



# **Llangynwyd Middle Community Council**

## **Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Full Council Held in the Chamber, Maesteg Town Council Offices on Wednesday, 18th January 2023 at 6pm**

### **Present**

Councillors: Richard Howells (RH) - Chairman, Kenneth Piper (KP), Pararajasingham Sasiruban (PS), Phillippa Etherington (PE) and Colin Williams (CW) - Remotely on Microsoft Teams

Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) - Kevin Aston (KA)

Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer - Cheryl John (CJ)

### **1.Apologies for Absence**

None

### **2.Declarations of Interest**

None.

### **3.Public Address**

None.

### **4. Police Matters:**

Crime figures from August to December 2022 were issued to Councillors prior to the meeting, however, KA was unable to answer their questions as he was unfamiliar with the cases.

**Action:** the PCSO was asked to find out if any of the cases reported during this period could have an impact on the wider community, and to provide Council with as much information as possible at the next meeting.

Parking issues at both primary schools in the area were discussed again.

**Action:** KA was asked to seek his colleagues' observations on the illegal and dangerous parking outside both schools, and to request a letter is sent to the Local Authority asking for more parking fines to be issued to culprits as a deterrent. Also, to query the possibility of CCTV in both areas; the Clerk will also write to the Council about this matter.

Parking on Parc Tir Iarll land when there is training or a game(s) on the adjoining playing field(s) was reported to the PCSO; the club is aware of this issue and has said that cones would be put out, but perhaps a better solution could be found in the future.

**Action:** PE will have a look at the width of the entrance to the park to ascertain how many lockable folding/telescopic parking posts would be required to keep vehicles out.

CW asked the Clerk to refrain from remarking on matters, that it was the role of the Councillor not the Clerk to do so. CJ explained that most Members were fairly new to Council business and that she was only trying to assist with the matters in hand.

#### **5. Ratification of the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Full Council Held on Wednesday, 12th October 2022**

**Resolved:** Minutes approved.

#### **6. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Full Council Held on Wednesday, 12th October 2022**

##### **Page 5 - Item 22 - Clearance of Lane Behind Maiden Street - Proposal by CW**

CW commented that at the last meeting, the Chairman's observations on this matter could have influenced the decisions made by the other Councillors, when in fact, he was just stating his personal feelings on the matter.

#### **7. Ratification of the Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting Held on Wednesday, 23rd November 2022**

**Resolved:** Minutes approved.

#### **8. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting Held on Wednesday, 23rd November 2022**

None

#### **9. Ratification of the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting Held on Wednesday, 7th December 2022**

**Resolved:** Minutes approved.

**10. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting Held on Wednesday, 7th December 2022**

None

**11. Planning:**

Appeal Refs: CAS-01665-W4K9P2 and CAS-01684-S3R9M9

Both appeals relating to the siting of two storage containers on land south of Pontrhydyff, Maesteg, CF34 9RW were dismissed by an inspector appointed by Welsh Ministers.

**12. Finance and Accounts**

Members were sent the following documents prior to the meeting:

- Excel spreadsheet with full details of all transactions between 01/04/2022 and 31/12/2022
- Unity Trust Bank statements from October to December 2022; there were no NatWest transactions between October and December 2022
- Financial Forecast for 2022/23
- Audited Accounting Statements:
  - a) 2016/17 - qualified
  - b) 2017/18 - qualified
  - c) 2018/19 - qualified
  - d) 2019/20 - unqualified
  - e) 2020/21 - unqualified
- Red Kite Law LLP Invoice No: 83627 - £,3,840

**Unity Trust Bank Balance**

Opening on 01/10/2022: £83,879.31

Closing on 31/12/2022: £69,562.30

**NatWest Bank Balance**

Opening on 01/10/2022: £5,000.00

Closing on 31/12/2022: £5,000.00

**Resolved:** Excel spreadsheet approved; Red Kite invoice also approved for payment.

**13. Correspondence**

A request was received for a donation to Marie Curie Cymru, KP asked for a postponement to the decision which would allow him to refer to information on donations.

**Action:** to be put on the agenda for the February meeting.

#### **14. Parc Tir Iarll:**

A water supply for the park has been a long-standing issue for the Council.

**Resolved:** an online application to be submitted to Dwr Cymru requesting a survey at a cost of £81 plus £16.20 VAT.

Permission was also requested for an application to be submitted to Bridgend County Borough Council by 28th February 2023 for a 50% contribution towards the cost of this work from the Town and Community Council Fund.

**Resolved:** permission granted.

#### **15. Closure of Llangynwyd Rangers BGCW FC's Car Park to the Public**

Due to a community asset transfer, a considerable amount of drainage work has been carried out at the playing fields, therefore, the club has decided to lock the gate to stop quad bikes, etc. being driven over the fields. Inconsiderate dog walkers have also been using the fields as a toilet for their dog(s), which of course, is a health and safety issue.

The Community Council understands and supports the reasoning behind the club's action, but at the same time, sympathises with disabled people and those who have limited mobility who cannot park there anymore. However, the Council will be laying more tarmac pathway in the spring, and the area by the official entrance to Parc Tir Iarll, on Heol Neuadd Domos, will be resurfaced to allow better access for everyone.

Some unhappy individuals have repeatedly sabotaged the locks on the gate, not only causing added expense and difficulty for the club to access the site, but also for the park warden and other official visitors trying to gain access to Parc Tir Iarll for work purposes. It is unacceptable behaviour, especially when both the club and the Council are working hard to improve surroundings and people's lives in the area.

#### **16. Community Council Representation**

Due to the resignation of Anne Wilkes, there is no longer anyone to stand-in for the Chairman at the following meetings should he be unable to attend:

- Town and Community Council Forum

- One Voice Wales Bridgend/Cardiff/Vale Area Committee

**Resolved:** KP will stand-in for the Chairman.

### **17. Approval of BCBC'S Quotation for the Upgrade of Two Signs Between Station Road and Lletty Brongu**

A sign showing the silhouette of an adult and child holding hands lets drivers know that pedestrians might be present on the road ahead. Like other warning signs, it appears in a red triangle with a white background. There is one by 15 Station Road, Llangynwyd and one by Bridge House, Lletty Brongu which the last Council was considering upgrading with a yellow backboard and additional horse signs. A quotation from BCBC had been requested as they did not have the funds to do the work themselves, however, it has only recently been received for £1,344.38 plus VAT; the sign is cost prohibitive.

**Resolved:** approval not given.

### **18. New Noticeboard for Park**

Caerau Men's Shed has been unable to rectify the condensation issue with the new noticeboard at Parc Tir Iarll, a reimbursement of £230 will be made.

**Action:** Cwm Taf Nature Network to be approached to ask if two noticeboards; one each end of the park can be funded from the grant.

### **19. Clerk's Report**

The Clerk's report was circulated prior to the meeting:

- "The defibrillator at Llangynwyd Village Hall is now back on the circuit, the old pads have been replaced.
- The pay award 2022/23 has been agreed for Local Authority staff, and the Clerk has actioned the payments backdated to April 2022.
- Council donated cakes and biscuits for the remembrance event at the village hall, costing £16.60 plus 66p VAT.
- Water is gathering on the pavement in Mill Street, outside the old Calfaria Chapel, forcing the public to walk on the road; an accident waiting to happen. The Clerk has reported the issue to BCBC.
- The Christmas tree in Cwmfelin was quite scrawny, however, there was no replacement available. Centregreat advised: "What I would suggest going forward is that you may wish to look for an artificial tree for the location which

I am advising councils to go for as we seem to always have the issue with trees and they are getting more and more difficult to obtain each year”.

An artificial tree costs between £10k and £15k, and of course there is a high risk of it being vandalised, so this would not be something that Council would wish to pursue.

- “The driver of the vehicle which collided with the Hopcyn Cross back in 2021 has now reimbursed Council for the repair.
- Update on visit from a commercial portfolio surveyor from BCBC’s Strategic Asset Management and Investment Department - Cwrt y Fedwen issues:

a) Drain installed at park by BCBC to prevent flooding of certain gardens

The drain is cleared out by the park warden however, she is not there 24/7 therefore, it does get blocked with debris during particularly inclement weather when the water level rises, posing a risk to young children. There is also a risk of certain gardens being flooded again.

The surveyor will request a bund at the park.

b) New rear fencing at some homes encroaching on parkland

BCBC wrote to the residents asking for the rear boundaries to be reinstated, but to no avail.”

The surveyor will ask for another letter to be sent, but if that does not work, at least the Community Council has reported the issue to BCBC.

c) “Gates in certain rear fences creating easy access onto parkland

The surveyor advised that there is nothing that can be done and again, at least the Community Council has reported the issue to BCBC.

d) Fly-tipping behind some of the rear fences

The surveyor advised that there is nothing that can be done unless the culprit(s) is/are caught ‘red handed’, and there is hard evidence, i.e., photograph(s) or video(s).”

## **20. Chairman’s Report**

The Chairman’s report was circulated prior to the meeting:

“I have received numerous complimentary remarks relating to our Council’s display of Christmas Lights albeit many also would like to see more throughout the area.” An additional illuminated Christmas Tree maybe positioned on the grassed area opposite Prospect Place which I’m sure will be welcomed by countless residents of Pont Rhyd-

Y-Cyff and visitors at the entrance to the Llynfi Valley. "I personally would still like to see additional Lamp Post decorations positioned sporadically from this point along the A4063 to the start of Llwydarth Road. This is something which I hope can be re-visited when we discuss how the monies available within this year's precept is to be spent.

The second half of 2022 has been a strange period for everyone and with the start of 'normality' returning following the dreaded Covid-19 Coronavirus Pandemic organisations have recommenced their activities. None more so than the Royal British Legion. On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November I had the immense pleasure and privilege of attending the Annual Remembrance Service held at Llangynwyd Village Hall and laying a poppy wreath on behalf of our Council. The event was extremely well organised by our Clerk – Ms Cheryl John with many in attendance including Staff, Pupils & Students from the three schools within our area, Cwmfelin Primary, Llangynwyd Primary and Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd. It was wonderful to witness a poem read by pupils of Cwmfelin, a poignant song by pupils of Llangynwyd and a reading in our 'mother tongue' by Gruff Owen one of the senior prefects at YGG Llangynwyd.

Our local Football Club – Llangynwyd Rangers Boys & Girls Club of Wales are also back up and running with it being 'full steam ahead' with their proposals to improve their facilities at the 'Llan Siro.' On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November I along with the Vice-Chair (Cllr. Ken Piper) & Cllr. Phillippa Etherington met with two representatives of the Club (Mark Jenkins & Phillip Poole) at the 'Llan Siro', a slightly disappointing turnout from our Council as a whole, however much dialogue ensued with both Mark & Phil providing a detailed presentation of the Club's aspirations on how the grant funding streams have been used to undertake the much-needed work on the dilapidated pavilion. It was agreed that as a Council we were in support of their endeavours and would continue to collaborate closely with them moving forward. I am sure we would all agree that the enthusiasm shown by the representatives augurs well for their future. I also understand that everyone has been sent plans and documents by our Clerk which were provided by Phillip Poole relating to the project and trust that you have all taken some time to peruse them. We concluded our meeting by stating that we will continue to do what we can as a Council to assist the progress of the development.

Charitable organisations have also suffered financially throughout the pandemic and it was wonderful to be invited by the Maesteg Branch of Cancer Research UK to attend their Annual Christmas Carol Concert held at St Michael & All Angels Church, Maesteg on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December. The guest performers being the superb 'Noteworthy' Mixed Choir and the highly respected Bridgend Male Choir. I'm pleased to report that in excess of £1,000 was raised for the Charity.

Lastly, we have all been notified by both our Clerk and Wendi Patience (One Voice Wales) of the programme of Training Modules available to us throughout January, February and March. We are all aware of the importance of attending and completing the required modules so can I please encourage everyone to accept this opportunity."

## **21. Member's Reports**

- Cllr Kenneth Piper - Blinds for Llangynwyd Primary School

KP reported that the school would use a donation of £750 in 2023 for the purchase of two high level window blinds to reduce the glare in one of the classrooms.

**Action**: the clerk will contact the school in the new financial year to arrange payment if the draft budget is approved by full Council in March.

## **22. Date of next Ordinary Meeting**

Wednesday, 8th February 2023 at 6.30pm.

**The meeting closed at 8.06pm**

Chairman.....

Date.....