

Minutes of a Meeting of the Newcastle Higher Community Council held in Smyrna Chapel Vestry , Penyfai on Tuesday 14th May 2019 at 7.00 p.m.

Cllr Mal John: Presided

Present (7) Cllrs Mal John, Ann John, Dave Fowler, Alex Marshall, Byron Jones, Altaf Hussain, Meryl Wilkins
County Borough Councillor James Radcliffe, Clerk John Richfield,
Penyfai Community Association Officers and members of the public.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Derrick Baker, Cllr Heidi Bennett, Cllr Gary Haines and Cllr Joyce Haines.

2. Members Declaration of Interests on Agenda Items

Cllr Meryl Wilkins declared her interest on Pandy Park, Aberkenfig , which were part of the Dunraven Estate and mentioned in the LDP, as she stated she was the heiress to the Dunraven Estate. Cllr Wilkins also stated that she had made this declaration in the Glamorgan Gazette un-challenged. Her declaration of interest was ongoing and current.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th April 2019

The minutes were approved as a correct record.

4. Matters Arising on the Minutes

5. Matters Arising – Cllr Meryl Wilkins reported that she had still not written to Carwyn Jones AM. 19. AOB - Defibrillator – the Clerk had written to Heart Start and awaited a reply.

5. Police Community Support Officer Mark Emery - PACT

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

6. Tondu and Aberkenfig Community Association

Representatives from the Tondu & Aberkenfig Community Association were not present at the meeting, and had sent no report. It was noted that Mrs Evans had informed the Clerk that Llanmoor Homes had purchased the land with the benefit of planning permission gained last March from the Merthyr Mawr Estates and would take the development forward.

7. Penyfai Community Association

The Council welcomed Marged Griffiths and Robin Gibbs from the Penyfai Community Association to the meeting.

Marged Griffiths reported that the newly formed Community Association aimed to facilitate bringing the community together by continuing activities such as the Penyfai Fun Day. The Association wished to work with the NHCC on how best to protect the Pheasant Field for the future benefit of local people.

They intended to hire a room in Penyfai School to hold a public meeting for interested residents of Penyfai and invite the NHCC to meet the cost of the room hire in the school and to share the meeting alongside the Community Council. The Council welcomed the formation of the new Community Association and noted that Mrs Griffiths would contact the Clerk when she had determined the likely date of the meeting. The Clerk would invite the Councillors to participate. During the time before the meeting, the Clerk would provide the Councillors with some background documents to help prepare members of the Council to try to identify residents who may provide meaningful evidence to put forward a strong case for designation the field as a village green.

It was also the intention of the Association to produce newsletters periodically.

In answer to a question from Cllr Altaf Hussain, Marged Griffiths informed the Council that the Association was to meet in Smyrna Chapel Vestry.
Cllr Meryl Wilkins asked about whether they intended to use the Pheasant Field for the Fun Day.

8. County Borough Councillors

(a) County Borough Councillor for Penyfai

Cllr Altaf Hussain reported on the following matters

Child Care

Information from the Welsh Government funded childcare offer included Old School House in Penyfai, a scheme for eligible working parents of 3 & 4 year-old children (to 30 hours, 48 weeks) was given.

School Keep Clear Sign

The Director of Education of BCBC would provide a “school keep clear” sign on the access road to Penyfai School.

Poles

Poles had been installed in the hatched area of roadway at the traffic light near the petrol station, to try to prevent impatient drivers bypassing the traffic light.

Hillside Penyfai

Residents at the Hillside development were concerned about the use of pesticides sprayed at the site and their harmful effects. Cllr Hussain had taken this up with the Council Planning Department. He had asked BCBC to stop using harmful materials and they would visit the site next week.

Residents had requested a site meeting to discuss these and other issues and Cllr Hussain had requested the chair of the Planning Committee to facilitate this. It was felt that it would be helpful for as many community councillors as could attend to help and support Cllr Hussain at such a meeting. When the date was known, he would let the Clerk know to pass on the invitation to all members.

Cancellation of Bus subsidy 81 from July 2019 and Bridgend Community Transport

Cllr Hussain had met with Kevin Sales and Kwaku Opoku Addo of BCBC regarding the proposal to cancel the 81 bus subsidy from 20 July 2019. They stated that residents should have access to Bridgend Community Transport, which offered a service for people who are disadvantaged through lack of transport to maintain an active and engaged civic and social life. Contact details would be publicised widely.

Community Benefit Grant from Sun Credit

Cllr Hussain gave information of the use of the Sun Credit Community Benefit grant, which had started out with £55,000, and which was administered by Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations. (BAVO)

The year started with a balance available of £24,353.33, and the 2019 payments agreed were as follows:

Friends of Penyfai School £3,000

South Lodge Cattery £3,000

Penyfai Village Community Association £2,889.29.

School Crossing Penyfai School

Cllr Hussain reported that the school crossing patrolman was recovering from a minor operation and intended to return to his duties as soon as possible.

Tipping Policy

Cllr Hussain has requested the review of the tipping policy, specifically the tipping ticket issue for vehicles classified as commercial even when they were not used commercially by people such as pensioners. He had been informed that the system allowed genuine residential users with commercial type vehicles to use the sites via a permit system as long as they booked the visit to the site 24 hours in advance. There was no intention to review the policy again until the next waste contract is procured.

BCBC Road Work Programme

The BCBC Highways maintenance capital work programme for 2019 – 2020 included 6 mm thin surface road work for Parkfields, Penyfai.

Penyfai School visit

On 13 May Cllr Hussain joined Cllr Charles Smith, Cabinet Member of BCBC and Mr Lindsay Harvey, Director of Education for an informal visit to Penyfai School.

Cllr Hussain was thanked for his report, and Cllr Meryl Wilkins asked if it was known when the School Crossing Patrol would return. Cllr Hussain replied that the matter was one for the Headteacher, and he had set out the details in the school newsletter.

(b) County Borough Councillor for Aberkenfig

Cllr James Radcliffe reported on the following matters:

Welfare Hall, Aberkenfig

Cllr Radcliffe had attended a meeting with the Tondu & Aberkenfig Community Association. Claudette Evans had informed Cllr Radcliffe that the Welfare Association was seeking lottery funds to rebuild the Welfare Hall. The Association needed a 'shopping list' of what it could ideally be used for when rebuilt. They wanted to engage with many in the local community, including the Community Council. Cllr Radcliffe requested community councillors to give the matter thought and suggest what the Welfare Hall might be used for. The Clerk would add this item to the June Agenda, after which a response would be sent to the Welfare Association.

Disability Access in Aberkenfig

Cllr Radcliffe had met with officers responsible for disability access to the park in Aberkenfig. There was money available for active travel to improve walking and cycle paths. Cllr Radcliffe would meet with the officers to progress this.

Cllr Meryl Wilkins suggested that there was a need for a better cycle path between Penyfai and Aberkenfig - between Talygarn and the roundabout. It would be useful to ask for a cycle path on the river path. The Community Council suggested that both the ward members work together to achieve this, to improve paths and to enhance and widen the river path. Cllr Radcliffe was thanked for his report.

9. Casual Vacancy – Aberkenfig Ward

The Clerk reported that due to the failure of Daryl Gordon (Hall) to make his declaration of acceptance of office to the Council he had consulted with the Electoral Officer of the BCBC, and had been informed that a casual vacancy existed. The Electoral Officer had sent a notice for publication on the website and also by the BCBC. The deadline for request of an election was 3 June. The Clerk would report back to the Council when the outcome was known.

10. Pheasant Field Penyfai Community Association meeting update

The Clerk reported that a meeting was planned with members of the community. The Clerk would circulate background documents on Village Green Registration to councillors to study before the consultation. All councillors would be requested to consider suitable residents to evidence an application and consider engaging professional help to complete the application.

Cllr Altaf Hussain stated that he felt that this area was unlikely to be developed.

11. Update from Maintenance Committee

Community Woodland - Arborist – safety Inspection

Cllr Alex Marshall reported that the NHCC had appointed an arborist, Stephen Lucocq, to prepare a safety report on the trees in the Aberkenfig Community Woodland, who having not been able to complete the inspection since last month had now indicated that he was able to do the work in about three weeks. It was agreed to wait for him to complete the task.

Cefn Glas Road – fly tipping

Cllr Marshall reported that he had referred BCBC to some fly tipping on Mr Boland's land, specifically behind a locked gate on the land. Cllr Marshall had photographed it, and would forward the evidence to Cllr Altaf Hussain.

12. BCBC Active 4 Life Scheme 2019 - venue

It was reported that the Clerk had contacted Andrew Thomas of BCBC to ask if he would approach Mr Street again, as another senior officer of the BCBC, to ask if any of his concerns could be met or any compromise reached to enable the programme to take place in Penyfai School. It was noted that the alternative was to use the Len Evans Centre, Aberkenfig again.

The outcome of Mr Thomas's approach was not yet available at the time of the meeting, and the Council noted the reserve position was to hold the Scheme in the Len Evans Centre, Aberkenfig, given that there were no other suitable available locations to use. It was agreed to wait for a definitive answer from Andrew Thomas before making a final decision on the location.

13. Community Defibrillator

No response had been received from the Clerk's contact with Heart Start Wales. He would contact them again.

14. Correspondence

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

1. Pencoed Town Council

Invitation to a Civic Service on Sunday 2 June 2019 at Salem Chapel Pencoed. a representative from the Council was invited. Cllr Altaf Hussain to attend.

2. ACD Skips

Invoice for a skip at the Allotments cost £218.40 – to be paid.

3. BCBC

Invitation to the Community Council to continue supporting the programmes during the school summer holidays – Summer holiday activity Scheme. Asking for position and wishes for our area. [NB reply from Mr Andrew Thomas was awaited first.]

4. One Voice Wales

Inviting proposal of motions (on national issues only) for OVW AGM on Saturday 5 October 2019. Motions to motions committee by 20 June. Noted.

5. Electoral Services BCBC

Information on necessary procedure for a newly elected Councillor to make declaration of acceptance of office. [Subsequently Daryl Gordon indicated he would not take up his seat owing to pressure of work.]

6. BCBC -Public Transport Officer

Cllr Hussain had met with the BCBC regarding their proposal to cancel service number 81. They provided leaflets on Bridgend Community Transport.

7. BCBC – Nicola Bunston (1/5/19)

Advising of a consultation entitled Play Area and grass cutting review and potential increased charges for the use of sports fields and sports pavilions 2019.

Responses will help BCBC make decisions on the future of playgrounds and play areas, maintained parkland and grass cutting and outdoor sports facilities, parks and spots pavilions. Councillors or any member of the public could call 01656 634664 or email consultation@bridgend.gov.uk

8. Tondu & Aberkenfig Community Association

Details of intended blanket 20 m.p.h. speed limits for residential streets (exceptions could be made for arterial roads) and copy of newsletter for the Association, which met quarterly – next meeting 7 August 2019.

9. One Voice Wales

Details of Training dates for Councillors, relating to Chaining Skills, Code of Conduct, and Finance. Councilors Dave Fowler and Altaf Husain to attend Chaining at £40 cost each.

10. Primary Care Supplies

Information on defibrillator installation. Noted.

11. BCBC

Confirmation of BACS indicating that payment would be made for £44,000 being the precept 2019-2020.

12. Andrew Thomas BCBC

To meet Mr Street of Penyfai School week commencing 15 May, regarding use of school for Active 4 life Scheme.

13. BCBC

Consultation on sports facilities.

14 Penyfai Community Association

Information on the installation of a notice Board at the Pheasant Public House. Noted.

15. BHIB Insurance

Invitation to renew Council's insurance for the year. Agreed to pay.

16. ACD Skips

Invoice for skip at allotments – £218.40 – to be paid.

15. Planning Committee Report

The Council noted the following planning applications had been notified to the council since the last meeting.

P/19/224/FUL 28 Hillside Penyfai

P/19/266/BCB Tondu primary School, Meadow Street, Aberkenfig

16. Other Reports from Councillors

Cllr David Fowler reported that the trees on the path from Tondu that had been reported had still not been trimmed. The Clerk would send the sketch map he had previously sent to the BCBC Officers to Cllr James Radcliffe also.

Cllr Meryl Wilkins was still concerned about unauthorised damage to the Rocks on the Penyfai Common. She intended to write to BCBC about this, and would copy the letter to the Clerk.

17. Finances

(a) Accounts for payment

The following accounts would be paid:

	£	
ACD Skips (Allotments)	218.40	(201666)
One Voice Wales (2019-20 Subscription)	589.00	(201667)
BHIB Brokers (Insurance policy)	379.62	(201667)

(b) Update on Audit Preparations

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

They were to go to the Internal Auditor on 3 June, and the Annual Return, together with the Report from the internal Auditor would be brought to the June meeting for endorsement.

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

(c) Statement of previously approved budget for 2019.

For the Council's ease of reference, the approved budget had been circulated, which was noted.

Quarterly budget updates would continue to be provided, for the month following the end of each quarter, to ensure complete quarterly records.

18. Any Other Business

1. Cllr Meryl Wilkins reported that the land at Tondu that the Merthyr Mawr Estate had gained planning on (P/16/366/OUT) had now been sold to Llanmoor Homes. The Council would be vigilant if the planning was proposed to be amended;

2. The Clerk would chase up the order with Westcotec for the speed indicator boards which had been acknowledged by the company;
3. Cllr Alex Marshall would again contact Llanmoor Homes about the surface of their footpath at Tondu;
4. The Clerk was asked to agenda the grassed land in front of Protheroe Avenue; Cllr Meryl Wilkins had concerns about its ownership, she would email Cllr Hussain with the background;
5. Cllr Altaf Hussain requested the Clerk send him the link to the NHCC website.

There being no more business, the meeting closed at 8.30p.m. The next meeting would be held in Tondu Primary School, on Tuesday 11 June 2019.