

Minutes of a Meeting of the Newcastle Higher Community Council held in the Wesley Centre, Tondy, on Tuesday 12th February 2019 at 7.00 p.m.

Cllr Mal John: Presided

Present (7) Cllrs Heidi Bennett, Dave Fowler, Ann John, Mal John, Byron Jones, Alex Marshall & Meryl Wilkins.

Clerk: John Richfield

BCBC Member James Radcliffe (Aberkenfig)

Aberkenfig and Tondy Community Association: Claudette Evans and Lin Masters, Members of the public.

Apologies

1. Apologies were received from Cllrs Derrick Baker, Gary Haines, Joyce Haines, Altaf Hussain and Daryl Gordon (who would be welcomed to the Council at the next meeting).

2. Members Declaration of Interests on Agenda Items

Cllr Heidi Bennett made a declaration that she was a trustee for the time being of the newly established Penyfai Community Association, which intended to request assistance from the Community Council. This was noted.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th January 2019

It was agreed to amend the draft to state that Zak Shell worked for BCBC, not Kier, on p3, and p7, AOB, that Cllr Marshall 'might' meet with the Open Spaces Society. The minutes were then approved as a correct record.

4. Matters Arising on the Minutes

Item 7 – the Cabinet Member Cllr Altaf Hussain contacted about the Penyfai School Patrol was Cllr R Young.

Item 5 – Cllr Heidi Bennett reported that Planning Aid Wales may help a Community Association such as the TACA, as a voluntary group, however its remit did not usually include working with Local Authorities.

Item 17 – Cllr Alex Marshall had been a member of the Open Spaces Society for many years, and the Council welcomed any advice he might obtain as a member.

5. Report from Tondy and Aberkenfig Community Association

The Council welcomed Claudette Evans and Lyn Masters to the meeting representing the Community Association.

Claudette Evans made an oral report on the following subjects:

Website

Claudette Evans reported that the Association's new website was soon to be running and that the cheque for the Community Council's grant to the Tondy and Aberkenfig Community Association had to be made out to the Bridgend Lifesavers Credit Union Ltd.

The Association website would contain maps including the proposals from the Boundary Commission. The recently published association newsletter covered the following points made to the meeting.

New developments were to take place in the Pandy Park Area.

A meeting was held with the management of the Retail Park – the park were employing someone to empty the bins.

The owners of the Retail Park intended to pay for a prominent notice board close to the entrance. There had no objections to siting a defibrillator there, where there was a prominent location and an electrical supply. It was also reported that Simon Baker in Baker's shop in Aberkenfig had agreed to site a potential defibrillator.

2 security cameras were to be sited to cover the car park.

White lines had now been refreshed around the roads near the traffic lights.

Fencing had been arranged near the culvert on the land owned by the Merthyr Mawr estate.

Cllr Meryl Wilkins reported the presence of hard core behind the hedge at the northern end of the retail park, which was noted to be a private garden.

Cllr Dave Fowler welcomed the 'give way' sign markings re-marked recently.

Cllr Alex Marshall had heard reports from residents that the work shared with BTC for emptying bins made a big difference.

Claudette Evans asked if a request could be made to the BCCBC to install signs reminding people that leaving dog mess was an offence. The Clerk would ask the BCBC if they would provide some.

Mrs Evans was thanked for her report from the Community Association.

6. BCBC LDP (Local Development Plan) Update on Candidate Sites Register

Cllr Heidi Bennett introduced the subject of the BCBC Local Development Plan (LDP) candidate sites register to the Council.

She reported that BCBC had invited interested parties to put forward suggestions for submission of candidate sites.

Any individual or body could put in for a site for various reasons. NHCC had put in the Pheasant Field for a Public Open Space - and the BCBC also put in for the same site for housing and recreation facilities. The candidate sites register had now closed and had been published. It constituted a factual document which recorded who had put in applications for parcels of land. The next stage was for the BCBC to look at the whole list of applications and develop a forward plan. That would then be consulted on later in the year, in the autumn of 2019.

There were a number of items that related to Penyfai and Aberkenfig.

- The two submissions for the Pheasant field (BCBC and NHCC)
- A bungalow at the rear of the former Penyfai Post Office, and
- a substantial piece of land leading to the railway line that belonged to a local landowner.
- In Aberkenfig Pandy Park had been submitted by the BCBC and nearby
- the Brewery fields had also been submitted.

The Council noted that the LDP itself would not be consulted on until the autumn.

Councillors commented on this subject.

County Borough Cllr James Radcliffe reported that the purpose of the candidate sites register was to serve as a list of sites to inform the plan when it was made. The BCBC Planning Committee had an informal meeting considering where they might put the housing – depending on the candidate sites offered, it was possible that the next round of development would be in the Porthcawl Cornelly area. He also reported that the Welsh Government property projections were lower than they thought a few years ago, therefore there would be fewer houses present in the next LDP than at present. As a consequence, there would be more choice for the planners if demands were a little lower.

Concerning how Community Councillors might have any influence over the process, it was felt to be a matter of lobbying at an early stage. It was easier to influence decisions early in a process – given that the LDP process worked in five year cycles.

Cllr Meryl Wilkins reported she was a consultee, and that she would personally write to Carwyn Jones AM about the BCBC's registration of Pandy Park.

The Council could write to the Future Generations Commission to point out the candidate sites, and draw attention to the need to have playing fields and public open spaces for the future wellbeing of people. There was great potential in play areas which might be lost for ever. Suitable people and organisations to write to included the Office of the Future Generations Commissioner, the Welsh Government and Assembly Members.

Cllr Alex Marshall suggested to contact Rights of Way again to ask for footpaths to be so designated where appropriate.

Cllr Byron Jones regretted that the planners had turned their attention on Pandy Park. He wondered if there was any possibility of an asset transfer to retain the considerable amenity of the park. Cllr Meryl Wilkins had an understanding of the history of the ownership of Pandy Park.

Cllr Heidi Bennett drew the Council's attention to there being about 1,200 empty properties which might be brought into the housing supply.

The Clerk would consider a draft letter to go to the Future Generations Commissioner, and to assembly members, ward members and MPs.

He would share the draft with Cllrs Heidi Bennett and the Chair and Deputy Chair initially, and consult Claudette Evans with a view to settling the final letter at the April meeting of the Council when all Councillors could comment.

7. Boundaries Commission Recommendations on County Brough Council Electoral Wards

The recommendations made by the Boundaries Commission had now been published.

The outcome was there was no change to the number of Community Councillors, which would remain at 12, 6 for Aberkenfig and 6 for Penyfai. The boundaries would change with the loss of Coytrahen.

Concerning the County Borough, the two existing County Borough ward members for Aberkenfig and for Penyfai would be affected, The Commission had produced its proposals for representation based on population projections. County Cllr James Radcliffe reported that they had tried to make it fairer, based on the population.

The proposal was still for two councillors, but in an amalgamated ward. Cllr Radcliffe asked the view of the Community Council. The leaders in BCBC had met the Boundary Commission, and had been told that the projected population growth in Tondy would equalise the wards.

Cllr Alex Marshall and Cllr Byron Jones felt it would be all right as long as the two members worked together, however Cllr Dave Fowler pointed out that Ynysawdre and Sarn did not appear to go well together.

Cllr Heidi Bennett reported that it worked on the number of registered voters on a projected population of 3918 and the Commission aimed at a population of 2055 per ward. Feedback from residents she consulted said they wanted their own dedicated councillor. Cllr Bennett reported that a meeting she attended last week gave feedback that those present did not all welcome Ynysawdre being joined electorally with Sarn in the recommendations of the Boundaries Commission. There was also concern expressed that there could be two councillors for a united ward, as some residents felt that it was possible that two councillors for one large ward might disagree and not act as one, and residents may feel they would not have a Councillor solely dedicated to them and their part of the ward.

Cllr Meryl Wilkins thought that it would be better to have one member per dedicated ward, as at present as the M4 motorway divided the two area, and so it did not feel like one community.

Cllr Mal John mentioned that according to a map produced in 1781 the communities of Angeltown, Penyfai and Aberkenfig were all one.

The Council had briefly debated the subject and shared views. It was now necessary to agenda this subject again and decide the Community Council's response, as comments had to be received by 15 April, so the Council would review this again under Panning on future agenda.

It was further noted that the Community Council was made up of two wards, which may from time to time do separate things, but its strength was that it acted as one Council, with all members working together.

8. County Borough Councillors

Cllr Altaf Hussain (Penyfai)

Cllr Altaf Hussain was not present at the meeting as he was unwell.

Cllr James Radcliffe (Aberkenfig)

Cllr Radcliffe was present at the meeting and gave the following report

Arborists

Cllr Radcliffe had received no response from the BCBC Officer who advised on trees, who he had contacted on behalf of the Community Council which needed advice on the condition of some trees in the Community Woodlands, being monitored to address concerns from some neighbours. He would make contact again.

Traffic

There was a problem of some cars travelling contrary to the prohibition of entry order in the Penyfai Road. The Police would ask if the registrations of offenders could be supplied. It was noted that the time of the day affected whether this was a problem. This matter had been a consistent PACT issue – it was also noted that a Police Officer was to attend a council meeting about the future of PACT, and this matter could be reported to the officer.

The Council noted the report.

9. Update from Maintenance Committee

Community Woodland behind the Swan

Cllr Alex Marshall reported that it was necessary to go and look at the woodland to further assess the work that had to be done, with a local contractor present to advise.

Rob Jones of BCBC had been contacted for expert advice about the condition of the trees, and Cllr Radcliffe had also contacted him.

Flooding of footpath at Petrefelin

Cllr Marshall had not recently contacted the Llanmoor Homes representative – however Llanmoor needed to meet with Jack Davies of BCBC to plan the work to reduce flooding.

Rubbish at Woodlands area

If Councillors were willing to be present to supervise a skip on a Saturday morning to clear up the area it would be necessary to advise local people and especially what items were prohibited by skip companies. It was agreed to look at this again later in the year.

10. Update on Speed Boards Project

By way of background Cllr Heidi Bennett had previously met with Colin Hill the BCBC Street lighting manager who had looked at the way to achieve what the Community Council intended to achieve in providing speed boards. She had held a recent updating meeting to which other Councillors had been invited, to review the situation and reported that the locations had been agreed and the BCBC would install the devices. The Clerk would contact Colin Hill, Highways Manager, liaising with Cllr Bennett, to confirm the specifications of the speed devices met with BCBC's requirements and, subject to the response, order them.

11. Casual Vacancy – Aberkenfig Ward - Outcome of Election

The Council had been informed by the Electoral Officer of the BCBC that an unopposed election had taken place which resulted in the election of Cllr Daryl Gordon (Hall) to the Aberkenfig Ward.

12. Adoption of One Voice Wales 2018 Recommended Standing Orders

A working group of members of the Council (Cllrs Gary Haines, Mal John, Heidi Bennett and Meryl Wilkins) had met and initially reviewed the model guidance on Standing Orders from One Voice Wales, to update the 2017 Standing Orders previously considered by the Council. The document showed the SOs that were legally required for all Local Councils, together with guidance on model Standing Orders for larger Councils. It was therefore necessary to take the statutory framework as a basis, and then it was possible to make the case for choosing additional material from the document.

An initial draft had been circulated. If any members had any comments they were invited to contact the Clerk, who would, in consultation with the Working Group, bring a recommendation to the Council.

During the discussion on best practice for Standing Orders and policies of a Community Council it was recognised that the Council's policy of making grants was not a written policy. The clerk would draft the policy and consult Cllr Heidi Bennett, who had experience of similar policies in BAVO.

13. Correspondence

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

1. BCBC Planning

Forwarded from Cllr Altaf Hussain, the response from Hayley Kemp (Planning Department) regarding conditions 8, 9 and 10 of P/18/967/ DOC regarding P/17/1074 which had been refused due to the lack of information submitted by the applicant to satisfy the requirements of the conditions, received following Cllr Hussain passing on the concerns of a local resident who considered that the footpath was not DDA compliant.

2. Cllr Heidi Bennett

Note that provided some detail of the work of the Boundary Commission relating to Aberkenfig and Penyfai. The Commission had made some changes around the 'valleys gateway' area. They intended to merge the two wards, giving the same number of members but not separate representation for the two villages. The link to the Boundary Commission documents was circulated to Members.

<https://ldbc.wales/reviews/electoralelections/currentreviews/bridgenddraft/?!and=en>

3. Rights of Way - BCBC

Asked for further details on the overhanging trees in Aberkenfig, and the pavement in Bridgend Road that runs adjacent to the railway line, referred to by Councillor Dave Fowler.

4. Cllr Heidi Bennett

Confirmation of the point mentioned at the last meeting, asking Cllr Hussain to ask BCBC if it was possible to make the turning circle more difficult at the filter lane opposite the garage on the A4063. The reason was some drivers were bypassing the traffic lights at this point. It was noted, with regret that the BCBC had not taken the opportunity to alter the traffic lights, but when the lights needed replacement, they would be replaced on a like for like basis.

5. BCBC Legal & Regulatory Services

Copy of the Notice in respect of the BCBC proposal to amend parking charges in the car parks at Rest Bay, Brackla Street and the Rhiw.

6. Robin Gibbs

Mr Gibbs, the secretary of the Penyfai Village Community Association stated that the Penyfai Village Community Association was being set up as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. They sought a grant of £250 to help with printing leaflets to let people know who they are and to help with meeting locations as well as launch events. At present they did not have a bank account in place, they asked for a grant to be agreed in principle. The Council paid for the costs of posters for the Tondu and Aberkenfig Association, and it was agreed to offer this way to help, as for the other Association.

7. Mark Galvin, BCBC

Information on a request from Community Councils, that was a suggestion that Community Councils play a more significant part in elections particularly by elections. This could not take place as by law the statutory officer had to be the Returning Officer and the Returning Officer was a statutory post made by appointment within a local authority, that being a Principal Authority, as opposed to being a Community Council.

8. Cllr Mal John

Copy of a note to Cllr Altaf Husain to mention blocked road drains at the access to the common which was causing a problem with the run off from the highway.

9. Tondu & Aberkenfig Community Association

Copy letter to the County Councillors of the main points that the Community Association think should be looked at further, with a need for the permission for developments to be looked at by an expert as to how best to ensure the 40 conditions for the permission were adhered to by the developer.

10. One Voice Wales

Copy of One Voice Wales Bulletin - circulated to members by email.

11. Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Sir Conwy

Request for a grant.

12. Electoral Services Office – BCBC

Information from BCB that the election to fill the casual vacancy took place, with one person nominated therefore elected unopposed.

13. AABC Ltd

Invoice for Internet hosting of website services for the year for £204.00 in total. To be paid.

14. Floodlighting and Electrical Services Ltd

Invoice for removal of Christmas Decorations and placing in storage, for Aberkenfig and Penyfai in the sum of £740 + VAT total £888.00. To be paid.

15. BCBC

Notice that the Register of Candidate sites for the Local Development Plan was now out for consultation which included areas of land in and around Penyfai. It included the candidate site submitted by NHCC for the Pheasant field as a Public Open Space. The Clerk had written to BCBC asking about when they intend to consult people locally and circulated this to Councillors.

<https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/residents/planning-and-building-control/development-planning/replacement-bridgend-local-development-plan-2018-to-2033/>

16. Wales Audit Office

Providing copies of the detailed reports on Financial Management and Governance in Town and Community Councils 2017-2018 and Internal Audit arrangements at Town and community Councils in Wales. Agreed to circulate electronic copies to all members. [Financial Management and Governance – Town and Community Councils 2017-18 Internal Audit Arrangements at Town and Community Councils in Wales](#)

17. BCBC

Details of Summer Active 4 Life Schemes for 2018. To be circulated to all members. The Clerk had approached the Head of Penyfai School, with information from the BCBC, to ask for permission to hold the Active 4 life Schemes in the School in summer 2019.

18. ACD Skips

Skip at allotments to pay.

19. Colin Hill / Keith Power BCBC

Details of meeting arranged by Cllr Heidi Bennett to clarify speed boards project.

20. Cllr Altaf Hussain

Reporting referral on parking issues at Court Colman Road.

21. Wesley Centre, Tondu

Email request for £75 for hire of room for meetings.

14. Planning Committee Report

The Council noted no applications had been made.

Cllr An John reported receipt of an email from a resident regarding proposals for building 5 houses at White Hall, Court Colman. No other information had been received. A resident had also reported that 2 acres of land had been sold adjacent the railway line near the Dogs Trust Centre.

15. Other Reports from Councillors

The Aberkenfig Allotments Association members had met with the Clerk and Cllr Dave Fowler to pay their rent and report on allotment matters. It was welcomed that bees had been reintroduced to the allotments.

Cllr Alex Marshall reported that a lot of work had taken place at the caravan encampment at the Fountain this week. James Radcliffe informed the Council that planning permission had been refused, but the applicants had won on appeal. There would be a series of conditions permitting 2 static caravans and 1 moveable one.

Cllr Meryl Wilkins commented on the hedge at the bottom of Penyfai, the land was included on the Candidate Sites Register. The footpath might be affected.

Cllr Wilkins wondered if the cold weather had held back the growth of the daffodil bulbs – it was noted that further planting could be considered for 2019.

Cllr Ann John reported that she had attended her first meeting of the Governors of Penyfai School.

16. Finances

(a) Accounts for payment

The following accounts would be paid:

| | £ | |
|--|--------|----------|
| AABC Ltd (website) | 204.00 | (201650) |
| Floodlighting and Electrical Services (take down Christmas decorations) | 888.00 | (201651) |
| ACD skips (skip on allotments) | 218.40 | (201652) |
| Wesley Centre (Hire of meeting room) | 75.00 | (201653) |

17. Any Other Business

1. Dates of meetings – it was agreed that the September meeting take place on the 3 September, the first Tuesday of the month, following the August recess. The Clerk had secured the agreement of Tondu School to hold meetings on their premises, which would be arranged as soon as possible.
2. It was suggested that forward work planning, to cover such subjects as bulbs and Christmas lights, be added to the next agenda.
3. Cllr Meryl Wilkins regretted that the BCBC had chosen to close the Aberkenfig Toilets, but the practicalities precluded the Community Council taking responsibility.

There being no more business, the meeting closed at 8.50 The next meeting would be held in the meeting room (not the main hall) Wesley Centre, Tondu, on 12 March 2019. It was noted that Smyrna Chapel vestry, Penyfai, was not available.