

Minutes of a Meeting of the Newcastle Higher Community Council held in Tondy Primary School, Aberkenfig on Tuesday 11th June 2019 at 7.00 p.m.

Cllr Mal John: Presided

Present (9) Cllrs Derrick Baker, Heidi Bennett, Mal John, Ann John, Dave Fowler, Alex Marshall, Byron Jones, Altaf Hussain, and Meryl Wilkins
County Borough Councillor James Radcliffe, Clerk John Richfield,
Penyfai Community Association members, BCBC's Mayor, and other members of the public.

At the start of the meeting, the Council stood in memory of former Councillor Fred M Bevan, JP, of Penyfai, who had recently died.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Gary Haines and Cllr Joyce Haines.

2. Members Declaration of Interests on Agenda Items

Cllr Heidi Bennett declared an interest in that she was an ongoing and present committee member of the Penyfai Village Community Association.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th May 2019

The minutes were approved as a correct record, subject to Cllr Meryl Wilkins stating her declaration of interest was ongoing and current.

Item 8 noted cancellation of bus 'subsidy', not the 81 'service'.

Minutes of the Annual General meeting 14 May 2019

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting were also approved as a true record.

4. Matters Arising on the Minutes

Matters Arising –

Cllr Derrick Baker had visited the BCBC offices in Bridgend and obtained information on the history of Pandy Park. He indicated that Pandy Park originated from the Dunraven Estate and was gifted. Cllr Meryl Wilkins explained that the then Earl of Dunraven, who was a tenant for life, died in 1952. She was concerned that the BCBC had registered Pandy Park, land in which she had an interest. She specifically stated that she had provided her declaration of interest which was published on the NCHCC website under community councillors' interests, and re-affirmed the declaration. Cllr Wilkins also asked for it to be recorded, when Cllr Byron Jones asked her about the last Earl of Dunraven as she stated that 'he was illegitimate and she had his birth certificate'.

The Clerk had asked Cllr Heidi Bennett for advice on a contact at the Heart Start charity. He intended to contact them again concerning defibrillators in the community.

5. Police Community Support Officer - PACT

The PCSO was not present at the meeting, and there were no questions on this item from Councillors.

6. Community Associations

(a) Tondu and Aberkenfig

Representatives from the Tondu & Aberkenfig Community Association were not present at the meeting, and had sent a report to the Chair. The report referred to a request from Morgan Credit Energy Wales to use refuse derived fuel that would otherwise go to landfill to generate electricity. The Community Association was concerned about the potential for further increases in traffic on the A 4063, and other environmental impact.

(b) Penyfai Village

The Council welcomed a member of the Association, Marged Griffiths, to the meeting.

The Community Association had arranged to run a community event on Tuesday 16 July 2019 in Penyfai School between 6.30 and 8.30. The Open Spaces Society had been invited, together with a local historian, and local people with relevant knowledge would be encouraged to attend. The purpose of the event was to enable local people to provide information to evidence a potential case for registration of the pheasant field as a village green. NHCC was invited, together with any members of the public who were encouraged to bring photos and maps.

Cllr Alex Marshall had copies of the evidence form and explanatory material and would interview local people in detail to gain the information required. Cllr Heidi Bennett reminded all members that the evidence of use of the land had to be 'as of right'.

It was essential to submit the form before the LDP Draft came out. The two County Borough Councillors would obtain this date as soon as possible.

The Clerk was asked to contact Mr G Powys Jones, the consultant who had advised the Community Council on the requirements for the registration to enquire if he was able to attend the Council's next meeting to prepare for the following meeting, and to attend the event itself on 16 July. He would then be asked to put together a case and submit it. It was noted that there would be a cost and the Council agreed to pay it. It was also agreed to pay the reasonable cost of the school room hire on 16 July.

7. Election of a Deputy Chair

The Annual General meeting had postponed election of a Deputy Chair of the Council.

Cllr Ann John proposed and Cllr Dave Fowler seconded Cllr Altaf Hussain to be elected Deputy Chair for 2019-2020. Cllr Hussain was elected.

8. County Borough Councillors

(a) County Borough Councillor for Penyfai

Cllr Altaf Hussain reported on the following matters:

Welcome

Cllr Hussain welcomed Stuart Baldwin, the current Mayor of Bridgend County, the elected Ward member for Morfa ward on Bridgend County Borough Council who was attending the meeting as a visitor.

Fly tipping front of Plas Ty Mawr Road

This incident occurred on 24 May and the bags were removed within 2 hours. A similar event had previously occurred last Christmas. It was believed that the matter was now resolved.

Chairing Skills training evening

Cllrs Altaf Hussain and David Fowler had attended a useful chairing skills training session arranged by One Voice Wales.

Reduction of subsidy for supported bus services

Concerning the reduction of subsidy of supported buses a 'call-in' request was made in relation to the cabinet decision made on 21 May. Cllr Altaf Hussain attended and addressed the scrutiny committee, one of two speakers from Penyfai. The cabinet decision was upheld.

Overgrown hedge and litter

This issue was present in Angelton Road – it had been with the BCBC to tidy it all up.

Fly tipping Court Colman Lane –

A matter of fly tipping had been raised by Cllr Heidi Bennett and a member of the public. Photographic evidence was presented but no one witnessed anyone depositing the waste. BCBC had arranged to remove the waste. The PCSO had reported the matter to 101 to create an incident that would be recorded.

Temporary Closure of Footpath 29 Hillside, Penyfai

Notice had been given of the temporary closure of FP 29 in exercise of BBC powers. It was stated by BCBC that the order was necessary to enable the residential development of 20 dwellings including 3 affordable dwellings plus access car parking, open space, landscaping, drainage and associated work. It was also stated that it was for public safety so it was not possible to object. Cllr Altaf Hussain was very concerned about this as he felt the developers did not appear to progress this, as they were commencing the development before resolving the footpath safely.

Cllr Hussain had received an email from Mathew Palmer, Rights of Way and Access Land Officer, in which he stated that the developer was unable to provide a suitable alternative route through the site due to the site constraints. Mr Palmer also stated that the BCBC did not have to ensure that an alternative route was provided. There are no plans for any high sided walls to run adjacent to the footpath were this applicant is involved. It was felt that rights of way needed to clarify why this could not be opened or an alternative found, and this was very disappointing.

Cllr Hussain reported that Matthew Palmer of BCBC had remarked that there might be plans for curtailment of footpaths. Although the NHCC was a statutory consultee on such matters, the Clerk would write and enquire about this, specifically about whether there was a proposal to curtail FP 29. The Community Council also noted that residents were concerned at the safety implications of having to walk on the main road due to the absence of the footpath. It was noted that any proposed stopping order would require consultation.

Cllr Hussain was thanked for his report.

(b) County Borough Councillor for Aberkenfig

Cllr James Radcliffe reported on the following matters:

Biomass and TACA

Cllr Radcliffe referred to a request from Morgan Credit Energy Wales to use refuse derived fuel that would otherwise go to landfill to generate electricity. He confirmed that the Community Association was concerned about the potential for further increases in traffic on the A 4063, and other environmental impact. He had also been advised by Mrs Evans that Tondy Play park at Pentrefelin was not adopted and still maintained by Llanmoor developments.

Active Travel

Cllr Radcliffe intended putting in a bid to get funding from a Welsh Government initiative for active travel. In order to provide evidence for this bid he planned to design a survey over the summer. Cllr Altaf Hussain supported the active travel survey and offered to help in any way he could.

Cllr Meryl Wilkins asked for the need for better cycle paths at Tynyarn to be taken into account.

Cllr Derrick Baker again reported on the Japanese knotweed infestation behind the library car park. He confirmed it was BCBC land, as they had bought the land from his family some years ago. Cllr James Radcliffe would ask the BCBC to restore the land as a matter of urgency.

Cllr Baker was also concerned that no grass cutting had been done this season at the library grassed area.

Cllr Radcliffe was thanked for his report.

9. Update from Maintenance Committee

Cllr Alex Marshall reported on behalf of the Maintenance Committee on the following issues.

An emergency clear up of a fallen tree had been carried out at a cost of £180. The Council endorsed this action and would await the invoice from Matt Scott Landscapes.

The Council also requested the Maintenance Committee to continue to look at and make recommendations for future ongoing maintenance of the woodlands. A report would be brought with recommendations to a future meeting.

The Arborist had not attended on site yet, but had promised to attend at a later date.

Concerning spraying of weeds at a location such as the Square, it was reported that advice from the BCBC was that work ought not to be done by a Councillor on behalf of the Council. However, an individual, whoever they were, could carry out activities such as litter tidying or weeding.

The report of the Maintenance Committee was received and adopted.

10. Active 4 Life Scheme Update

The Clerk reported that Mr Andrew Thomas of BCBC had tried, on behalf of the Community Council to secure the use of Penyfai School for an Active 4 Life Scheme this school holidays.

This had not proved possible.

The Council was asked if it wished to, if this was possible, take up the option of the last few years, to provide the scheme in the Len Evans Centre, Aberkenfig.

It was noted that there were no safe routes from Penyfai to Aberkenfig, which was the reason for many complaints from parents in the last two years, and the Scout Hall already ran a scheme themselves. Therefore the intended option to provide a scheme for Penyfai was not available. It was suggested that it may be an option to approach the Aberkenfig Girls and Boys Club, even at this late stage.

A vote was taken on a proposal by Cllr Heidi Bennett to approach the Committee of the Girls and Boys Club on this occasion and offer a grant of up to £2,000 for this purpose. The proposal was not passed, by six votes against, three votes for. Cllr Bennett asked for her vote in favour to be recorded, and the other two councillors, Ann John and Meryl Wilkins.

11. Casual Vacancy in the Aberkenfig Ward – steps to take

The BCBC Electoral office had advised that no request had been received for an election following the resignation from the Council of former Cllr Darryl Hall. The Clerk had used the recommended form of words to advertise on the website and on the notice boards to be displayed with a closing date of 2 July. All members of the community were welcome to apply in order to recruit a Councillor to reflect the communities of Aberkenfig and Penyfai. It was intended, subject to sufficient applicants, to consider applications at the Council meeting on Tuesday 9 July.

12. Aberkenfig Welfare Hall Association

It was reported that the Welfare Association had applied for lottery funding to improve the Welfare Hall, and was consulting widely on how to move forward. The Council noted that their trustees were best placed to proceed on this.

13. Correspondence

The notes circulated on the incoming correspondence were taken as read by the Council, the correspondence was as follows:

1. Gareth M Jenkins Clos Smyrna, Penyfai

Detailed letter to Cllr Gary Thomas and others about concerns about public safety and closure of a right of way related to planning application P/17/1073 FUL land off All Saints' Way Penyfai.

The letter alleged that the situation was serious for the residents and it was noted that Cllr Altaf Hussain had taken up the residents concerns.

2. Maesteg Town Council

Date for Civic Service Sunday 21 July at Duffryn Chapel Caerau, at 2.30 p.m. Cllr Altaf Hussain to attend as Deputy Chair.

3. Andrew Thomas BCBC Group Manager Sport and Physical Activity

Reporting that he had not received a response to his email correspondence from Mr Street, following his approach regarding use of Penyfai School for the Active 4 Life Scheme. See item above.

4. Cllr Heidi Bennett

Report on meeting with the Health and Safety Executive Inspector re concerns about the site at the land off All Saints' Way. Feedback from HSE anticipated in due course.

5. BCBC Electoral Services

Guidance note for dealing with Casual Vacancies for Town & Community Councils. After no election request the task is to place a notice of vacancy. See item above.

6. Robin Gibbs Penyfai Village Community Association

A meeting has been arranged on Tuesday 16 July between 6.30 and 8.30. All members of the NHCC are invited to share the meeting to work together to seek to prevent development on the Pheasant Field in Penyfai. See item above

7. Office of the Future Generations Commissioner

Launch of national conversation 'Our Future Wales' between 6 June and 1 November. Visit their website to see 'Our Future Wales' resources.

8. Boverton Nurseries

Invoice for the half units of plants for the hanging baskets. £1,920.60. Authorised to be paid.

9. One Voice Wales

Invoices totalling £140 for three Councillors on training courses. Authorised to be paid.

14. Planning Committee Report

The Council noted the following planning applications had been notified to the council since the last meeting. There were no objections.

P/19/300/FUL Tregwyeth West Court Colman, Penyfai

P/19/303/FUL Long Acre, Old Coachman's Lane, Court Colman, Penyfai

P/19/306/FUL White Lodge, 8 Parkfields, Penyfai

P/19/322/FUL Land at Penylan Farm, Aberkenfig

It was reported that an application for another café may be made in Aberkenfig. There was no application notified at present.

15. Other Reports from Councillors

Cllr Meryl Wilkins was concerned about the grass area in front of Protheroe Avenue, as she feared it might be at risk from development. It was reported that it was not a candidate site in the LDP, so this was unlikely at present. It was also noted that the entire former housing stock had been transferred to Valleys to Coast when the transfer was made.

Cllr David Fowler reported that the litter bins in Pentrefelin were often overflowing, and may be too small for purpose. Cllr James Radcliffe would take this up on his behalf.

16. Finances

(a) Accounts for payment

The following accounts would be paid:

	£	
Clerk (quarterly salary)	1,375.06	(201669)
HMRC (tax)	343.60	(201670)
Clerk (Reimbursements)	239.10	(201671)
Boverton Nurseries (hanging baskets)	1,920.60	(201672)
One Voice Wales (training AH, DF)	80.00	(201673)
One Voice Wales (training HB)	40.00	(201674)
Mrs A Hordley (Internal Auditor fee)	150.00	(201675)

(b) Annual Return 2018-2019

The Clerk reported that he had prepared the accounts and records for audit.

Copies of the Annual Return, together with the Report from the Internal Auditor would be brought to the June meeting for endorsement. Both these documents had been circulated to the Council at the earliest opportunity.

The notice of audit would be displayed on notice boards and on the Council's website from 16 June to the end of the audit period, and the documents required sent to the External Auditor by 1 July.

(c) Quarterly update on Budgets.

Quarterly budget updates would be provided in the month following the end of each quarter, to ensure complete quarterly records of income and expenditure, analysed by budget headings, were presented to the Council.

It being nearly 21.00, the Council agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow another 10 minutes before the caretaker needed to close the school.

17. Any Other Business

1. Cllr Baker asked about progress on a grant policy, which the Council had previously decided to update. The Clerk would search for other Councils' policies, and circulate a good example for consideration in order to adopt a new policy.
2. Cllr Heidi Bennett was concerned at the length of the agendas which caused important matters such as finances to be considered in haste. She said that the Council needed to make progress on policies, for example looking at matters to do with Finance and HR policies in more detail. Cllr Mal John, Chair, felt that there were insufficient members of the Council to hold more committees.

There being no more business, the meeting closed at 9.15.m. The next meeting would be held in Tondur Primary School, on Tuesday 9 July 2019.