

Minutes of a Meeting of the Newcastle Higher Community Council held by telephone conference via Zoom on Tuesday 8th February 2021 at 7.00 p.m.

Cllr Altaf Hussain: Presided

Present (11)

Councillors Marged Griffiths, Altaf Hussain, Dave Fowler, Mal John, Ann John, Phillip Lathey, Alex Marshall, Meryl Wilkins, James Radcliffe, Byron Jones and Heidi Bennett. Member of the public Jane Gabbie

Clerk, John Richfield, Clerk appointed from October 2020, Adam Davies

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Derrick Baker.

2. Written Declaration of Interest in Agenda items

Before the start of the meeting Council members made declarations of interest in agenda items on the form provided, as follows:

Cllr Meryl Wilkins made a declaration relating to her personal interest in the following subject; Parc Tondu street Names. Cllr Meryl Wilkins' full list of declarations of interests can be found on the Councils website.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on the 12th January 2021

The Council received the following amendments:

Point 12: To approve the date of the Clerk's appraisal

The Clerk is expected to be formally appraised at the end of March and Cllr Griffiths is supporting the clerk with induction and coaching.

Point 13b: Finance

Referred as the Finance and HR group (rather than an RFO assistance group)

Point 16: Councillor reports

V2C garages: People in the village who worked for V2C were aware of the issue, but it was agreed the Clerk would write to V2C in relation to the dilapidated garages.

Cllr Bennett raised the issue of progressing the notice board for Penyfai which was approved by Council previously. It was agreed updated quotes would be sourced by the clerk. The Council discussed placing the notice board on the Pheasant Field when the asset transfer was complete.

Cllr Bennett raised the issue of progressing a grants process, which was agreed by the Council previously. It was suggested the Clerk connect to other councils to help develop a system for Council to adopt.

Point 18. Any other business

In relation to Cllr Mal John who raised the issue of putting in bigger capacity dog bins at Plas Ty Mawr and Pentre Felin, and moving the existing smaller bins to other areas yet to be identified. This was seconded by Cllr Heidi Bennet. This point raised should have been placed on the Maintenance committee report section.

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 8th February 2021 were confirmed and signed.

4. Matters Arising on the Minutes

Point 5. The Clerk reported to the Council that we are still awaiting a date for a site meeting at Cavendish park with the intention of rectifying the drainage issue.

5. Reports from BCBC Members

a. Cllr Altaf Hussain

Recent RTA at junction of A4063 and Tyn Y Garn Road

Cllr Ann John reported her concern about the recent RTA (Road Traffic Accident) and many other near misses to the public at the junction of A4063 and Tyn Y Garn Road. The issue raised was referred to BCBC and the area's PCSO as it is becoming an accident prone site. The improvements were brought up by Cllr Anne John noting by introducing either a filter or a mini roundabout this would possibly prevent such accidents. In response, BCBC ruled out any roundabout or use of filters, owing to the collision history of this location as this would not meet their criteria for funding. It was suggested that the Council get in touch with Gosafe website and raise the concern on there. The community's local PCSO Mark Emery responded noting that there has been only one other RTA over the last 3 years in this location but it is a fast section of road which is only 30 mph zone. He has suggested to do some speed scoping and will provide the results to Cllr Hussain and BCBC. So far Cllr Hussain has not received any report from him.

Rubbish under Motorway Bridge

Photographs received by Cllr Hussain showing Rubbish under the motorway bridge on Penyfai Aberkenfig road were forwarded to BCBC for an immediate action.

Traffic and Parking, Pen Y Fai Road

Cllr Hussain reported that Cllrs Alex Marshall, Phil Lathey and Mal John attended an informal visit to the main Pen Y Fai road to see if it was possible to slow the traffic or reduce the parking problems. The Councillors asked Cllr Hussain to organise a site meeting with BCBC Highway officers. BCBC responded by saying that they currently are unable to meet onsite owing to COVID but have offered a Team or Skype meeting to discuss these concerns. It was asked that Councillors provide suitable dates.

Potholes

Potholes were reported along Pen Yr Heol and such have been marked by the Highways and some have been repaired and others also repaired soon.

Active Travel

Cllr Hussain reported that a meeting took place this morning regarding the Active Travel scheme with stakeholders via a webinar. The meeting discussed the draft network for Bridgend, background information on the process of developing the future network plans and general questions. Cllr Hussain noted his hope that this plan will include Pen Y Fai which is otherwise cut off from the rest of Bridgend. Cllr Hussain was assured that this is the case and a map will be sent to Cllr Hussain and disseminated to all councillors for their comments.

Christmas Lights and speed signs

Cllr Hussain reported that he has been in touch with Mr Colin Hill of BCBC and has asked for site location for lights and an understanding of units NHCC has and he will get back to us with the quotation. Mr Colin Hill of BCBC has looked at the speed signs and installed at either end of Pen Y Fai and both units have faults on them. Mr Hill suggested we contact our supplier to visit the site and carry out required maintenance.

Grit Bin

It was reported to Cllr Hussain that due to the recent cold weather the public in upper Pen Y Fai has commented regarding the lack of grit within the area for community use. It was noted that there is a community grit bin located at the shop in upper Pen Y Fai and as such available for the community to use. Cllr Hussain has contacted BCBC and they are looking into further allocations of bins. It was suggested by Cllr Griffiths that a possible sign or sticker be placed on the grit bins to inform our community that it is for public use.

b. Cllr James Radcliffe

Pandy Park

It was reported to Cllr Radcliffe that there was a lot of rubbish located at Pandy Park. A referral has been passed to BCBC and he has been informed that this will be cleared within the next few weeks.

Bowls Hall

Cllr Radcliffe was requested within a previous meeting to look into who owns the path between the Aberkenfig Bowls Hall, the referral was given to BCBC in December and no response has been received.

Travelers assessment

Cllr Radcliffe was requested to comment regarding a Travelers site for his area. The Cllr commented stating that a site is not expected to be placed within Aberkenfig as a site is already located within the ward. Cllr Radcliffe notes that a private site is being considered within the Pen Y Fai ward. Cllr Radcliffe is unable to provide a further comment as he is a member of the BCBC planning committee.

6. Report from Maintenance Committee

Dog Bins

Cllr Mal John reported that he has had a conversation with a member of Bridgend Town Council Staff who removes the dog waste for our Council. He discussed that the Dog waste bins within certain locations do not have the required capacity and have a tendency to overflow. It was also reported that the bins are used by the public to place household waste within them. It was suggested larger bins be placed at Plas Ty Mawr and Felin Retail Park. It was noted that this was discussed at the last meeting and agreed by the Council.

Cllr Alex Marshall informed the Council that he has had a conversation with the resident of Pleasant View Aberkenfig. He reported that a vehicle reversed into the woodland and proceeded to take out a chainsaw. Cllr Phil Lathey took this up with Aberkenfig's PCSO. The PCSO noted that this issue is for BCBC and not the Police.

7. Christmas Lighting Update

The Council was informed that Council currently contracts Centregreat for Pen Y Fai and Floodlighting and Electrical Services Ltd for Aberkenfig for our Christmas Lighting. The Clerk researched local Christmas lighting firms and notified the Council that he was unable to find any other suppliers within our area that the Council were not already aware of. The Clerk contacted 14 Community Councils within Bridgend County Borough and found that 7 use BCBC, 6 use Centregreat. Without any other recommendations. The Clerk was unable to provide the Council with any quotes from other providers. It was discussed that the Council has been in contact with BCBC to provide us with a quote for the Christmas Lighting. Cllr Bennet suggested that the Clerk provide the Council with a brochure for hiring new Christmas lights and one that shows the outright cost of Christmas lights to the Council.

8. Hanging baskets Update

It was reported to the Council that Boverton Nurseries have accepted the Councils request to supply the Councils flower baskets for 2021. The Council discussed its concerns that 3 quotes were requested by the Council at its last meeting. Councillors suggested that the Council could have contacted other organizations such as B Leaf, Ewenny Garden Centre and Pyle Garden Centre for quotes. It was agreed by the Council to look into quotes for the next flower season within our November meeting.

9. Street Names (Parc Tondu)

Cllr Meryl Wilkins declared her interest with Parc Tondu and was not involved with the discussion.

Cllr Mal John requested the Clerk to get in touch with Llanmoor Homes requesting if the Council could suggest any street names. Llanmoor Homes provided the Council with a favourable response. Cllr Mal John suggested that a working group be created for an informal meeting to discuss Councillors street name suggestions. Cllr Mal John suggested that Cllr Heidi Bennett, Cllr Marged Griffiths, Cllr David Fowler and Cllr Alex Marshall be involved. It was proposed by Cllr Mal John that a subgroup be formed and seconded by Cllr Heidi Bennet.

10. Clerk Introduction and Training

Cllr Marged Griffiths reported to the Council that herself and the Clerk arranged to meet and discuss the progression and introduction the Clerk is currently received. Cllr Griffiths has kindly provided the Clerk's with templates to fill in to support the new Clerk when John finishes on the 31st March 2021. The new Clerk took over the following Items in date order, Month 1, Minutes. Month 2, Agenda. Month 3 Correspondence. With the next few months taking over finances of the Council.

It was noted that the Council currently holds a number of boxes with documents the Council must keep for legal reasons and as such Cllr Griffiths suggested that the Council look into scanning companies to digitise our records.

Cllr Griffiths notified the Council that the Clerk is available between 6pm and 9pm Tuesday to Thursday for conversations and discussions.

The Clerk's appraisal is expected at the end of March, Cllr Griffiths volunteered to accompany the Chair with this process. The Chair thanked Cllr Griffiths for her time spent supporting the Clerk and the Council.

11. Covid Ward Nightwear

Cllr Mal John reported to the Council that there was an urgent need for nightwear for patients at the Princess of Wales Hospital due to Covid 19. Cllr John provided the hospital with 11 pairs of Nightware for the hospital on behalf of the Council to the Value of £153.50. It was agreed to reimburse Cllr Mal John, It was proposed by Cllr Anne John and seconded by Cllr David Fowler. It was unanimously agreed.

12. Finance

a. Accounts for payment

	£	
Covid Ward nightwear reimbursement to Cllr Mal John	153.50	(201773)
M Scott Groundwork (Work Stated Below)	Total 1,070	(201774)
Woodland Trim	80	
Woodland Footpath	220	
Flag pole fitting	580	
Repairing flagstones on Aberkenfig square	190	
AABC Website Annual Cost	204	(201775)
Chair's Allowance 2019-20 (Menter Bro Ogwr)	300	(201776)

It was reported to the Council by our guest Jane Gebbie that Clerk salaries must not be visible to the public and should be provided to the Council separately from the publicly available agenda.

13. Correspondence

1. Dog waste bins

Cllr John reported to the Council that a number of dog waste bins were overflowing and asked that we contact Bridgend Town Council and make them aware.

2. Flag

Cllr John requested the Clerk to send a letter to Mr Shaw thanking him for donating the flag to the Council.

3. Boverton Nurseries

Boverton Nurseries confirmed it will provide the Councils hanging basket for 2021

4. Llanmoor-home

Message received in response to the Councils request to have an input into the naming of streets at Parc Tondu development.

5. One Voice Wales

Additional free training places available for Core modules.

6. One Voice Wales

Guide regarding Connecting with your local community - A Communications Guide for Welsh Community & Town Councillors and their Clerks

7. Cllr Ann John

Forwarded from Cllr John regarding a request to Cllr Hussain to look into improvements at the site of the RTA at the junction of A4063 and Tyn y Garn Road, Tyn y Garn, Penyfai.

8. Community Payback Service

The Council received information regarding the Community Payback service, they would provide a cost effective way to provide the community with painting jobs, maintenance, building work and litter picking .

9. Local Government Finance and Workforce Partnerships Division

Remainder received regarding the Accounts deadlines.

10. Allotments

Documents received from Bob Edwards of the Aberkenfig Allotments association.

11. BCBC

Link from BCBC regarding the Town and Community Council Forum on the 15th February.

12. One Voice Wales

February 2021 - Remote training sessions that are taking place in February

13. Postcard from Pen-y-fai Feb/ Mar 2021

A request for funding to the Pen Y Fai Postcard

14. Karen Lang

A request was received from a member of the public to attend the Councils site meetings at Cavendish park.

15. M Scott

Invoice for work for the Community Council invoice 211 in the sum of £1,070.

16. AABC Limited

Invoice for the annual cost for the Councils website

17. B - Leaf

As requested a Quote for 97 Hanging Baskets was requested for the 2022 year. B - Leaf noted that a quote can be provided in late October / November.

14. Planning Applications

P /20/1025/FUL 21 Heol Eglwys Pen Y Fai Bridgend CF31 4LY

(Two storey rear extension)

P/21/16/OUT Orchard House Pen-y-Fai Road Aberkenfig Bridgend CF32 9AA

(Two dwellings including access and parking)

P/20/921/FUL Angelton Hall Angelton Road Pen Y Fai Bridgend CF31 4LL
(Proposed new open air treehouse and external decking for private family use)

Cllr Mal John raised concern regarding P/20/16/OUT. Cllr John noted that the treehouse may be looking over towards houses at Park Cavendish which may compromise with properties privacy. It was suggested by Cllr Heidi Bennett that the Clerk attend a Planning Aid Wales course to help him understand the procedures.

It was noted to the Council that any heavy goods vehicle within a certain area can be restricted by highways to ensure they use the road at only certain times of the day.

15. Reports from Councillors

Cllr Mal John asked the Council if we have had a response for Mr Beaman of BCBC regarding Rock Cottages. The Chair confirmed he will email Mr Beaman for an update. The Clerk confirmed that no response has been received and an update was requested prior to the meeting but still no response. A discussion took place regarding Pen Y Fai Common and Angelton Common. Councillors discussed that both commons are under 2 different regulations. It was suggested that the Clerk contact BCBC to clarify. The Clerk confirmed that Mr Beaman has contacted BCBC legal department regarding Pen Y Fai Common regulations.

Cllr Fowler discussed his concerns regarding the vaccination progress within the Aberkenfig area. Cllr Fowler discussed that not all priority groups have been reached with himself having to call the local surgery for a Vaccination appointment. Cllr Bennett kindly updated Cllr Fowler that not all GP surgeries are receiving the same amount and everyone over 70 is expected to be offered a vaccine by the 15th February.

Cllr Bennett suggested that the Council invite public associations such as Tondu and Aberkenfig Village Associations to attend the Councils meetings in future.

Cllr Griffiths reported to the Council that Aberkenfig Memorial Hall is attempting to renovate their hall and possibly extend to improve its facilities and create new facilities for the community.

16. Reports from Community Associations

There was none

17. Any Other Business

Cllr Bennett congratulated the Chair Altaf Hussain for regional selection as a Sennedd Candidate for the Conservative Party.

There being no more business, the meeting closed at 20:44 p.m. The next meeting would be via video link, on Tuesday 9th March 2021.