

Minutes of the Remote Meeting of Full Council Held in Microsoft Teams on Wednesday, 12th January 2022 at 6.30pm

Present

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

Cheryl John (CJ) - Clerk

1.Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Harry Davies (HWD) and Cllr Rob Lewis (RL), but no apologies were received 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 (RFC)

JH: Employed by Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) as Branch Secretary Unison, Director - Bridgend Lifesavers Credit Union, Member - Co-op Group National Members' Council, 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: Employee - ACT Training, Farmer - Lluest Wen, and Governor - Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg (YGG) Llangynwyd

PS: Trustee - Llangynwyd Community Association (LCA), and Owner - Llan Mini Market

JH-R: Town Centre Manager - Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, and Owner - Pentre Farm Holiday Accommodation

CR: Employee - Welsh Local Government Association and Bridgend Care and Repair Service, and Member - Maesteg Women's Institute

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 figures for December 2021.

Last month, GS asked if the registration number of any vehicle seen with greyhounds running behind it could be taken. However, there was nothing further to report, only that there has been a police presence noticed in the area where this has previously been seen.

9.Ratification of the 'Public' Minutes of the Remote Meeting of Full Council Held on Wednesday, 8th December 2021

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

11.Matters Arising from the 'Public' Minutes of the Remote Meeting of Full Council Held on Wednesday, 8th December 2021

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

The Clerk is still awaiting 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 identified which require action; orders have been issued, and repairs will be undertaken as soon as resources permit.

Page 2 - Item 7 - Chairperson's Report

Additional links for the most recent Chairpersons need to be purchased for the chain of office, along with a replacement for the late Chris Griffiths; his is not in keeping with the others.

Cllr Malcolm James (MJ) recently advised the Clerk that Maesteg Shoe Repairs has been used previously.

The chain also needs refurbishment as many of the gold-plated links are worn.

Action: Clerk to enquire with the shop.

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

The Clerk has made enquiries with Glasdon UK Ltd as the four bins at Parc Tir Iarll need replacing. Two green metal post mounted dog bins and two green metal open-top floor litter bins have been chosen at a total price of £1,359.63 plus VAT which Council approved.

Action: Clerk to order the bins for delivery in the new financial year 2022/23.

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 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 however, the Clerk advised Council that a Freedom of Information Policy and a Welsh Language Scheme are needed urgently.

Action: Clerk was asked to obtain examples for adaptation by the new Council in 2022.

The Clerk and the Park Warden judged the Parc Tir Iarll nature trail competition just before Christmas; there were fifteen winning entries. The Park Warden has kindly offered to do the nature trail questions for the website when all lecterns are in place.

Action: Clerk to get three quotations for the Welsh translation of the words on each picture, and to also get three quotations for the installation of the 15 lecterns at the park.

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

Only one photograph remains outstanding for the website.

Action: Clerk will make arrangements with the Councillor to take his picture.

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

The Clerk is still awaiting a response from BCBC on the reinstatement of boundaries for rear fencing in Cwrt y Fedwen as the residents have done nothing to correct the problem of encroachment on parkland.

Page 3 - Item 7 - Correspondence

- (d) The fly-tipping behind some of the rear fences in Cwrt y Fedwen is still an issue despite BCBC's letter to residents asking for its removal. The Clerk is awaiting a response from the Local Authority on how this matter is going to be progressed.
- (e) BCBC has also asked for the removal of gates in rear fencing in Cwrt y Fedwen which are creating easy access onto parkland. Again, the Clerk is awaiting a response on how this matter is going to be progressed.

Page 3 - Item 7 - Draft Business Plan for Council

The late Cllr James Duncan did a considerable amount of work on a business plan for Council however, nobody has continued his work.

Action: Clerk to ask the new Council to consider this matter in 2022.

Page 4 - Item 7 - Adoption of Standing Orders for Council

Chairman to ask DJ when Council can expect the updated Standing Orders for adoption.

Page 4 - Item 7 - Clerk's Report

The payment of the Cadw grant for the refurbishment of the two red K6 telephone boxes has been made; £1,510.

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

Dragonwood Landscapes has started the work on the steps and has cordoned off the area with BCBC putting notices up informing the public that the RoW will be temporarily closed until 21st January 2022.

Page 4 - Item 7 - Provision of Warning Signs at Entrances to Park

The three quotations for disclaimer signage at Parc Tir Iarll were considered by Council; the prices ranged from £424.40 plus VAT (without posts) to £715 plus VAT (with posts). The Council accepted the Stocksigns' quotation for £499.08 plus VAT (with posts).

Action: Clerk to advise successful firm and to arrange three quotations for the installation of the two signs.

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 - Clerk's Report

- Paul Meredith (PM) cuts the grass on the RoW, etc. in the area. PM has told the Clerk that he is unhappy with residents approaching him regarding his work in Parc Tyn-y-Waun.

Action: Clerk to deliver letters just before the start of the growing season in 2022, advising residents of Parc Tyn-y-Waun not to approach the contractor with questions or comments about his work; issues should be addressed by the Clerk to the Council, and advising them of her contact details.

Page 4 - Item 7 - Clerk's Report

- BCBC has been asked for road signage on A4063 for Parc Tir Iarll however, this cannot be supplied as traffic cannot be directed to an area where there is no car park
- The Clerk previously raised the need for a sickness policy, a personnel subcommittee meeting was arranged but had to be cancelled.

Action: Clerk to arrange another subcommittee meeting when the new Council is elected in 2022.

- The Clerk has repeatedly asked for the Register of Members Interests forms to be completed, signed and returned, and has even emailed to say that the Chairman is now insistent on their return however, there are still some outstanding.
- 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 5 - Item 7 - Sleeper Sinking Underneath Container at Parc Tir Iarll - Issue with Permanent Ramp

CAM Engineering has now fitted a barrier to prevent access to the underside of the container at the park.

Page 5 - Item 7 - Clerk's Report

- BCBC has still not responded to the Clerk's reports regarding the following issues on the RoW:
 - a) Broken stile on RoW 13
 - b) Broken decking board under anti-slip wire on RoW 16
- From the broken stile to the stream on RoW 13 is being cut, and also the other side, from the roadside to the kissing gate, but nothing is being cut across the field in-between.

BCBC has still not responded to the Clerk's request for advice on handling this situation with the landowner; he/she cuts the meadow so infrequently that the path is inaccessible to the public.

Page 6 - Item 7 - Members' Reports

CR has asked for a site meeting with BCBC to stop cars joining the A4063 from the B4282 by taking a right turn; it causes traffic delays on the hill leading up to the junction.

BCBC contacted The Police who do not support this however, the Chief Inspector has been consulted on this matter.

Action: Await BCBC's update on the Chief Inspector's observations and views.

Page 7 - Item 7 - Operation London Bridge

The Clerk is awaiting MTC's approval for the residents of Llangynwyd Middle to attend the offices in Maesteg to sign a book of remembrance on the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Action: Clerk will advertise this on the website and noticeboards when the time comes.

Page 7 - Item 7 - Damage to Hopcyn Cross in Historic Village - Car Incident

The repair has been done. The Police have been contacted for the car owner's details; failing that, the DVLA will be contacted so that an invoice can be sent to recoup the cost of the repair.

Page 7 - Item 7 - Multi-location Meetings

Council agreed that remote meetings should continue until the May 2022 election, when it can be looked at again.

Page 7 - Item 7 - Correspondence

- Issue with Dome Slabs on Footpath 19 - Maiden Street to River Bridge

The dome slabs have now been removed however, the resident sent an email to the Clerk about the water gathering on the RoW, making it very difficult for people to walk there. She has forwarded the email to BCBC asking for help with the surface problem, but there has been no response yet.

- TM previously mentioned a fence that has been erected by the old play park at the top of the footpath from Fairmeadows to Maesteg Road; there may be an encroachment issue.

Action: TM will send a photograph of the fence for the Clerk to make further enquiries.

Page 8 - Item 7 - Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Remote Extraordinary Meeting of Full Council Held on Wednesday, 22nd September 2021

Page 1 - Item 4 - Support for Clerk to Attain CiLCA Qualification

The Council gave its approval for Paul Egan, One Voice Wales to do a job evaluation on the Clerk's position.

Action: Clerk to make the necessary arrangements with the Chairman and Paul Egan.

JH asked for a job evaluation on the Park Warden's post also.

Action: Clerk to seek advice from One Voice Wales on an appropriate service provider for this.

Page 9 - Item 7 - Allotment at Parc Tir Iarll

The allotment agreement has now been revoked and the current user will return the key by 31st January 2022.

Action: Clerk to advertise the vacant allotment.

Page 9 - Item 7 - Correspondence

- Nature Network Project

The Clerk is waiting to hear from BCBC about the possibility of a Member of the Community Council attending the upcoming briefing of County Borough Councillors on this project.

Page 9 - Item 7 - Clerk's Report

- One of the two nature boards at Parc Tir Iarll has been vandalised, the Clerk has contacted the Housemartins Coytrahen Mens Shed to see if it can be fixed, they will make an inspection and advise.

Page 9 - Item 7 - Members' Reports

CR reported the following issues:

- Between YGG Llangynwyd and the paper mills is overgrown

The Clerk has reported this to BCBC but she is not sure if it has been cut, therefore, she has queried it again.

- The culvert between the Corner House and Castell House needs cleaning as the water is overflowing into the garden at Castell House

The Clerk has reported this to BCBC and a jetter was ordered to clean the culvert. However, Councillors have advised that flooding is still an issue at Castell House because the side of the road has deteriorated so much that it is collapsing into the culvert; this is dangerous and could also cause damage to vehicles. The Clerk has written to BCBC explaining the issues but there has been no response yet.

Page 10 - Item 7 - Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Remote Extraordinary Meeting of Full Council Held on Tuesday, 16th November 2021

Page 1 - Item 3 - Consideration of the Auditor General for Wales' report in the public interest and the recommendations included therein:

Audit Wales approved Council's response to this report.

Action: Clerk to publicise the response in the Valley's Gazette.

All the requested information on this case has been given to the loss adjuster appointed by Zurich Insurance.

Page 12 - Item 15 - Setting of the Precept for the Financial Year 2022/23

The Clerk informed BCBC by the deadline date of 7th January 2022 that a precept of £72,000 would be required for the financial year 2022/23.

Page 12 - Item 16 - Accidental Damage to the Park Warden's Mobile Phone

The Park Warden's replacement mobile phone has been delivered. The Clerk also added insurance to the package of £3.36 per month due to the nature of the job; Council agreed.

13.Planning Applications

There were no planning applications for consideration this month.

The Clerk contacted the Planning Authority to ask if comments/objections received during the consultation period could be forwarded immediately to the Community Council in future. However, this is not possible due to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Also, the consultation process is intended to seek the Community Council's opinion on an application.

14.Finance and Accounts

CJ distributed the following for the NatWest Bank Account:

- Record of the financial transactions (1st April to 31st December 2021)
- Bank transactions (2nd March 2021 to 31st December 2021)

Bank Balance

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

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

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

- Record of the financial transactions (1st April to 31st December 2021)
- Bank statements (1st December to 31st December 2021)

Bank Balance

The opening balance on 1st December 2021 was £28,063.19

The closing balance on 31st December 2021 was £25,263.37

15.Correspondence

- Donations:

I. Ray of Light Cancer Support

Council agreed a donation of £100.

II. Cancer Information and Support Services (CISS)

Council agreed a donation of £100.

III. Wales Air Ambulance

Two donations have already been given this financial year, therefore, this one was declined by Council.

- Purchase of Flowers and Card for a Diamond Wedding Anniversary

Council agreed the purchase of flowers at a cost of £30 for the Chairman to deliver to Mr & Mrs Catton, Llan Road, Cwmfelin for their sixtieth wedding anniversary on 3rd February 2022.

Action: Clerk to make necessary arrangements, she will also attend with Chairman to take a photograph for the website as agreed with the couple.

16.Clerk's Report

- The Council agreed for the Probation Service - Community Payback Scheme to help with the eradication of the Himalayan Balsam at the park this summer. The job will be strictly supervised by trained people, and the service will be free of charge as no materials/equipment are required for this work.

Action: Clerk to make the necessary arrangements.

- The Clerk advised Members that she has registered the Council with the Data Protection Agency - Information Commissioner's Office at a cost of £35 per annum; Council was in agreement.
- Parents are illegally parking outside Llangynwyd Primary School. The Clerk has written to BCBC to report this matter but has received no feedback yet.

17.Chairman's Report

IW asked Clerk to enquire with the Planning Authority if it is aware of the building of over one hundred houses on the site of the old 7777 in Llangynwyd; opposite YGG Llangynwyd.

Action: Clerk will write to BCBC.

18.Members' Reports

None

19.Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday, 9th February 2022

Meeting closed at 8pm

Chairperson.....

Date.....