

Minutes of a Meeting of the Newcastle Higher Community Council held in Smyrna Chapel Conservatory, Penyfai, on Tuesday 9th October 2018 at 7.00 p.m.

Cllr Gary Haines: Presided

Present (8) Cllrs Derrick Baker, Heidi Bennett, Dave Fowler, Gary Haines, Altaf Hussain, Ann John, Malcolm John & Meryl Wilkins.

Clerk: John Richfield

Aberkenfig and Tondu Community Association : Claudette Evans and Lin Masters

Aberkenfig Allotment Association : Mrs Took and other members

Residents, Neil Bowen and Colin Williams

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Joyce Haines, Byron Jones and Alex Marshall.

The Clerk reported receiving a message from Cllr Lee Robson who had resigned from the Community Council. The Council was disappointed, however the Clerk would contact the BCBC Electoral Department to set up the process for a casual vacancy. He would also write to Lee Robson to thank him for his service.

2. Members Declaration of Interests on any items on the Agenda

No specific interests in any of the items discussed were made at this meeting.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th September 2018

The draft minutes of 4th September 2018 were approved.

4. Matters Arising on the September Minutes

The Clerk would confirm the quoted price for the bins at agendum 7(iii).

Cllrs Derrick Baker and Gary Haines would collect the remembrance wreaths from the British Legion Shop when available.

The Clerk reported that he had obtained two silhouettes for the remembrance event which would be delivered to Cllr Derrick Baker. These had been obtained at no cost to the Council.

5. Report from Tondu and Aberkenfig Community Association

The Council welcomed Claudette Evans and Lyn Masters to the meeting representing the Community Association. It was agreed that the Clerk allocate the Association a regular slot on the Agenda of the Community Council's meetings.

They reported that the Tondu & Aberkenfig Community Association was now holding regular meetings on the first Wednesday of the month in the Ynysawdre Parish Room at 7.00 p.m.

The following subjects were discussed:

Plastic litter

Complaints had been directed to Keir, the BCBC's sub-contractor about the problem of leaving loose plastic in the yard at the waste transfer station. This had now been cleared.

Blocked drains

blocked drains were a problem in various parts of the estate, for example Clos Pwll Clai and Ffordd Anton which were not adopted highway. Claudette Evans had approached the developers who were responsible.

Retail Park

Claudette Evans had spoken to the manager of the Retail Park regarding the litter and about having a Community Notice Board installed.

Section 106 Agreements

Claudette Evans gave an example of the conversion of a building at Ogmored by Sea into a Community Centre which illustrated that S106 money would be better used for a community centre than a road. It was wondered if this could apply in Ogmored, it might also in Tondur. It was regretted that there was no school provided with the new development, and Tondur School had not enough reception places.

Cllr Derrick Baker recalled that Vahe Zarifian, the representative of the Merthyr Mawr Estate, the developer, had stated in a meeting that the Merthyr Mawr Estate had offered to provide a school initially, but that the BCBC had refused the offer. The wider subject had been mentioned at the Senedd, and Bethan Sayed AM asked Leslie Griffiths, Cabinet Minister to 'ensure where new houses and estates are built that there is a mandate to ensure new communal facilities and expand the wider infrastructures, such as building new General Practitioner surgeries'. It was recognised that building houses just to meet government targets did not necessarily mean that building a community followed.

The Clerk would ask Phil Thomas of BCBC Planning what their policy in BCBC was for projects and S106 agreements, in the light of the above. Such a letter would be sent in liaison with the TACA.

Flowers and Lights

The Chair, Cllr Gary Haines, undertook that the NHCC would look sympathetically at including the Tondur part of the Community in provision of flowers and Christmas Lights next year, when suitable locations would be identified as part of a general review of such provisions.

6. Community Defibrillators

The Council welcomed Neil Bowen, a local resident, who had attended to speak to the Council about provision of community defibrillators in Penyfai. Mr Bowen explained that he was a First Aid Trainer who provided event cover. He was the Community First Responder for Penyfai and Heart Start volunteer, and his company supplied and manufactured defibrillators. It was reported that the price for a full stainless steel cabinet defibrillator to be located on a wall with a keypad to access (phone 999 for the code) would be c.£2,200.00 Ideally it was suggested one was needed at the Pheasant end of Penyfai and another at the top. This recommended location would enable someone to attend a casualty with the defibrillator within 3 minutes, and therefore within the optimum time. Mr Bowen explained that 'Community Heat Start' may match fund. He undertook to provide details to the Clerk. The Chair asked Mr Bowen to send in a written submission in order for the Council to consider providing money for this. The Clerk would wait for the information and request. When received, he would circulate it to all Councillors and put it on the agenda.

7. Aberkenfig Allotment Association

The Council welcomed Mrs Took, the Chair of the Allotments Association, to the meeting. She reported that the Association had made enquiries of Welsh Water / Dwr Cymru regarding the provision of piped water on the allotments. They had advised that it was necessary to undertake a survey to determine an outline costing for a metered stand pipe.

The Council agreed that the AAA could have the initial survey done and to send the £95.00 cost to the Clerk for bringing to the Agenda of the Council. It was restated that, should a water meter be installed, the Association would be responsible for the payment of the costs incurred.

Cllr Heidi Bennet suggested that the AAA might find out about and possibly affiliate to Bridgend Allotments Association for support, and that a future Go Wild Fund surgery was to be held by BAVO.

8. Pheasant Field

The Council welcomed Mr Colin Williams, a local resident, to speak to the Council. He reported his views on the history of the pheasant field and his understanding of the aims of the former Penyfai Community Association which was to obtain a Community Centre for the village.

In the late 1990s the Community Association, together with the BCBC, proposed to build a community centre in part of the Pheasant field. However, despite the assurances of the local authority, this did not happen and Mr Williams took the view that the Local Authority had decided to prioritise a community centre in another part of the County Borough instead.

In discussion it was reported that Cllr Heidi Bennett had already carried out a land registry search on the land and no charges were attached or recorded at the land registry at the point of voluntary registration by BCBC in 2007. Cllr Bennett had written to the Land Registry to check and confirm what was submitted at the time of registration. Cllr Meryl Wilkins stated that she was in possession of a 1961 conveyance document concerning this land.

It was recalled that the BCBC had attempted to designate the Field as a candidate site in the last LDP, and might try to do so again. Cllr Heidi Bennett indicated that the process of trying to designate the site for community use was complicated and the Council agreed that it would be helpful to find a consultant to assist with bringing the Community Council's objective to fruition, to protect the site for the benefit of the community.

The Clerk would also ask the BCBC directly if there was any covenant on the land as soon as practicable.

9. Report from PACT Meeting

Cllr Heidi Bennet had a copy of the PACT minutes and reported to the Council about the last PACT meeting.

- It was reported to PACT that the BCBC had issued notices to remove posts on the common at Penyrheol. So far this had not happened, and residents were referred to Cllr Altaf Hussain as it was a BCBC matter to follow up.
- The police were monitoring the Penyfai Road for traffic violations.
- A new PCSO (Police Community Support Officer) would be appointed soon.
- There was a problem with fly tipping under the M4 bridge. This may be private land, and although Cllr Altaf Hussain had reported it to BCBC it had not been removed. Cllr Hussain also reported that Graffiti would be removed by BCBC, which had not yet taken place. There were also concerns about some dangerous driving.
- The crime statistics were available on the police website.

- The next meeting would take place on 29 October in Smyrna Penyfai.

10. County Borough Councillors

Cllr Altaf Hussain (Penyfai)

Cllr Altaf Hussain reported that he had been away visiting his father and would bring a detailed report to the next meeting.

Cllr James Radcliffe (Aberkenfig)

Cllr James Radcliffe, County Borough Councillor for Aberkenfig, had indicated that he was unable to attend the meeting, so the Clerk presented a report on his behalf.

Community Action Fund

Cllr Radcliffe has used his CAF to fund two organisations locally, firstly to help provide equipment for Aberkenfig Boys and Girls Cub and secondly, funding Aberkenfig Ministries to (a) support the development of a debt advice centre that aimed to support people to become debt free and (b) equipment for the classes used to tackle social isolation, and (c) capital work to make the church wheelchair friendly to use as a community centre.

Post Office

Unfortunately, the business that had previously expressed an interest in taking over the post office in Aberkenfig had had to withdraw from the process, however Cllr Radcliffe had identified another business that had expressed an interest. There would now be a delay.

Committees

Cllr Radcliffe had been appointed to the Development Control Committee in BCBC, so he hoped to have greater influence on future development locally, and to learn more about planning rules.

The Council noted the report.

11. Update from Committees

(i) Community Development Project

This had been Cllr Lee Robson's project, who had now resigned from the Council. It was noted that there had been a good response to the on-line survey, a total of 37 people had responded. The Clerk would ask Lee Robson to send the paper results to him, as Cllr Heidi Bennett had sent the link to the online survey, for collation and to report to the Council for decision on action. The outcome would be helpful to inform the Council's future community engagement. Cllr Heidi Bennett noted she was not a member of the Community Action Committee.

(ii) Maintenance Committee

The maintenance committee had been active in the woodlands and engaged a contractor to spray for knotweed, the first spraying had now taken place.

A communication had been received from Phineas Brooks, a resident near the woodlands, about concerns for the trees adjoining his property. The Clerk would contact the BCBC tree officers initially for their opinion.

The committee members had visited areas around the villages to monitor the current position.

(iii) Bins

In the absence of Cllr Alex Marshall, the Clerk would keep Councillors informed on progress with the order for delivery of the Bins. The Clerk has also contacted Matt Scott Landscaping for him to prepare for the installation.

12. Centenary of the Armistice - Remembrance 2018

Arrangements had been made in both Aberkenfig and Penyfai for Councillors to attend remembrance events. Invitations had been sent to the Remembrance at the War Memorial in Aberkenfig, to a number of groups, and any and all residents and visitors were very welcome to attend.

In Aberkenfig the schools Artwork would be unveiled in the presence of children, teachers and parents and the artist who had enabled the realisation of the artwork, Justine Stroud.

The unveiling would take place before the Remembrance event which would start at 10.30, and the roll of honour read at 10.45. After the Silence at 11.00, people would be invited to lay wreaths and attend the remembrance service in St John's Church Aberkenfig.

Members of the Council would lay wreaths in Aberkenfig, Penyfai, and Bryncethin later in the day.

In Penyfai All Saints' Church were to hold a Festival of Remembrance for the centenary over a number of days to include the dedication of a new memorial as well as the traditional service.

Cllrs Derrick Baker and Gary Haines would collect the wreaths and wooden crosses which the Clerk had arranged to be at the British Legion Shop in Bridgend.

13. Penyfai Speed Reduction Project

The Council noted that Cllr Heidi Bennett was to arrange to meet with County Highways to proceed with this project. It would remain on the Agenda next month.

14. Preparation for Christmas Lights 2018-2019

It had been agreed by the Council in September that the lighting arrangements in Aberkenfig had been satisfactory last year, so there would be no need to change from the arrangements with BCBC and Floodlighting and Electrical Services supplying the lighting. It had also been agreed to investigate additional options in Penyfai with Floodlighting and Electrical Services, and to consider what might be done in Pentrefelin in the future. A site meeting was held with Darren Brearley of Floodlighting Services, at the end of September, and he provided some information about additional columns and icicle decorations. It was agreed to try to find some other options for additional lighting in Penyfai within the next two weeks, as the costs seemed high and meet between meetings to try to finalise the options for this year.

There would be a review into Christmas lighting options, to take place early next year.

15. Tondu School Council

The Council was informed that Cllr Derrick Baker had been to visit Tondu School in connection with the Remembrance Art project, and was very impressed with the school. The Head Teacher wanted to invite members of the Community Council to meet with their School Council which had been recently elected. It was agreed to accept the Head Teacher's invitation. Cllr Baker would liaise and choose a date.

16. Correspondence

1. Western Power Distribution

Details of supply for electricity for Christmas lights – Clerk to pass on to installers when agreed.

2. BCBC Monitoring Officer

Response to the Clerks question as to the details of how the land at Penyfai by Pheasant Field and nearby was registered - circulated to all Councillors in full.

3. Floodlighting and Electrical Services

List of available column decorations with prices. Circulated to Councillors in advance of the site meeting, and reported on at item 10.

4. BCBC Town and Community Council Fund

Information about the Town & Community Council Fund for 2019/2020. Noted

5. One Voice Wales

Schedule of bookings for Councillor Heidi Bennett for training events. Invoice awaited.

6. Penyfai Church Treasurer

Note of thanks for the Council's support for the Remembrance Project in Penyfai.

7. Cllr Mal John

Forwarded message from the Coach of the Aberkenfig Football Club. They wish to seek financial assistance. See Grant requests.

8. Tondu & Aberkenfig Hub

Asking for consideration for the Northern part of the community to be included in consideration of the arrangements for summer flowers and Christmas Lights. To be considered in review in 2019.

9. Tondu and District Art Society

Invitation to the Chair of the Council to attend the Preview of the Winter Exhibition at 7.00 p.m. on Thursday 18 October. Noted.

10. Tree Surgeons Bedwas, Caerphilly

Quotation for eradication of Japanese knotweed at woodlands in the sum of £500 +VAT.

Authorised by the Chair and Deputy Chair. – to be paid.

11. Dr Alistair Nelson

Note to report that his application for judicial review was lost, and thanks to the Clerk for sending an additional letter of support.

12. Royal Mail

Letter giving warning of scam mail.

13. Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales

Copy of their recommendations – circulated to Council noted that this will need to be brought into the budget for next year.

14. BDO Auditors

Audit signed off unqualified for the year. Letter to be circulated to the Council and action taken where appropriate.

15. BCBC

Invoice for Bus Shelter Cleaning £59.63. To be paid.

16. Bridgend Town Council

Invitation to Civic Service at Bridgend United Church 21 October 2018 at 3.00

17. Independent Review Panel for Community & Town Councils.

Outline recommendations. Final report awaited.

18. SWALEC

Invoice for electricity for last year's Christmas lights for £24.20. To pay.

19. Claudette Evans

Planning Correspondence – see report.

20. Justine Stroud

Update on arrangements for 11 November. Noted.

17. Planning Committee Report

The Council noted the following applications made, with no comments.

P/18/708/FUL 23 Cwrt yr Hen Ysgol, Tondu

18. Other Reports from Councillors

- Cllr Dave Fowler reported an overflowing Bin in the park at Pentrefelin – the Clerk to ask for a bigger bin from the BCBC.
- Cllr Meryl Wilkins reported continued concern at the alleged damage being caused by individuals to the Rocks on Penyfai Common. Mr Wikins had reported this to the legal officer in BCBC and compared with the ordnance survey map. It was felt to be a matter for BCBC to enforce if the law was being broken.

19. Finances

(a) Accounts for payment

The following accounts would be paid:

	£	
BCBC (bus shelter cleaning)	59.63	(201621)
The Tree Surgeons Ltd (knotweed programme)	600.00	(201622)
SWALEC (electricity)	24.20	(201623)

(b) Consideration of requests for grants

The Council agreed to make the following grants for public benefit:

Samaritans of Bridgend	500.00	(201624)
Aberkenfig Boys and Girls Club	500.00	(201625)

20. Any Other Business

(The council agreed to suspend standing orders in order to complete the meeting beyond 9.00)

- 1 Consequent on the resignation of Cllr Lee Robson, St Roberts School would need a new Community Council nominated governor. Cllr Mal John volunteered – the Clerk would inform BCBC.
 - 2 Cllr Heidi Bennett asserted that the website was not compliant as it did not contain up to date information or notices, and she asserted it was not compliant in terms of accessibility. The Clerk reported that it had been not been commented on by the Auditors. Cllr Bennett also highlighted a previous discussion where Cllr Robson and Cllr Bennett would improve the design and format of the website so that it was accessible and compliant and more visually attractive, and that the Council had not followed through on this proposal. Cllr Gary Haines asked Cllr Bennett to report on what changes would be needed to being to the next meeting for approval by the Council. Cllr Bennett felt the whole design needed overhaul and was not in a position to prepare a report, so rescinded the offer to bring it up to the standard.
 - 3 Cllr Meryl Wilkins reiterated her concerns about the absence of provision for public toilets locally.
 - 4 Finally Cllr Baker noted that completing the Council's business agenda was more difficult to achieve in a reasonable time when a number of unscheduled visitors came to talk to the Council. It was agreed all members of the public were welcome to attend any and all meeting of the Council, however those wishing to speak at any length ought to make prior arrangements with the Chair or Clerk. The Clerk would send a copy of the One Voice Wales Standing Orders, which had been endorsed by the Council, to the Chair.
- Meeting ended 9.15. The next meeting would be held in Smyrna Chapel, Penyfai, on 13 November 2018.