



**NEWCASTLE HIGHER COMMUNITY
COUNCIL**

**HYBRID MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL HELD
14TH FEBRUARY 2023,**

AT PEN-Y-FAI CIW Primary at 6.30pm

Present: Cllrs. Heidi Bennett (Chair) Jane Gebbie, Beth Morgan. Gaynor Hewitt, Mike Flanagan, Sarah Botterill, Marged Griffiths, Richard Hughes, Julie Kemble

Public: Two members of the Public were in attendance

125/23 Apologies received

Adam Davies, Clerk; Cllrs. David Hopkins, Gethin Brown, Samantha Barker

Council noted the Clerk was unwell and wished him a speedy recovery.

126/23 To receive observations and queries from the public

Meryl Wilkins raised matter of School Crossing again and was advised no-one had applied for the post. MW questioned could PCSO do School Patrol Crossing? Council responded that this did not fall into the remit of PCSOs roles. Agreed to invite PCSOs to next meeting to confirm this and update on whether 'Golden Rivers' response had been received yet.

MW noted Local Development Planning: Meetings with the Inspector are taking place over next few weeks.

127/23 Declarations of Interest in accordance with section 51 of the Local Government Act 2000

Cllrs. Kemble, Griffiths and Bennett each declared a personal interest as members of PVCA.

Cllr Bennett declared a prejudicial interest in Item 134/23 as a member of BCBC Development control Committee

128/23 To approve as corrected the Minutes of the Council Meeting 13th December 2022 and 10th January 2023

Minutes of the meeting 13th December 2022 were approved as a true and accurate record. Proposed Cllr Flanagan; Seconded Cllr Hughes.

Due to the January Minutes not being received 3 days prior to the meeting, this was deferred to the next meeting.

129/23 Matters Arising

Any matters arising from the minutes were taken under appropriate agenda headings.

130/23 To receive reports from Community Association representatives

Aberkenfig Community Association (TACA) Update: Claudette Evans stated the proposed placing of a new mast in Aberkenfig was inappropriately sited. Llanmoor Homes had been unaware of the proposal. CE noted that currently this is in pre-planning / community consultation phase and TACA would be objecting and making representation to planning.

Cllr Gebbie noted she would request an update from BCBC Officers.

CE noted that Pentrefelin had few public waste bins on the far end of the estate and waste/litter was an issue on the retail park. Cllr HB noted public waste bins were a BCBC responsibility and that a request could be put into BCBC by the County Councillor. It was noted that County Cllr for Aberkenfig Ellie Richards was currently indisposed and Cllr Gebbie agreed to put a referral in.

PVCA Update: Cllrs Kemble and Griffiths noted 'Croeso Cynnes' coffee mornings sessions had been set up in Penyfai All saints Church with support of church members, and friendships had started to form, the first session was well attended (held alternate Wednesdays 9-11am). The Church was also delivering its own Warm lunch / Soup sessions on Thursday afternoons (alternate to Coffee mornings). The sessions are also offering lots of suggestions from members of the public as to what else could be developed in the community such as parent and baby sessions and book clubs.

No plans had been firmed up for the Coronation but it would be looked at by PVCA sub group.

131/23 Ratification of recommendations from:

i) Maintenance committee meeting held on 16th January and 17th February 2023

ii) Quotes received in relation to hanging baskets/floral displays and new brackets.

It was considered and RESOLVED:- to delegate a budget of up to £6500 (exc VAT) to Maintenance committee to action these purchases.

It was agreed this would enable better displays and increase the number in Pentrefelin. The maintenance committee would give instruction to the provider that bright trailing plants would be preferable in the arrangements.

Proposed Cllr Gebbie. Seconded: Cllr Hewitt

As such, Council agreed and approved the recommendations of the maintenance committee.

Further to this, members asked maintenance committee to consider a programme of Daffodil planting in the Autumn. Cllr Bennett noted BCBC require a risk assessment to be provided for such work and suggested this be built into the forward plan.

Previous discussion on tiered floral displays was deferred until 2024. However V2C had provided written confirmation they had no objection to placing one on the Green at Protheroe Avenue.

132/23 To receive an update on the Councils new website

Cllr. Bennett thanked people for their input into the navigation layout, and further amendments were being processed. A new link would be provided for further feedback on the updated design. The next step was providing content and agreeing a translator for the static information on the site. Council asked the Chair if she could also approach the contractor with a target date for launch before the AGM.

133/23 Approval of Accounts payable and Financial updates

- i. Bank reconciliation up to 8/2/23 not received, therefore deferred
- ii. To approve list of payments made up to 8/2/23 as provided by the Clerk. Chair confirmed invoices are seen by signatories
- iii. To approve a list of invoices received up to 8/2/23 as detailed on the agenda.

Council passed approval for payments and invoices .

Proposed: Cllr Bennet Seconded: Cllr Gebbie

134/23 Consideration of planning applications for response to BCBC

Cllr Bennett left the meeting and Cllr Flanagan took the Chair

Four applications had been noted on the agenda.

Discussion ensued but it was decided there were no issues on any of the applications that Council felt necessary to respond to. No further comments were received from Councillors.

Cllr. Bennett returned to the Chair.

Council asked if Cllr Bennett in her role as Councillor for Pen-y-fai was made aware of the intentions of V2C once garages were demolished. Cllr Bennett advised she had contacted the CEO of V2C and the intention was to retain the bases for potential future use. Cllr Hughes advised that this meant, at a later date V2C could submit Planning Permission for a house to go on the bases.

135/23 Clerk's Report

Not received.

136/23 Members Reports

Cllrs Morgan and Hewitt noted they had spoken to Aberkenfig Church to find out if there was anything being planned for the Coronation and advised they were thinking of having a street party. Cllr Hewitt said Cllr Morgan and herself were helping in a personal manner.

Cllr Morgan noted the improvements and repairs to the Bailey Bridge at Pandy Park had been completed.

Cllr Gebbie noted the issue of having only 2 grit bins in Aberkenfig., BCBC had agreed extra bins, but there was a waiting list and Cllr Gebbie noted 6 were needed. BCBC suggested some community engagement needed to take place in relation to the siting of the bins. Cllr Gebbie would connect to Cllr Brown on this. Cllr Bennett noted the Clerk had provided costs for purchasing additional bins if NHCC would like to and she had received a cost from BCBC for filling them (a one-off charge per bin of approx £350). However, Cllr Bennett was trying to negotiate. It was also felt the shops at Pentrefelin may wish to sponsor a grit bin.

Play park refurbishment : these are being done in rotation, unclear when this would take place in NHCC ward.

Aberkenfig Square is part of the Maintenance Committee's remit, however Councillors noted they were keen to get local school children involved. It was agreed Cllrs could connect with the school to identify any interest (e.g. different year groups/planting different seasons)

Cllr Griffiths noted she would revisit the Swan re the Defibrillator issue. Council agreed this needed resolving urgently or another space identified.

Cllr Hughes noted a grant opportunity with the Mears Foundation which would support plans for improving greenspaces and biodiversity, and offered to lead on this by end of March. It was agreed that Cllr Hughes would take this forward on behalf of the Council and was thanked for bringing this to the attention of Council and it was suggested he connect to PVCA for collaboration as they had expressed similar ambitions in the past.

137/23 Update from County Borough Councillors

Cllr Bennett noted the speed issues on Tondu Road, and that she was pushing for a safe crossing point for active travel, and that she had been given assurance this would be put forward a case to WG for consideration as an active travel route so there could be connectivity to the riverside cycle track /black path. However noted it would be up to WG to decide if it would take it forward and fund.

Cllr Bennett noted there was a mast replacement proposed for Court Colman. It was near Pennsylvania Woods/ Aberkenfig Farm and would be on the site of an existing mast but would be 3m taller. This was at pre consultation phase if people would like to find out more to let her know.

Cllr Gebbie requested all Councillors to participate on every BCBC survey engagement to feed their views into the budget setting process. Cllr Gebbie noted the issues with cost of living crisis, and the cuts to funding and the measures being suggested in the consultation process to mitigate risk and protect services were possible.

Cllr Griffiths asked about the situation with empty Homes and Cllr Gebbie noted a recent policy approval at Council which agreed to ensure empty homes would be taxed at 100% if they did not meet any of the discount criteria. She noted they were a blight to neighbourhoods and Council is keen on addressing this (and in time, second home owners) She noted there were incentives available to bring houses into re-use for people who intend to live in them. Certain situations such as houses in probate, or people moving into care would not be subject to increase. She noted the policy would also apply to Registered Social Landlords (RSL's) and long term voids. Cllr Gebbie noted the housing crisis and severe lack in temporary accommodation which was costing local authority millions

138/23 Correspondence

Footpath 17: it was suggested to ask the clerk to clarify if this was between Meadow street, Aberkenfig and Pentrefelin and the detail of the letter.

It was also requested that the Clerk provide an update at the next meeting more widely on Public Rights of Way Maintenance.

CAT of Aberkenfig Toilets. Guy Smith of BCBC is happy to meet with Councillors to visit the facility. It was suggested Cllr Brown, Morgan and Hewitt attend - and anyone else who may be interested.

The chair noted additional correspondence had been received from the Clerk who had tendered his resignation due to a change in career plans.

There had been a request to the clerk to put the matter on the Agenda for discussion due to the urgency of decisions around recruitment process.

Council agreed to move standing orders and add this as urgent business to the end of the agenda.

The council noted the correspondence received.

139/23 South Wales Police report for Ward

Police information distributed and noted. It was noted the police portal gives up to date information online as well and the links would be added to the minutes.

Aberkenfig: <https://www.south-wales.police.uk/area/your-area/south-wales/mid-glamorgan/aberkenfig/on-the-team/crime-map>

Penyfael: <https://www.south-wales.police.uk/area/your-area/south-wales/mid-glamorgan/pen-y-fai/on-the-team/crime-map>

140/23 Dates of next Committee Meetings

HR Committee would be held online 28th Feb 2023

Wellbeing Committee had been awaiting a date and decided they would arrange in the few weeks.

Cllr Hewitt agreed to join the Wellbeing Committee. An invitation would be extended to Cllr, Brown also.

141/23 Clerks resignation and recruitment

It was considered and RESOLVED:-

“Under Section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the press and public from the meeting during the discussion on the following item on the grounds that it involved the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Schedule 12A of the said Act and in the Public Interest Test as presented”.

Proposed: Cllr Bennett Seconded: Cllr Gebbie

Members of the public were excluded.

The outcome from the discussion was that the Council accepted the Clerk's resignation and further agreed how to progress the recruitment and handover process, and to delegate responsibility to the HR committee to expedite the recruitment process . The Chair of Council was nominated to lead on the process and it was agreed she would liaise with the Clerk in relation to the process agreed by Council.

The meeting closed at 8pm