

Minutes of a Meeting of the Newcastle Higher Community Council held in Tondy Primary School, Meadow Street, Aberkenfig on Tuesday 8th October 2019 at 6.30 p.m.

Cllr Mal John: Presided

Present (10) Cllrs Derrick Baker, Heidi Bennett, David Fowler, Altaf Hussain, Ann John, Mal John, Byron Jones, Alex Marshall, James Radcliffe and Meryl Wilkins
Clerk John Richfield, Lyn Masters, Tondy and Aberkenfig Community Association,
Marged Griffiths and Robin Gibbs from Penyfai Village Community Association

Before the meeting Andrea Boyce of the BCBC budget consultation team gave the council a presentation on the consultation Shaping Bridgend's Future, to which all were invited to contribute their views. The consultation would end at 17.00 on 3 November 2019.

1. Apologies

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

2. Members Written Declaration of Interests on Agenda Items

Before the start of the meeting, Council members made declarations of interest in agenda items on the form provided, as follows:

Cllr H Bennett – Committee member and trustee of Penyfai Village Community Association
Cllr Meryl Wilkins made a declaration relating to her personal interest in the following subjects; the Pheasant Field, Morganstone development and Lanmoor homes Tondy land:
Heiress and owner of the Dunraven Estates Properties Ltd, the Dunraven Estates lands and hereditaments, Dunraven Estates Limited, Dunraven Estates Properties Limited.
Cllr J Radcliffe – member of Tondy and Aberkenfig Community Association.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd September 2019

The following amendments were agreed

Item 3 – add 'owner' after the words 'Pennant Homes'

After ...'what would happen if residents needed to claim on their insurance' add the words 'and what was the level of liability on the developer' to the section 'Insurance claims against the developers'

Item 5 the rat was on the path not in the garden.

Item 7 – Cllr David Fowler had reported the footpath for clearance, rather than cleared it.

4. Matters Arising on the Minutes

Item 7 - it was stated that the football field at the top of Penyfai was on land part of the Penyfai Common.

Item 8 - Penyfai Village Community Association had met with Guy Smith of BCBC, not Cllr Heidi Bennett.

Fun Day Penyfai – The Committee to be asked for a report on the event.

5. Report on Police Matters (including pavement parking)

The Clerk would ask the Inspector to request the PCSO attend Community Council meetings.

Cllr Alex Marshall reported on an initiative from Living Streets to try to eliminate pavement parking, to enable people to walk on pavements without cars parked there. It was agreed that the Community Council back the campaign. Cllr Alex Marshall would supply information.

6. County Borough Councillors

(a) County Borough Councillor for Penyfai

Cllr Altaf Hussain reported on the following matters:

Local Democracy & Boundary Commission Report for Bridgend

The Report had recently been published and the Commission had recommended that the existing arrangements for Penyfai and Aberkenfig be retained, which view the Community Council had supported.

Lighting Contractors

Cllr Hussain and Cllrs Mal John and Alex Marshall had attended the Festival Lighting contractors meeting at the Pheasant.

Site Visit

Cllr Hussain had attended a site visit with a resident who had concerns about the footpath, fly tipping and issues with welfare of horses. The appropriate BCBC departments had been informed. A visit from the Animal Health and Welfare Officer was scheduled.

Meeting with Morganstone, developers contractors at Hillside.

Cllr Hussain and other Councillors attended the meeting held by Morganstone to listen to the concerns of the residents.

Flooding

Cllr Hussain attended a meeting with Mr Rhodri Davies Planning Department, and the Chair of the BCBC Planning Committee to review recent flooding of properties in Clos Ty Smyrna

Mr Davies addressed all issues raised in correspondence and attended the site.

Another meeting had been arranged and channels of communication remained open to try to resolve this difficult situation. The Clerk had circulated the response that Cllr Hussain had received.

The Community Council would again make representations to Cllr Huw David and Jonathan Parsons, Head of Planning, noting that there had been a series of problems and that this was not the first incident associated with this development. The Community Council would back the residents, and await the outcome of Cllr Hussain's meeting with Mr Davies next week.

Cllr Hussain had also asked BCBC for their contingency plans on the flooding, but had received no response. He had asked what plans there were for dealing with the implications for the other residents.

Cllr Meryl Wilkins stated that she was dissatisfied by the response from Mr Rhodri Davies.

Cllr Heidi Bennett was thanked for her support to the residents.

Overgrown Hedge

Concerns about an overgrown hedge on the lane between Clos y Talcen and Plas Ty Mawr had been referred to the BCBC for action.

Cllr Hussain was thanked for his report.

(b) County Borough Councillor for Aberkenfig

Cllr James Radcliffe reported on the following matter:

Access to the Park at the top of Coronation Street.

Cllr Radcliffe had arranged for the BCBC officers visit the park to replace the gates with some that were more suitable for access.

Cllr Radcliffe was thanked for his report.

7. Maintenance Committee Report

(a) Woodlands Work Programme and Footpaths

Cllr Alex Marshall reported that a written Tree Report had been received from the Consultant Mr Stephen Lucocq. The report contained details of trees recommended to be removed for safety.

4 contractors had been contacted about the work needed– and a response received from Mr Anstee. Quote to follow.

Cllr Altaf Hussain mentioned that he had not visited the Community Woodland. He planned to view the woods with Cllr Alex Marshall.

(b) Japanese Knotweed Treatment

The contractor The Tree Surgeons Ltd had attended on site last week to re-treat affected areas. Significant progress was noted since the last treatment.

A resident in Pleasant View was concerned about knotweed affecting him. It was noted that the source of the knotweed affecting him was from the property called the Moulders, and not the woodlands.

(c) Planting of Daffodil Bulbs

The daffodils had now been planted, with photos taken to show what had been done. Matt Scott had carried out the work, Mrs Jan Brady, Court Colman residents, had received some bulbs to plant in Court Colman.

Footpath

Llanmoor Homes in Tondu had promised to go back to look again at the footpath that floods. However they had not yet done so. Clerk to email, Cllr A Marshall to telephone.

The report of the Maintenance Committee was received and adopted.

8. Christmas Lights Arrangements 2019-2020

The Council considered a report on the quotations that had been received for provision of Christmas lights this year. It was agreed to allocate the work as follows:

Plantscape

Pentrefelin Tondy - for Solar Christmas trees on lampposts where permission had granted by County Highways.

Centregreat

Penyfai

- Supply 25 ft Christmas tree on common install and decorate with NHCC LED festive harness, connect and set working including removal after 6 January. and store lights
- Lights on dead tree at Penyfai Church overlooking Protheroe Avenue illuminate and remove lights and store
- 8 lighting features onto street lighting columns in Penyfai as previously utilised

Tondu

- Lights at the Tondu Methodist living Tree, illuminate and remove lights and store after.

Floodlighting and Electrical Services

Aberkenfig

All Aberkenfig lights install and remove and store, to include the lighting around the living tree on the Square.

Prices in accordance with quotations received.

9. Finance and Policy

(a) Accounts for Payment

	£	
Bridgend Town Council (empty bins)	2,080.00	(201690)
Stephen D Lucocq (tree survey)	830.00	(201691)
BCBC (bus shelter clean)	59.63	(201692)
The Tree Surgeons Ltd (knotweed treatment)	720.00	(201693)
Cllr A Marshall (reimbursement for daffodils)	191.93	(201694)

(b) Budget Update for second quarter of financial year

The Council received the usual report for the second quarter of the year that itemised every payment and item of income analysed by budget heading, which provided comprehensive detail on the council's financial position.

(c) Close of Audit 2019

The Clerk advised that BDO the auditors had not yet issued their opinion.

(d) Council as Employer - One Voice Wales recommended Updated Clerk's Contract

The Clerk had circulated copies of the updated recommended contract for a Clerk which had been supplied by One Voice Wales.

Councillor Heidi Bennett stated that the One Voice Wales contract was not up to date, and she could guide the Council on the options. It was also agreed to contact ACAS for examples from their website and for a working group of Councillors, (Cllrs Mal John, Chair, Cllr Altaf Hussain, Deputy Chair, Cllr Heidi Bennett and Cllr Byron Jones) to meet as a group to plan how to agree an up to date Clerk's contract.

(e) Note from the BCBC on engagement with social media for Councillors

Following members asking for advice on dealing with social media, a note from the Monitoring Officer of the BCBC had been circulated for Members' guidance.

10. Community Associations Update

(a) Tondu and Aberkenfig

The Council welcomed Lyn Masters to the meeting.

The Association thanked the Community Council for planting the daffodil bubs at Pentrefelin. The Association backed the Community Council in concern about vehicles where engines were allowed to run while the vehicle was stationary.

Lyn Masters reported that there were alternatives for installing a defibrillator in a number of local shops. The Community Association would look into the optimum location and make a plan and consult suppliers and funders before inviting the NHCC to assist.

(b) Penyfai Village

Pheasant Field

Marged Griffiths made a report on the public meeting that had been held in July to explore options for protecting the Pheasant Field. A subsequent meeting with key BCBC people identified that there may be an option to take over the land under a Community Asset Transfer on a long lease of 35 years, which would remove it as a candidate site for the Local Development Plan. It was agreed that some members of the NHCC would meet with the PVCA and Mr Guy Smith of BCBC to discuss options and costs. The Clerk would circulate members to identify a date to meet and progress this before the CAT Steering Group next met on 21 October.

The Community Council thanked the Penyfai Village Community Association for their work.

11. Correspondence

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

1. Cllr David Fowler

Suggested potential locations for Christmas decorations at the Tondu end of the Community.

2. BCBC

Details of consultation on Shaping Bridgend's Future they were to attend this meeting. People can take part at www.bridgend.gov.uk/future

3. BCBC

Details of Adult Community Learning programme. Noted.

4. One Voice Wales

Details of training courses for councillors. Noted.

5. One Voice Wales

Links to revised model Financial Regulations. Had been taken to Council in July 2019 and approved.

6. BCBC

Copy of a Protocol for the use of Social media for elected members, for guidance.

7. Bridgend Town Council

Invoice for the emptying of bins at a cost of £80 per week from 7 April to 29 September 2019 £2,080.00

8. One Voice Wales

Examples of updated Clerks Contract and background information. On Agenda for consideration by group.

9. BDO

The External Auditor had not issued an audit opinion for 30 September, so the Council needed to display the Annual return as subject to Audit on the website for 14 days from the end of September (unless the letter arrived before then.)

10. Aberkenfig Allotment Association

Information on the Association's Water Project – they had applied for grants, and would let the Council know progress.

11. Stephen Lucocq – Tree Consultant

Invoice for Woodland tree survey for £830 and copy of the Report.

12. Cllr Alex Marshall

Concerns about pavement parking in Aberkenfig – to be discussed under police matters.

13. Leader BCBC

Clerk forwarded an email to all members about the first Planning Aid Wales event in Maesteg Town Hall on the LDP consultation. NB there is also an event in Cefn Cribbwr that NHCC was invited to, full details had been previously circulated.

14. BCBC

Invoice for bus shelter cleaning for £59.63.

15. Local Government Boundary Commission

Copy of their report.

16. The Tree Surgeons

Invoice for dealing with Knotweed - £720.00

12. Planning Committee Report

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

P/19/613/FUL 26 Treharne Drive, Penyfai CF31 4NT

P/19/649/FUL 24 Ysbryd y Coed, Penyfai CF31 4GF

P/19/666/FUL Plot north of Maple House, All Saints Way, Penyfai CF31 4BX
P/19/696/FUL 13 Bridgend Road, Aberkenfig CF32 9BN

Concerning the plot north of Maple House, Councillors expressed concern about the access. It was stated that a similar application had been turned down before due to the access.

13. Other Reports from Councillors

Cllr David Fowler reported that Cllr James Radcliffe had referred the matter of ground pipes to the BCBC.

Cllr James Radcliffe and Cllr Heidi Bennett had attended the workshop on the LDP consultation. Specific sites were not discussed. They reported that the meeting had been about the principles not the sites.

14. Any Other Business

1. Cllr Derrick Baker asked about wreaths for remembrance. The Clerk had ordered these from the Royal British Legion, to be laid in Aberkenfig, Penyfai and also a wreath for Bryncethin Memorial, as had been custom in recent years.
2. Cllr Meryl Wilkins asked that progress had been made on the Penyfai School Crossing person. Cllr Hussain indicated this was with the Director of Education. The Clerk would write in support of Cllr Altaf to the Director of Education.
3. Cllr Alex Marshall had met with a resident about fly tipping and the footpath at Penyfai. He had passed the details to BCBC.

There being no more business, the meeting closed at 9.10 p.m. The next meeting would be held in Tondu School, on Tuesday 12 November 2019.