

Minutes of the Remote Meeting of Full Council Held in Microsoft Teams at 6.30pm on Wednesday, 23rd June 2021

Present

Cllr Idris Williams (IW) - Chairman, Cllr John Hughes (JH), Cllr Tom Muller (TM), Cllr Trystan Rhys Griffiths (TRG), Cllr Harry Davies (HWD), Cllr Pararajasingham Sasiruban (PS), Cllr Rob Lewis (RL), Cllr Jo Hillier-Raikes (JH-R) and Cllr Ceri Reeves (CR)

Cheryl John (CJ) - Clerk

1.Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Helen Davies (HD) but not from Cllr Dylan Jones (DJ).

2.Declarations of Interest

IW: Governor - Maesteg Comprehensive School, and Member - Maesteg Town Council (MTC) and Maesteg Celtic Rugby Football Club

JH: Employed by Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) as Branch Secretary Unison, and Governor - Garth and Plasnewydd Primary Schools

TM: Child attends Cwmfelin Primary School, and a section of Right of Way (RoW) No 9 is on his land

TRG: Governor - Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd

PS: Governor - Llangynwyd Primary School, Owner of Llan Mini Market, and Member - Llangynwyd Community Association (LCA)

RL: Member - MTC, and Governor - Cwmfelin Primary School

CR: Governor - Maesteg Comprehensive School, and Member MTC

3.Public Address

Nobody requested a link to join the meeting.

4.Police Matters

Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) Gareth Stoneham (GS) went through the crime statistics for April and May 2021 with Council.

5.Ratification of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Held in Microsoft Teams on Wednesday, 12th May 2021

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

6. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Held in Microsoft

Teams on Wednesday, 12th May 2021

None

7.Ratification of the 'Public' Minutes of the Remote Meeting of Full Council Held in Microsoft Teams on Wednesday, 12th May 2021

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

9.Matters Arising from the 'Public' Minutes of the Remote Meeting of Full Council Held in Microsoft Teams on Wednesday, 12th May 2021

Page 2 - Item 7 - Proposal - Llangynwyd Rangers B&G CW FC

The Clerk is still waiting for confirmation that the mains water supply for the pavilion can be accessed for a horticultural washdown facility in the community park; through the community asset transfer agreement between BCBC and the club.

Page 2 - Item 7 - Country Lane Used as a Busy Thoroughfare (Station Road to Bryn Terrace)

The road has been inspected by BCBC and a number of defects have been identified that require action; orders have been issued, and repairs will be undertaken as soon as resources permit.

Page 2 - Item 7 - External Audit

Deryck Evans, Audit Wales has advised the Clerk that past audits are nearly complete, however, he needs to retrieve certain information before they can be finalised.

Page 2 - Item 7 - Chairperson's Report

Missing links for past Chairpersons need to be added to the chain of office along with a replacement link for the late Chris Griffiths, as his is not in keeping with the others; the chain can then be valued for insurance purposes.

Action: Clerk will arrange for the addition of the new links and the valuation.

Page 2 - Item 7 - Clerk

The COVID-19 pandemic has put a stop to discussions on the rental of the old post office in Llangynwyd as an office.

Action: when 'in person' meetings reconvene at Llangynwyd Village Hall, the Clerk will invite Mr Ken Piper to a meeting of full Council.

Page 2 - Item 7 - Extra Dog Bins in Both Wards

The Council agreed for a new bin to be purchased from its 2021/22 budget, the Clerk has arranged for its installation with John Rees, Cleaner Streets, BCBC; at the top of Heol Neuadd Domos in Cwmfelin.

Page 2 - Item 7 - Clerk's Report

Council was advised that a provisional booking for bespoke remote 'Understanding the Law' training has been made for 7th July 2021 at 6.30pm; there were no objections to this arrangement.

Action: Clerk to confirm the booking with One Voice Wales.

Page 2 - Item 7 - Members' Reports

- (i) There is an issue with a broken drainpipe at 1 The Bracken's, Lletty Brongu; especially in the cold weather.
- (j) There is also a problem with the culvert flooding in Lletty Brongu, a pipe is sticking out of a hole and gets blocked in heavy rain.

The Clerk has reported both the above issues to Jack Davies, Highway and Land Drainage Engineer, BCBC, work orders have been risen, but the jobs will only be done when resources become available.

Page 3 - Item 7- Correspondence

Preparation of governance and accountability documents for adoption by Council is ongoing.

Both primary schools in the area have been informed of the Parc Tir Iarll nature trail competition; Cwrmfelin Primary School will definitely participate, but the Clerk is still awaiting a response from Llangynwyd Primary School.

Action: Clerk and PS to follow-up request with Llangynwyd Primary School

The Health and Safety Officer from Peninsula has now been through the Brightsafe software package and risk assessments with the Clerk

Action: CJ will arrange to meet with the Park Warden to do the risk assessments and she will then address all other areas in the action plan.

Page 3 - Item 7 - Correspondence

The Clerk asked again for the two members who have not yet submitted photographs of themselves for the new website to do so.

New Back Garden Fencing in Cwrt y Fedwen, Encroaching on Parc Tir Iarll

With reference to Council's complaint about the encroachment issue as a result of the erection of new rear fences by some residents in Cwrt y Fedwen, BCBC has written to inform them that they must reinstate the original boundaries.

Page 3 - Item 7 - Correspondence

- (d) In relation to the fly-tipping behind some of the rear fences in Cwrt y Fedwen, BCBC has written to residents requesting its removal from parkland.
- (e) There are gates in the rear fencing of certain houses in Cwrt y Fedwen, BCBC has also written to these residents to tell them that they must remove any accesses created onto parkland.

Page 3 - Item 7 - Draft Business Plan for Council

The late Cllr James Duncan (JD) did a considerable amount of work on a business plan for Council.

Action: Clerk to attempt retrieving his work in the months to come.

Page 3 - Item 7 - Adoption of Standing Orders for Council DJ is still updating the Standing Orders for adoption by Council.

Page 4 - Item 7 - Clerk's Report

Gareth Watts, Undertaker is donating a defibrillator for the telephone box in the old village of Llangynwyd, outside the Old House 1147. Maesteg Community First Responders will arrange for it to be installed and will service it regularly free of charge.

The Clerk has now received Listed Buildings Consent and is awaiting the invoice from Western Power Distribution and the connection of the electricity. The source of the electricity is a nearby lamppost, BCBC will only charge a nominal fee for the electricity: £100 for 10 years which Council approved.

The refurbishment of the telephone box is also nearing completion; Council also approved the replacement of the four 'TELEPHONE' signs originally purchased with 'DEFIBRILLATOR' signs for the top of the structure, the additional cost being around £40 (excl. VAT).

Page 4 - Item 7 - Report on Staff Member Joining RCT Pension Scheme (LGPS)

Back-dated contributions to the Local Government Pension Scheme (from April 2019 to March 2021) have now been taken in June with the final amount to be taken in July 2021 and paid into the superannuation account.

Page 4 - Item 7 - Condition of Certain Steps in Park - Wooden Edging

The Clerk has asked BCBC to make a financial contribution towards the replacement of the edging on the steps in the park which form part of a RoW. She has now been asked to obtain another quote from the firm with the VAT amount shown as a separate figure, which she has done.

Page 4 - Item 7 - Provision of Warning Signs at Entrances to Park - 'In Cold Weather, Please Beware of Slippery Surfaces'

The Clerk has obtained two quotes for the installation of disclaimer signage at the park, she is still awaiting the third. CJ has previously advised members that these signs only act as a warning, and that Council would still be held liable if at fault for anything.

Page 4 - Item 7 - Vacancy for a Governor at Llangynwyd Primary School

The Clerk has informed the headteacher that nobody has the time to commit to this position at present, but should anybody new join the Council, they will be asked to fill the position.

Page 4 - Item 7 - Tree Planting

Previously, Council was advised that thousands of new trees are to be planted throughout Bridgend; BCBC has commissioned a tree feasibility study to identify areas where planting more trees will have the most benefit for the local environment. The Local Authority is also in discussions with Swansea University about developing projects relating to woodland creation and reducing carbon dioxide emissions.

The Clerk has written to BCBC on numerous occasions to ask if anything is planned for this area, highlighting the existence of Parc Tir Iarll in the community; to date, there has been no response.

Page 5 - Item 7 - Clerk's Report

The Clerk previously advised Council on the following matters:

- The grass cutting contractor for the RoW will be retiring at Christmastime or even sooner if his health deteriorates further. Paul Meredith maintains the RoW in this area for him.

Action: Council to give consideration to this matter at a later date. A subcommittee meeting should be organised shortly with an invitation to be given to Andrew Mason or a member of his staff to attend.

- The Clerk is waiting for the final quote for a noticeboard for the park.

Page 5 - Item 7 - Correspondence

- NHS, Social Care & Frontline Workers Day - 5th July 2021 - a letter was received from One Voice Wales encouraging Councils to celebrate and commemorate those that work twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week without any thought of their own safety; the special day will also be used for fundraising for NHS Charities Together.

The Clerk wrote to Reverend Martyn Evans to ask if consideration could be given to the ringing of the bells 73 times at St Cynwyd's Church at 8pm on Monday, 5th July 2021; each ring representing a year in the 73 years of the NHS. Unfortunately, there is a meeting that evening, and he does not think there will be anybody available to ring the bells, but if he can arrange something, he will.

CJ also approached LVA about hosting a High Tea at 1pm on the day, with donation boxes at set locations around the hall. However, due to the unsurety about restrictions on the day, it was felt that it may be unwise to plan anything.

Action: The Clerk will purchase a banner from the recognised supplier which can be displayed at the village hall; the supplier will donate so much of the cost to the NHS charities.

Page 5 - Item 7 - Clerk's Report

- BCBC has been asked for road signage on A4063 for Parc Tir Iarll, there has been no response yet.
- The Clerk attended the joint One Voice Wales/Society of Local Council Clerks event on 13th May 2021, it was very informative.
- The Clerk previously raised the need for a Sickness Policy.

Action: a Personnel Subcommittee Meeting to be arranged to devise/adopt a policy.

- The Clerk has repeatedly asked for the Register of Members Interests forms to be completed and returned.

Action: Clerk to send another email requesting the return of these forms as soon as possible with the form attached again.

- A bench by the telephone box in Lletty Brongu has been reported as in a poor state of repair and unsafe; BCBC has issued an order for works when resources allow.
- Two tree cutting incidents in the park; behind the row of houses in Cwrt y Fedwen have been reported to the BCBC officer who is coordinating and investigating the problems being encountered with encroachment and fly-tipping in this location.
- The missing 'Prospect Place' sign has been reported to BCBC; it has been added to the work programme for replacement as soon as resources permit.

Page 6 - Item 9 - Planning Applications

- 1) Planning Application Consultation: P/21/144/APN - Mrs P Etherington, Ty Maen House, Llangynwyd, Maesteg. CF34 0EH - Prior notification to take down old shed and replace with barn
The Clerk asked BCBC to ensure that any windows planned for the barn do not overlook neighbouring properties.

Page 7 - Item 11 - Correspondence

- Celebratory Gift - 60th Wedding Anniversary

IW and CJ delivered the flowers to Mr & Mrs Morgan, Heol-y-Bryn, Llangynwyd on 20th May 2021, the couple were delighted.

- Donation - Tenovus Cancer Care

Council has already approved a £200 donation to this charity however, donations above £100 can have an engraved leaf on the mobile treatment unit as a thank you.

Action: Clerk to liaise with JH and TRG over this matter; both Councillors have lost someone very dear to them to this dreadful disease; one of them being the late Cllr Chris Griffiths.

Page 8 - Item 14 - Members' Reports

The Clerk arranged for BCBC to dispose of the two large pieces of foam left by a builder for children in Heol Cynan to play with.

11.Planning Applications

- 1) Planning Application Consultation: P/21/333/FUL - Cwmfelin Primary School, Maesteg Road, Maesteg. CF34 9LD - Retention of 3no. shipping containers
- 2) Planning Application Consultation: P/21/506/FUL - Mr R Lewis, 40 Mill Street, Maesteg. CF34 9HT - New detached summer/garden room

There were no objections to either application.

12.Finance and Accounts

CJ distributed the following for the NatWest Bank Account:

- Record of the financial transactions (April and May 2021)
- Bank statements (April and May 2021)

Bank Balance

The opening balance on 1st April 2021 was £5,000.00

The closing balance on 31st May 2021 was £5,000.00

CJ also distributed the following for the new Unity Trust Bank Account:

- Record of the financial transactions (April and May 2021)
- Bank statements (May 2021)

Bank Balance

The opening balance on 1st May 2021 was £58,374.12

The closing balance on 31st May 2021 was £53,033.54

The Clerk submitted the Annual Return for Audit 2020/21 to Rob Cole, Internal Auditor; he has carried out his audit and submitted his report.

13. Approval of Annual Return for Audit

Council approved the Annual Return for Audit 2020/21.

Action: Clerk and Chairman to sign return for submission to Audit Wales.

14. End of Park Warden's Mobile Phone Contract

Council agreed to continue with EE on a sim-only deal for 24 months; 10gb with unlimited calls and texts for £12 per month (excl. VAT).

Action: Clerk to arrange contract.

15. Sleeper(s) Sinking Underneath Container at Parc Tir Iarll - Issue with Permanent Ramp

Due to one or more of the sleepers sinking into the ground underneath the rear of the container, a gap has formed between the structure and the permanent ramp that is welded to it, causing the bottom of the ride-on mower to come into contact with the ramp.

The Clerk has contacted CAM Engineering who made the ramp, they will bottle jack the rear of the container and pack it until it reaches its natural settlement level however, the overgrowth behind the container will have to be cleared first.

Action: Council asked Clerk to arrange for a tree surgeon to have a look at the work involved with the Blackthorn and to let them know the cost.

16. Correspondence

- Y Bryn Onshore Windfarm - Coriolis Energy

There is naturally much interest in this proposal, a couple of Councillors attended a public consultation event at Maesteg Rugby Club; Members have many questions that they would like answered.

Action: Clerk to write out for everyone's questions, JH-R to co-ordinate the responses, and Clerk will arrange the Council meeting separate to the monthly one.

- Proposed Introduction of 'No Entry for Vehicular Traffic' - Maiden Street

Council has no objection to this proposal as it is a very dangerous junction; Jenkins Terrace may see more traffic as a result though.

17. Clerk's Report

- The Clerk advised Council that the insurance policy has been updated for 2021/22, the total cost this year is £758.22.
- The Park Warden found private paperwork in two bins in the park for someone living in Heol Neuadd Domos, it was bagged and put aside in the container until Council can advise.

Action: Park Warden to return paperwork to the resident.

- JH-R accompanied the Park Warden to check the grass cutting work on the RoW; a couple of repairs were identified, and certain RoW seemed to have quite a lot of growth on them.

The Clerk advised Council that the contractor cut some RoW at the beginning of May, hurt his knee and had to take time off, then finished cutting the rest sometime later.

The contractor has been instructed to keep the Clerk informed of all his activities and any problems that he encounters; checks can then be done as soon as his work is complete.

Action: Clerk will liaise with the contractor over the repairs.

JH-R also raised an issue where from the broken stile to a stream is being cut and also the other side; from the roadside to a kissing gate, but nothing is being cut across the field in between.

Action: Clerk will liaise with contractor over this issue also.

18.Chairman's Report

None

19.Members' Reports

CR asked if Council could request that cars joining the A4063 from the B4282 are stopped from taking a right turn as it causes traffic delays on the hill leading up to the junction; especially since there is now a roundabout in Cwmfelin.

JH-R pointed out that the traffic going down to the roundabout is heavy now and that this could make it even worse.

Action: Clerk to request a site meeting with BCBC.

20.Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday, 14th July 2021

Meeting Closed at 8.20pm

Chairperson

Date