



GARW VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CYNGOR CYMUNED CWM GARW

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held at the Bettws Life Centre
Monday 19th May 2014

Members Present:-

Councillor G Davies (Chairman)

Councillors: C G Andrews; D T Griffiths; Mrs D Griffiths; H Griffiths; W J Hillier; T Jenkins; M Thomas and G Walters.

Police: None

The meeting commenced at 7.15pm and was chaired by Councillor G Davies.

No. ***Minute***

17/15 ***Apologies for Absence***

The Members ***resolved*** to note the apologies received from Cllrs F Hughes, M Jones, S Maclaren and J Szeligiewicz

18/15 ***Declarations of Interest***

Cllr M Thomas – all BCBC matters

19/15 ***Police Matters***

Statistics were only received for Bettws and Llangeinor.

There was no Police representative present and no apologies had been received.

The Council requested that the Clerk finds out the reason for the non-attendance.

See Minute 26/15 also.

20/15 ***Minutes of the March 2014 Full Council Meeting***

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 14th April 2014 are a true record

21/15 ***Matters arising from the March 2014 Minutes***

None

22/15 ***Clerk's Report***

1. Pontycymmer Steps – the steps are now open to the public. The Clerk has arranged extra insurance cover for the steps at a cost of £113.95 per annum. The Clerk informed the Council that there is an ongoing issue with the quality of the signs provided by a local Sign-maker.

The Members stated that the quality of the steps is first-class and they are delighted with the finished result.

Resolved: the Clerk is to write a letter of appreciation to the builder to praise the quality of their workmanship and their conduct whilst working on-site.

2. Triangular area of land at entrance to Llest – this land is unregistered. Cllr Thomas has arranged for BCBC (Tidy Towns) to clear up this land but they will not maintain it.

The Clerk urged the Council to take caution when performing works on areas of land that are not under their control. Firstly this is an act of trespass (even if the works are for the betterment of the land) and secondly, it could potentially commit the Council to continuing the works indefinitely. The Clerk confirmed with Tidy Towns that they are permitted to work on land that is not registered with the Land Registry.

3. Problems in the Blaengarw area – there are increasing problems with off-road bikes again opposite the Visitor Centre and in the Darren Fawr Forestry. The new fencing has been cut (about 12 foot across – the Warden and his volunteer have repaired it). Four wooden stiles have been vandalised and some of the wood taken for a bonfire.

Items 2 and 3 are noted

4. Change of date for the July Meeting – The Clerk requested that the date of the July meeting is brought forward one week to Monday 14th July 2014.

Resolved: the July Meeting will be held on 14th July 2014 in the Bettws Life Centre.

5. Receipt of grant payment for Darren Fawr – the Clerk informed the Members that the grant monies had been received to cover the costs of restocking and re-fencing Darren Fawr.

23/15

Correspondence

1. Garw Valley Heritage Society – requesting donation towards the cost of a database system. The Society also enclosed a booklet “The Great War in the Garw”

Resolved: that the Council in accordance with its powers under s137 LGA1972 should incur expenditure of Ninety Pounds which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure

Cllr D Griffiths abstained from the vote

2. Clerk to BCBC – claiming the £500 website grant. Received into the bank on 19/5/14.
3. Clerk to NRW – requesting further information regarding motorbikes in the Garw Forestry. NRW have acknowledged safe receipt but have not replied yet.
4. HSBC – informing that they are closing two of the accounts that have been inactive for a number of years and changing one of the savings accounts as it is no longer being offered from a 14 Day Notice Account to a Business Money Manager Account (which also has a better rate of interest and is instant access).

Items 2 to 4 are noted

5. BCBC – informing of the Armed Forces Day and Armed Forces Community Covenant Event on 28/6/14. The Chair/Mayor of each Town and Community Council will be asked to sign the Armed Forces Covenant and therefore request confirmation of attendance.

Resolved: The Chairman is to attend and sign the Covenant on behalf of the Council

6. BCBC – stating that they don't own the park area on The Strand, Blaengarw and therefore will not perform any work there. The Clerk had spoken to John Clarke (Tidy Towns at BCBC) on this matter and a site meeting is due to be held in early June.
7. BCBC – advising of a temporary closure to the Community Route at Garreg Side
8. BCBC – informing of a temporary road closure – Bridgend Road, Pontyrhyl (18/6/14 – 1/8/14).

Items 6 to 8 are noted

9. Reach – asking permission for Parc Calon Lan to be included in guided tours.
Resolved: the Council gives permission for Parc Calon Lan to be included in the guided tours

10. BAVO – asking what activities would you like to see at Lets Help, Pontycymmer
11. Welsh Government – highlighting governance issue in small public bodies.
12. Samaritans – thanking for donation
13. Land Registry – expressing concern about the lack of progress being made on the easement application. The Clerk has contacted the applicant's solicitor stating that as no reply has been received, she is to assume that the applicant no longer wishes to proceed. The Clerk has informed the Land Registry of this.
14. Job Centre - making enquiries as to possible employment for a local resident and what Licences he would need to operate equipment. The Clerk informed the Council that this person does a lot of volunteering and helps the Warden with jobs that require more than one man.
15. Urdd Committee – invitation to the Best of Borough Concert on 15/5/14
16. Clerks & Councils Direct Magazine

Items 10 to 16 are noted

17. SLCC – advertising the Conference for Wales on 4/6/14

Resolved: the Council will meet the cost of the Clerk attending the Conference

18. Bridgend Carers Centre – enclosing brochure and advertising upcoming events
19. Welsh Government – Community and Town Councils Welsh Government News
20. BCBC – Proposal to amalgamate Pontycymmer Nursery and Ffaldau Primary School – Determination
21. BCBC – Proposal to amalgamate Bettws Primary School and Tynyrheol Primary School – Objections Report and Decision Notification

Items 19 to 22 are noted

22. Brackla Community Council – devolution of services training at Brackla on 30/6/14

Resolved: the Clerk and Cllr H Griffiths are to attend

23. Clerk to NRW – requesting an update on the clearance of blocked Footpath 46 and Bridleway 49. NRW informed the Clerk that the work was completed on 14/5/14.
24. Questgates (acting for GVCC in claim made against them by Fish Legal) – informing that as they haven't heard from Fish Legal following submission of two letters, the papers will be filed with the insurers.
25. BCBC – informing that the new Mayor is Cllr Gary Thomas and his Consort is Ms Kay Jenkins
26. Clerk to BCBC (Highways) – highlighting a parking issue in Bettws at the junction of Bettws Road and Shwt Hill.

Items 24 to 27 are noted.

P/14/293/FUL – application for extension of wind farm (12 extra turbines) for 25 years at Pant y Wal Wind Farm (east of Ogmore Valley)

Resolved: the Council is object on the grounds of visual impact on the area

BETTWS

Applications

P/14/289/FUL – application to convert vacant shop into a flat at 24a Y Wern, Bettws

No objections

Decisions

None

LLANGEINOR

Applications

P/14/319/LIS – application to use wooden window frames instead of metal frames as in previous application P/13/189/LIS at Tynton Farmhouse

No objections

Decisions

P/14/77/LIS – approval granted for alterations to P/13/189/LIS (Tynton Farmhouse) including block up doorway, form new access off hall, re-arrange shower/cloakroom to accommodate works.

P/14/163/FUL – permission granted to demolish ex garage and rebuild with pitch roof and study in roof space and install outdoor swimming pool at Woodlands, 10 Heol Glynpandy

PONTYCYMMER

Applications

P/14/253/FUL – application to construct 2 three bedroom houses on land adjacent to 166 Oxford Street

No objections

Decisions

None

BLAENGARW

Applications

P/14/343/FUL – application for change of use of one room to a beautician room at the former Church Hall, Church Terrace

No objections

P/14/344/FUL – application for retrospective consent for 12 Velux windows at the former Church Hall, Church Terrace

No objections

Decisions

None

25/15 Planning Notice, plot near Calfaria Church

This Notice is advertising a building plot for sale. Therefore, no further discussion took place on this item.

26/15 Lack of Policing in Blaengarw

The Members once again raised their concerns about anti-social behaviour and crimes taking place in the evenings and weekends and highlighted the need for more Policing in the valley.

Resolved: the Clerk is to write a letter to the Inspector asking for a response to her letter sent on 19th March 2014 and also to request a greater Police presence in the valley, especially in the evenings and weekends. The Clerk is also to raise the issue that the 101 phone number is not a free phone number.

27/15 Emergency access to the Garw Valley

Following the road traffic accident involving the bus at the beginning of May which prevented vehicular access to and from the Valley, the Members:

Resolved: that the Clerk is to write to BCBC to highlight the issue that there is only one point of vehicular entry and exit to the valley and that if an emergency occurred when this access is blocked, there could be potential disastrous consequences

28/15 Official opening of Pontycymmer Steps

Resolved: the Clerk is to arrange a date and invite Janice Gregory AM, Huw Irranca-Davies MP, Bridgend Youth Mayor, Mayor of BCBC and the building company.

29/15 Breathing Spaces Project Area

The Chair, 2 Blaengarw Ward Members and Clerk met with two of the Directors of the Blaengarw Play Development Group Ltd to discuss the necessary maintenance of the Breathing Spaces land. The field is very overgrown and the BMX facility is dangerous.

The Group has no money or resources to maintain the land and essentially exists now in name only. It is very unlikely that Phase 2 of funding will be received and as things stand, the area is going to deteriorate further. The Group are looking to hand back the land to the Community Council.

Resolved: the Council is to seek advice from BCBC on this matter.

30/15 2013/14 Annual Return

Members had been provided with a copy of the 2013/14 Annual Return one week prior to the meeting.

Section 1 of the Annual Return for 2013/14 was explained by the Clerk. The Receipts & Payments Account had been approved in the April 2014 Meeting and agreed to the Annual Return. With all Members in agreement, it was:

Resolved: that Part 1 of the 2013/14 Annual Return was approved

Section 2 of the Annual Return for 2013/14 (Annual Governance Statement) had been provided to all Members a week prior to the Meeting for their consideration. All questions were answered positively and so it was:

Resolved: that the Annual Governance Statement is approved and the Chairman duly signed the front page of the 2013/14 Annual Return.

31/15 **Finance & Accounts**

1. The Clerk presented accounts for approval totalling £33,761.50

Resolved: That the accounts were approved for payment

2. Members ***resolved*** to note the Receipts and Payments Account prepared for the period 01/04/14 to 12/05/2014

32/15 **Items for the June Meeting**

1. Road signs for Bettws to Llangeinor Road (s106 Agreement with developers of the Chicken Farm) (Mrs DG)
2. Loose manhole cover outside 174 Heol Glannant, Bettws (DG)

33/15 **Date of the next Meeting**

Resolved: That the Council will next meet at 7pm on Monday 16th June 2014 at the Bettws Life Centre

With business concluded the Chairman closed the Meeting at 8.55pm

Chairman _____ **Date** _____