

# LLANGYNWYD MIDDLE COMMUNITY COUNCIL CYNGOR CYMUNEDOL LLANGYNWYD CANOLOG



## Minutes of the Ordinary Full Council Meeting Llangynwyd Village Hall Monday February 13<sup>th</sup> 2017

### Members Present

Cllr C Griffiths (Chairman 2016/2017)  
Cllr D Morgan  
Cllr L Morgan  
Cllr M James  
Cllr D Berry  
Cllr T Griffiths  
Cllr, I Williams  
Cllr L Grantham Brooks (Vice Chair 2016/2017)

**Clerk:** Mrs N Morgan

The Meeting commenced at 6:30pm and was chaired by Councillor Griffiths. The chairman welcomed the PCSO in attendance.

### 145.17 Apologies for Absence

The following councillors were not in attendance:

Cllr D Jones  
Cllr M Griffith Jones  
Cllr P Sasiruben  
Cllr E Guscott

### 146.17 Declarations of Interest (in accordance with S51 Local Government Act 2000)

**Councillor I Williams** Cwmfelin Primary School  
Llangynwyd Primary School

**Councillor M James** Bridgend CBC  
Planning Matters  
Ysgol Gyfun Llangynwyd

It should be noted; all Councillors have individual folders in which they are required to record all interests and to bring the same to each meeting to ensure all details are up to date.

## **Standing orders suspended in order to deal with police matters.**

The chairman thanked PCSO Adam Treadwell for his attendance. PCSO Treadwell advised he was new to the area and was the new PCSO for the area and would provide his contact details to the clerk.

Crime figures were provided prior to the meeting commenced by two different police officers. These crime figures however differed. PCSO Treadwell advised the figures that were accurate were those that had been provided by PC Helen Saxby.

The council were advised there had been a number of commercial burglaries most recently at His n Hers Hairdressers on Bridgend Road. The assault crime figure related to a child and was ongoing and the ASB incident reported on Station Road was filed incorrectly.

Cllr James asked PCSO Treadwell about the recent incident involving a car being burned out in the barn of the Old House. The police officer advised he knew nothing of this incident and would look into the same.

With regards previous lack of communication PCSO Treadwell apologised on behalf of his colleagues and hoped a closer relationship could now be formed and indeed maintained.

He advised as per requests that a PCSO has been in attendance at Cwmfelin Primary School every afternoon in relation to ongoing issues there and the council thanked him for the same.

Cllr D Morgan enquired whether Bridgend and Maesteg would eventually go the way of some mid wales emergency services in having one walk in centre for all police, fire and ambulance queries. PCSO Treadwell advised he didn't believe this to be the case but reiterated Maesteg police station was no longer a walk-in facility.

The council thanked PCSO Treadwell for his attendance.

Cllr Berry requested the clerk write to the chief inspector to thank him for allocating an officer to Cwmfelin school as promised and hope this will continue to happen.

Standing orders were recommenced at 6:50pm

## **147.17 Ratification of Minutes of January 2017 Meeting**

There were a few issues that needed rectifying. There were a couple of typos to be corrected. The following note needs to be added to January's minutes:

"A vote was held regarding the role and function of sub committees. It was agreed sub committees shall have the authority to make decisions providing they report to the full council and any over expenditure be reported. This matter was agreed by the councillors in attendance."

Further to this matter Cllr Williams advised he felt the point of sub committees were to make recommendations then the decisions to be made by the full council. This matter was discussed once more and it was noted that this was passed via a vote in January 2017 and it was felt by the majority this was the best way forward as there seemed little point for instance in the events committee meeting,

making provisional arrangements, returning to the full meeting discussing the same, before authorising anything. It was agreed all actions would be reported to the full council however it seemed a waste of time for some committees to repeatedly meet and discuss ideas if exactly the same things were going to be gone over in the full council meeting. It was therefore carried that the decision made in January 2017 would stand.

Aside from these issues the minutes were agreed by Cllr James and seconded by Cllr Grantham Brooks.

#### **148.17                   Matters Arising from the Minutes**

Cllr James asked if BT had been in contact re the phone box to which the clerk advised no communications had been received.

#### **149.17                   Police Matters**

These matters were covered earlier in the meeting with PCSO Treadwell. However, the undated correspondence from Alun Michael was discussed and the clerk was requested to contact Mr Michael and advise him to look at the minutes on our website where there are many references to contact being made with the police re lack of communication and pointing out the misinformation and pointing him in the direction of the evidence.

#### **150.17                   Correspondence**

All matters of correspondence were duly noted.

The clerk advised this morning she spoke with John Lewis and requested email confirmation that the proposed speed signs met the required criteria and we can go ahead and ask Centre Great to install the same.

The clerk to contact Centre Great in this matter.

The clerk provided some documentation regarding water butts as previously discussed for the park. It was agreed after some discussion to purchase two of these water butts. Cllr T Griffiths asked what would prevent these from being stolen or vandalised and it was noted nothing was in place however something could be fashioned to secure the butts to the lock up.

#### **151.17                   Planning**

There was much discussion about the plans available re the proposed works to the old house. The clerk printed off the documents available online and provided the same however the A4 printouts were not large enough to see all the details and Cllr James verified that it is no longer possible to meet with the planning department at BCBC. After much discussion, it was agreed to support the plans with Cllr Berry and Cllr T Griffiths abstaining from voting due to the lack of information available. Cllr Grantham Brooks noted regardless of any objections the council lodge no notice is ever taken in any event so it seems pointless in asking for our opinions.

The clerk to contact BCBC in this matter highlighting the issues with not being able to meet with the planning department and issues with printing off documents online as they have to be resized etc. The clerk to confirm the modernisation of the Old House will be in keeping with the integrity of the building.

### **152.17 Council Structure**

Further to the discussions held last month with regards this matter a vote was held on the following points:

The chairperson can remain in situ as for an indefinite length of time however each year a secret ballot will be held with those wishing to put themselves forward for the position voted for.

There will be a project leader in terms of each new project the council chose to take on.

There will be a Councillor representing the council at social functions (that is not the chairperson).

All councillors in attendance voted in favour of these proposals.

### **153.17 Fly tipping**

Cllr Williams advised he had been contacted by a local resident re fly tipping between Maiden Street and Jenkins Terrace. The clerk to contact the enforcement officers at BCBC in this matter and Cllr Williams to advise the resident of the same. Cllr James advised Tidy Towns have previously cleared this area of rubbish.

This matter seems to be one causing more issues and Llangynwyd Village is seeing an increase in fly tipping. Cllr Berry asked if we could contact BCBC with a view to putting cameras in "hotspot" locations with a view to catching perpetrators in the act. After some discussion, it was agreed to ask BCCB to do this by way of placing the small tin can type cameras in locations in the village where fly tipping is becoming a serious problem, with the consent of the local residents and should they not be willing to do this, Cllr Berry asked if we could then ask them for the equipment and we could do it ourselves.

### **154.17 Parking Cwmfelin School**

This matter was once again discussed in detail with potential solutions to the problem being mooted. One of the most favourable suggestions was a drop off system by where parents drop their children off and a member of staff be on hand to escort the children into the school premises. The issues of involving school staff previously has been a hurdle and it was mentioned perhaps the PTA could help out if the teachers were unwilling to. Cllr Berry stated he hated repetition and this was an ongoing matter that was regularly discussed with no plans to move forward. Other county councils implement a drop off system and is it going to resort to the loss of a life before the council will make a compulsory purchase order on the land next to the school and utilise it. Another possibility is to use the lane at the rear of Park Tyn y Waun at Neuadd Domos as a drop off point. A solution must be found to this problem it just needs creative thinking. It has been noted however that the school seem reluctant to become involved in any communication and discussions on the matter.

Cllr Williams advised the issue was the safe route to school programme implemented by BCBC doesn't involve the use of cars. The idea being that children are walked to school or cycle, however in reality this doesn't happen. Cllr Berry stated we should stand up for ourselves as its clear BCBC are not interested and he has had enough of talking about such issues year in and year out with no solution being found.

It was noted there is a new Director of Education at BCBC, Mr Linsey Harvey and it was agreed to contact the same on this matter.

Cllr Grantham Brooks stated we are going around in circles and achieving nothing and it's time to get something moving eventually. Cllr Berry stated its time to forget the past and we need to move forward.

Cllr Griffiths thanked the councillors for the lengthy yet important discussion however it was time to set out what the next step will be.

It was agreed the next step is to hold an investigative meeting, inform rather than ask the following parties that such a meeting will be held: Chief executive, director of education, highways dept., Cwmfelin school, police, board of governors, gazette. The proposed plan is to meet outside the school on Tuesday April 4<sup>th</sup> at 2:30pm. Cllrs James and Williams advised this has been done before however something needed to be tried now before there is a fatal accident.

Cllr D Morgan stated if the safe route to school is the reason BCBC are not doing anything about the situation why does the comprehensive school provide parking facilities for students with their own cars?!

The clerk to contact the above parties stating the time of the meeting and book the hall for 3:45pm for a follow up meeting on the same date. The clerk to chase up this matter with the relevant parties 10 days after sending them notification.

#### **155.17                      Newsletters**

The clerk provided a draft newsletter for the councillor's perusal and a meeting to be arranged between the clerk and Cllr Grantham Brooks to go over the same.

#### **156.17                      Banking**

The clerk advised the council the Maesteg branch of HSBC is closing shortly and in any event the mandate etc. needs updating. After some discussion, it was agreed to move bank accounts to Nat West and the clerk to facilitate this.

#### **157.17                      Awen Trust**

Last month all Councillors were advised to contact Cllr Berry with their views re the Town Hall, Market and proposed works in order for Cllr Berry to be in a position to provide Awen Trust with the overall views of the community council. Cllr Berry stated his personal views were that the market should remain and some councillors are unfortunately like lapdogs and the voting on the proposed changes to the market was done without the councillors even seeing the proposed plans. The proposed removal of the market will result in the loss of 20 jobs. The new reference library that has been incorporated into the sport centre will go to waste is a new library is going to be built. The proposal that most

shopping is now done online is false however remove the market places and the consumers will not be left with much choice however not everyone wishes to use online shopping etc. Cllr Grantham Brooks stated she was happy for Cllr Berry to voice this opinion on behalf of the council.

Cllr Williams stated the figures show the footfall inside the market is appalling and there are many empty stalls there at present and market trading is definitely dwindling. Cllr Berry stated it was insulting to state market traders who have been trading for 37 years will now become obsolete when they are making a living wage and now 20 people could lose their livelihoods. Cllr Williams noted some of the traders are happy to relocate. He stated the original plans were to have the market stalls and a library at the location and councillors were up in arms when the new plans drawn up omitted the market in its entirety. It was clear this is an emotive subject but Cllr Williams' main concern is the Town Hall as it provides a big draw for the community and it is almost crumbling in places and in need of restoration work. The apparent reason for the change is plans, according to Awen Trust is that grants for restoration work to the Town Hall cannot be applied for if there is to be a market at the location and at present it looks likely to take 2 years to carry out the work at a cost of £4-5 million. There was a consensus that the Town Hall cannot be lost.

Cllr Berry reiterated the point that the market space at present is not an empty vacant space as claimed by Awen Trust and the market traders currently provide over £50,000 per year in rent. In the space of 10 years that could generate £500,000 whereas a library is going to be a drain of funds not a provision.

The main question was why does the market need to be removed for any grants to be obtained? Why can't a grant for £4 million be applied for and retain 20 jobs? Cllr Berry stated he felt these questions were not asked of Awen Trust and the councillors of Maesteg Town just agreed with the proposals. Cllr Williams stated this was not the case and the plans were questioned in detail.

Finally, a vote was held as to what views Cllr Berry would express when representing the community council and voting in favour of the market retention was the result.

## **158.17 Finance and Accounts**

The clerk provided all councillors with up-to-date finance and accounts. There were a few queries:

Why was there two payments to Mobile Mini in the past month? The clerk advised no invoice for the previous month was received and therefore two payments were made the following month.

## **159.17 Clerk's Report**

The clerk advised after the ongoing issues with BEI lighting and the solar lights, she had spoken with a number of other companies able to carry out this work. Styles Lighting of Caerphilly provided a quote for the same and would hopefully be able to carry out the work within the next 4 weeks and after some discussion it was agreed to rescind the agreement to appoint BEI to carry out the work and allow Styles Lighting to do the job. All councillors were in favour of this.

**Councillor Williams**

Cllr Williams advised he has received a complaint from a resident of 13 Maesteg Road, Cwmfelin re the drainage system outside the row of houses being blocked. The tankers are not able to clear these drains as they are not deep and a power cleaner is needed to carry out this work as it has been an issue previously. The clerk to contact highways department in this matter. Cllr James advised he had arranged for this work to be done before therefore hopefully highways will be accommodating.

**Councillor T Griffiths**

Councillor Griffiths advised the council that sub-contractors have been at Maes Cadlawr – a historic woodland and have been clearing the trees underneath the power lines, rather than lopping the same they have been taking the trees away in their entirety. Cllr Griffiths asked if anyone was aware of this and could any of these trees have had TPO's on them. Cllr James advised it wouldn't matter if they did as the power lines take precedent. Cllr Berry asked the clerk to contact NRW as surely, they would be aware of the situation and enquire why the trees were removed and not just lopped.

**Councillor Berry**

Councillor Berry was going to enquire re the solar lights but the matter has already been addressed. He also raised the issue of pot holes at Heol Wil Hopcyn and Cllr James to report this matter to BCBC. Cllr James noted that he recently reported a large pothole at Llan Square to be asked for an exact location by BCBC!

**Cllr James**

Cllr James advised he has collected dog fouling bags from Maesteg Town and they have been dropped off both in the shop and post office.

**Cllr D Morgan**

Cllr Morgan advised the trouble with fp 24 has now been rectified and there doesn't seem to be any cattle using the path.

Standing orders were suspended at this point for a one minute silence to commemorate the passing of ex councillor Anne Lewis. Cllr James would provide contact details for the family so a card can be sent.

- Newsletters
- Fly tipping

- BT
- Easter

**162.16                      Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting is to be held at 6:30pm on Monday March 13<sup>th</sup> 2017 at Llangynwyd Village Hall, with an event meeting to commence at 6pm.

The meeting closed at 8:45pm.

**Signature of Chairman** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Chairman in print** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_