to ask if they would kindly not park in that area

Cllr Mrs M E Sargent also said that there was a burnt-out bus in the grounds of the Aneurin Club, which looked unsightly.

RESOLVED – Clerk to write to owner of club to ask if they could be removed.

128. **CORRESPONDENCE**

(a) **Press Items**

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

RESOLVED – Noted

(b) **Caerphilly County Borough Council**

Email received from CCBC re : Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Annual Report – February 2014. The Clerk asked Councillors to read the report and come back to the next meeting with any observations/comments

RESOLVED – Councillors to come back to next meeting with any observations/comments

A Practical Guide To Scrutiny had been received from CCBC and the Clerk asked Councillors to read through the guide. Cllr Mrs M E Sargent suggested that Councillors should contact the relevant Scrutiny Committee if they ever had any issues with items such as crime and disorder, health, social care and wellbeing, education for life, policy and resources or regeneration and environment.

RESOLVED – Councillors to read through guide

Email received from CCBC regarding consultation on the publication of the Welsh Government Marine and Fisheries Strategic Action Plan. The Clerk asked Councillors to read the Action Plan and to come back to the next meeting with any comments/observations. The consultation would be open for eight weeks.

RESOLVED – Councillors to come back to next meeting with any observations/comments

Email received from CCBC regarding Local Government (Wales) Byelaws Act 2012 – Implementation consultation. The Clerk asked Councillors to read through the Byelaws and to come back to the next meeting with any comments/observations. Comments would have to be submitted by 11th May at the latest.

RESOLVED - Councillors to come back to next meeting with any observations/comments

(c) **General correspondence**

A copy of the training programme from One Voice Wales had been received. Councillors said that if courses were held locally, they may have attended, but the courses were being held too far away.

RESOLVED – Clerk to write to One Voice Wales to inform them of these comments

129. **UPDATE ON COUNCIL'S NEW WEBSITE**

The Clerk informed Councillors that she and the Chairman had attended a meeting with Mr Nick Rutter of CCBC to put together the new website. All information had now been forwarded to Mr Rutter, who would now be building the new website. Training would then be given to the Clerk and the Chairman on how to use the website. A fee of £500 per year would be charged for the upkeep of the website and the Clerk asked Councillors if this was acceptable. Councillors agreed that this sum was acceptable.

RESOLVED – Fee of £500 to be paid to CCBC annually for the upkeep of the website

130. **UPDATE ON PENYRHEOL SKATE PARK FUNDING APPLICATION**

The Clerk informed Councillors that she had sourced funding which was available from the Gwent High Sheriff's Fund. The Fund aimed to provide a safer and better quality of life for the people of Gwent by supporting community-based initiatives and projects that reduce crime and improve community safety.

The closing date for applications had already passed before the Council meeting and the Chairman had therefore decided to provisionally apply for a grant from the Fund towards a half pipe ramp for the Penyrheol Skate Park. If Councillors had then not agreed with this application, the application could have been retracted, but the forms had to be submitted before the closing date, or it would have been too late.

The Clerk had asked CCBC to source prices for more equipment for the Skate Park and had suggested that a half pipe would be the most appropriate. The Clerk had also asked CCBC if they could pay for installation for this piece of equipment (£3,000) and this had been agreed.

The total amount for the half pipe was £8,634 plus VAT, plus installation. The grant applied for totaled £3,500, which would mean that the Council would have to pay the balance, totaling £5,134. Councillors agreed that more equipment was needed in the Skate Park and agreed that a donation of £5,134 would be given towards its purchase.

Grants would be awarded at a participatory grant-making event on 22nd March 2014.

RESOLVED - Community Council to pay £5,134 towards the half pipe

131. **SUMMER PLAYSCHMES**

The Clerk informed Councillors that the advert had now gone out for two playworkers for the summer playschemes and that she had contacted Mr Gareth Rees, Head Teacher of Cwm Ifor Primary School to see if the Penyrheol playscheme could revert back to being held at the school. She was awaiting a response from Mr Rees, after he had spoken to the governors.

RESOLVED – Noted

132. **NEWSLETTER**

The Clerk informed Councillors that she would be arranging a meeting of the Newsletter Sub-Committee in due course and asked that Councillors on that committee think of some items for the newsletter. Cllr Mrs M E Sargent said that Hendre Junior School had an item for the newsletter and asked the Clerk to chase up.

RESOLVED – Clerk to contact Hendre Junior School.

133. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF DONATIONS**

No acknowledgments had been received.

134. **DONATIONS**

a) **Windsor School of Dance**

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

b) **Ysgol Gymraeg Caerffili**

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

135. **APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2014**

The following payments were approved by the Council :

- (a) Clerk's salary – February 2014;
- (b) Clerk's expenses – February 2014;
- (c) Inland Revenue – February 2014;
- (d) Members' expenses – February 2014.

136. **ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

- a) There was no other urgent business.

RESOLVED – Noted

137. **NEXT MEETING**

RESOLVED that the next meeting be held on Thursday, 13th March 2014 at Penyrheol Community Centre at 7.00 pm. This meeting would be held a week earlier due to the end of the financial year.

PLEASE NOTE

Should there be any queries relating to these minutes would Members kindly contact the Clerk.

Meeting with Police and Crime Commissioner, Mr Ian Johnston
Thursday, 20th February 2014 at 7.00 pm

Following the ordinary meeting, the Police and Crime Commissioner, Mr Ian Johnston attended and was asked the following questions, to which he gave the following answers, along with Inspector Gareth Jones, PC Steve Dyer and PCSO Ryan Herbert :

1. **How can the Commissioner's office work directly with community councils to develop projects and schemes to reduce anti-social behaviour at a tactical level?**

Inspector Gareth Jones said that Gwent Police had already made use of PCC funding and had successfully bid for two projects, ie the youth club at St Martin's and graffiti problems in the town centre.

Mr Johnston suggested that Councillors access the Police and Crime Commissioner's website which set out his key strategic objectives for Gwent over the next four years. He said that the plan should represent what the people want from policing. The plan would aim to tackle the following Police and crime priorities : to deliver the best quality of service available, to reduce and prevent crime, to take more effective action to reduce anti-social behaviour, to protect people from serious harm and to make the best use of resources and provide value for money. £52,000 had been sourced by the Police and Crime Commissioner to fund projects across the Gwent area, especially youth projects. Unfortunately, projects that had initially been funded by local authorities were now faced with the prospect of funding being withdrawn.

2. **How can we jointly share what is actually working with other groups and organisations? The intention being a co-ordinated response across an area, rather than moving the problem elsewhere.**

Inspector Jones said that good practice was already shared between policing teams in South Wales and also shared at forums such as Community Council meetings, PACT meetings etc. A meeting was planned to take place on 25th March 2014 at St Cenydd Community School for the purpose of sharing best practices with the public and other partners.

3. **How can we have a degree of sustainability on the local policing team?**

Inspector Jones said that Police Officers/PCSO's would now be staying for at least two years as he believed it took time to build trust and that it was important to the public to be able to see the same faces instead of different officers all the time. Unfortunately, policing teams do have a high turnover, especially as the PCSO position was now the main route to becoming a PC. They were now looking to review response times within the local area and were trying to get more staff. As the area had such good results, officers were keen to come into the area. At present there were five PC's in the Neighbourhood Policing Team and nine PCSO's.

Mr Johnston said that 101 PCSO's were currently funded by the Welsh Assembly and 134 funded by the Home Office. Another £17 million would need to be found in the next two years. PCSO's would be reduced to 109. There would be re-examination of and increase in hours for those who were currently only offered part-time hours, so the actual numbers would be less, but the hours would increase. Subsequently, Gwent Police would be a smaller organisation. However, up until now there had only been natural wastage.

It was asked why there was such a gap between PC and PCSO wages and she suggested that new PC recruits should perhaps come in at a lower salary. Mr Johnston said that the gap was not so much these days.

4. What budget sources are available via the Commissioner's office to support local initiatives?

Mr Johnston informed Councillors about the Partnership Fund, where £100,000 was available for different projects. The 2014/15 round of monies was not yet available but would be advertised on Twitter, Facebook, in newspapers etc and he advised Councillors to keep an eye out for that.

5. In the seminar held a while back at Ty Penallta, Mr Johnston said that a number of police stations were to re-open and they are.

However, the main police station in Caerphilly is not and is to be replaced by a desk at the new Library. What good is this when, if there is a major disturbance in the town, all detainees still have to go to Ystrad Mynach or Blackwood? This means more travelling time transferring, surely? Therefore, why isn't Caerphilly reopening please?

Inspector Jones said that there had not been custody facilities in Caerphilly for a long time as that was served by Ystrad Mynach, so the closing of the former Caerphilly Police station had not made a difference in that respect. A front counter would be opening in April at Caerphilly Library, so there would always be someone there with which the community could liaise with personally.

Mr Johnston that there had been no consultation whatsoever regarding the closing of Police stations and that this had been done centrally. He said that Caerphilly was a big town. He also said that they had turned the decision to close Bargoed Police station around and it had stayed open. There had been talk of having a Police station out of town, but whenever Mr Johnston spoke to the public, there was an overwhelming desire to have face-to-face contact with the local Policing team, locally.

Caerphilly, Ystrad Mynach, Risca, Pontypool, Maindee in Newport, Chepstow and Monmouth police stations would see front counter services brought back, while Brynmawr and Abertillery would reopen for two to three days per week each, sharing resources. Caerphilly's front counter would be set up in the town's Library while across Gwent, Raglan, Cwm, Llanhilleth, Cwmfelinfach and Newbridge police stations would be sold.

6. Two questions – both relating to opening of police stations :

Is Chief Constable Farrar in agreement with this?

Has the Police precept (2.66%) been increased to cover the cost of the openings?

Mr Johnston said that it was not acceptable that Police stations were closing. He said he had a weekly two-hour meeting with the Chief Constable and he gave a rundown every week of what the public thought about items such as this and that the number one issue in the eyes of the public had been the closing down of Police stations and that these closures had taken away the public reassurance aspect. Eight people would be needed to re-open the Police stations. The Police precept would be increased to 2.99%.

A question was asked about night cover within the Caerphilly area. Inspector Jones said there were 16 officers on the night shift covering the whole of Caerphilly. These PC's were also supported by other special units. Between the hours of 10.00 pm and 3.00 am, two teams were in operation, due to the overlap of shifts.

Cllr Mrs M E Sargent thanked the Police & Crime Commissioner, Inspector Gareth Jones, PC Steve Dyer and PCSO Ryan Herbert for attending the meeting and said that it had been very informative.

Cllr P Slarke said it would be useful if the Police and Crime Commissioner could come back to a meeting in the future to give an update and Mr Johnston said he would be happy to do so.