

Minutes of a Meeting of the Newcastle Higher Community Council held in St John's Church, Aberkenfig, on Tuesday 10th July 2018 at 7.00 p.m.

Cllr Mal John: Presided

Present (8) Cllrs Derrick Baker, Heidi Bennett, Dave Fowler, Altaf Hussain, Ann John, Malcolm John, Byron Jones & Meryl Wilkins.
Clerk: John Richfield
Observers : Mr Michael Kay (Penyfai),
Mr Alex Marshall (Maintenance Committee member, co-opted at Agendum 6)
Claudette Evans, Lyn Masters (from 8.30)

At the start of the meeting, Mr Michael Kay addressed the Council on his concern about the parking at Protheroe Avenue, Penyfai. Cllr Altaf Hussain agreed to meet with Mr Kay to try to help.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Joyce Haines, Gary Haines and Lee Robson.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th June 2018

The draft minutes of 12th June 2018 were approved.

3. Matters Arising on the June Minutes

Item 10 GDPR

Concerning the Members Declaration of Interests form the Clerk had circulated to all members of the Council, some members reported that it was difficult to fill in the form electronically, so the clerk would print copies for all Councillors who had not completed the form electronically, and circulate them for the next meeting. When all members had completed the forms the Clerk would publish the information on the website. On this subject the Clerk reported that he intended to add a standing item on the Agenda called declaration of interests in order to give an opportunity at each meeting for members to make any declarations of interest.

Item 11 Glanrhyd Hospital Grounds

Cllr Dave Fowler reported a possibility of a planning application close to the Hospital to Cllr Hussain, who had no knowledge of this. If a planning application number was known he would investigate it.

Item 16 AOB

BCBC Planning LDP

The lack of information on how the BCBC intended to engage with others in discussion of their LDP was of concern. Also of ongoing concern was the stated ownership by the BCBC of the Pheasant Field Penyfai, to whom the land was registered, due to the possibility of risk of development.

Website

The website was now 'live'.

4. Report on PACT Meeting

Cllr Heidi Bennett reported that there had been no meeting of PACT since the last Council meeting. Cllr Bennett hoped to arrange a meeting in September. It was noted that PCSO Chris Bowen had retired. The Council welcomed the contribution he had made to PACT in the area over a long period of time.

5. County Borough Councillors

Cllr Altaf Hussain (Penyfai)

Cllr Altaf Hussain reported on and the Council discussed the following matters:

Grass cutting

The village grass areas had recently all been cut however Cllr Hussain did not feel the work had been done as well as he would have liked. Some of the grass cutting was the responsibility of the BCBC, and some of Valleys to Coast, who sometimes used different contractors. Cllr Hussain reported that two cuts had taken place this year, of a total of seven in the programme. It was noted that the cutting regime in the village was separate to that of BCBC Highways, and that there had been a number of complaints from residents.

To support the County Borough Member the Clerk would ask Parks, Highways and V2C for information on their cutting schedules so residents could be made aware of what was to take place.

It was noted that the grass cutting in Aberkenfig was currently satisfactory.

Site meeting- Planning application at All Saints' Way, Penyfai

More objections had been received regarding the implications for rights of way, and the stability of the land. Cllr Hussain was grateful to Alex Marshall for his sending details on the rights of way issues to the BCBC.

Pheasant Field, Penyfai

Cllr Meryl Wilkins spoke of her concern that the BCBC alleged that the Pheasant Field was in BCBC ownership and how the Pheasant Field was registered by the BCBC at the Land Registry on 24 October 2007. Cllr Meryl Wilkins had raised the matter of her concerns with the BCBC previously.

It was noted that the whole larger space including the land which was presently the subject of a contentious planning application was registered as a whole parcel with the land subject to the rights granted in leases of adjoining properties on the Ty Mawr Estate.

It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the BCBC Property department and ask for the history of how the registration came to be made in 2007. This matter would return to the Agenda.

Cllr James Radcliffe (Aberkenfig)

Cllr James Radcliffe, County Borough Councillor for Aberkenfig, had sent apologies as he was unable to attend the meeting.

6. Co-option of a Councillor for Penyfai Ward

Further to the procedure that had to be followed following the resignation of a member of the Council.

After being advised that there was no request for an election, the Clerk had advertised the co-option with a closing date of 2 July. One person applied for co-option to the Council, Mr Alex Marshall. The Council considered his application and resolved to co-opt him until the next election.

Mr Marshall would sign his declaration of acceptance of office, and receive his copy of the Code of Conduct for Community Councillors together with a copy of the Welsh Government Publication the Good Councillors Guide, before the next meeting on 4 September.

7. Update from Committees

(i) Community Development Project

It was reported that the evaluation leaflets had gone out to local residents. There was also an online survey, to which there had been a positive response so far. Agreed that this item would remain an item on the Agenda.

(ii) Maintenance Committee

It was reported that work would commence very soon on the plan to maintain and improve the Aberkenfig Community Woodlands. This was welcomed.

(iii) Bins

Cllr Alex Marshall gave a detailed report on the research he and others had done on suppliers for bins for dog waste, and on the options for their installation and emptying.

The Report gave the Council the option of choosing between four quotations for the bins themselves, the companies involved were Glasdon, Broxap, Roadware and Bailey Streetscene. The Council agreed on the supplier to order from, namely Roadware, who had quoted on a price for 10 bins a price of £79.95 (£81.94 to include VAT). The Council had previously agreed to use the services of Bridgend Town Council to maintain the bins once in use. An amended plan for their intended location was also approved. The Clerk would send copies of the Amended Plans to re-start the application to the BCBC to permit the installation of the bins.

While seeking the endorsement of the BCBC for the intended locations, the Clerk would remind the BCBC that they would continue to be responsible for their bins and that this proposal from the Community Council was in addition to and not in substitution for the present provisions.

The Council thanked Cllr Alex Marshall for his work on this subject.

Aberkenfig Square

To take forward the maintenance of the Square, Cllrs Gary Haines and Mal John had met with Mr Matt Scott of Matt Scott Landscaping to agree initially a one off programme of work at a modest cost to tidy the flower beds, clean the stonework and generally maintain the landscape.

It was also planned to install a Notice Board in a suitable location in Penyfai. The Councillors had been informed that the Pheasant Public House was not interested in hosting the Notice Board, but the land alongside Protheroe Avenue and the house adjoining the Pheasant car park area was possible, and this would be investigated.

Aberkenfig Community Woodland

It was reported that Matt Scott was engaged in carrying out a large amount of work in drainage issues, and that Mr Neil Hinds (consultant on woodland drainage) was to come to site and review progress. The process of Knotweed reduction was also to start at the right time in the season. Advice would be taken from BCBC, or others, on this subject.

8. Centenary of the Armistice 1918-2018

The Ceramic Artist engaged by the Council to create the children's artwork, Justine Stroud, was continuing the design of the mosaic art working with the schools. Only Tondu School required further work to be done. She would send proposals to the Council prior to final manufacture. A quotation had already been agreed with Gerald Davies Limited for the manufacture and installation of the boards. A meeting between the Maintenance Committee and Cllr Derrick Baker, and Mr Phil Howe, Contracts manager Gerald Davies Limited, would be held to progress the work over the summer, and this had been agreed to take place on 18 July at 09.30 specifically to progress work on the installation of boards for the children's work. Subsequently agreed that the boards would be delivered to Justine Stroud to create the artwork, prior to installation at the Square before 11 November.

The Clerk would remind the headteachers of the schools, Penyfai, St Robert's and Tondu Primary, before the end of term, that they were invited to send two children to the Square on Sunday 11 November to represent their schools.

The Clerk would also send out the usual invitations to local organisations and other Community Councils as a general invitation to attend the event on 11 November. He would also arrange to purchase the wreaths with the British Legion, which a member of the Council would collect from Bridgend.

While contacting the British Legion, their recommendation would be sought on a bugler for the day.

9. Speed in Penyfai

The Clerk reported that the grant from the BCBC Community Fund available to the County Borough Councillor, had been agreed with Councillor Altaf Hussain. The next stage was to decide on the specification of the speed boards to use. The Council thanked Cllr Heidi Bennet, who would bring a report to the next meeting on the next steps necessary.

10. Shared events with Ynysawdre – Summer Fete and pre Armistice event

Cllr Mal John reported that Cllr Beth Lowden of Ynysawdre Community Council had informed him that their proposed summer fete had been cancelled, however there would be an event arranged by Ynysawdre Community Council the Saturday before Remembrance Day at Tondu Cricket Club, which was planned to involve poetry and readings.

The Parochial Church Council in Penyfai, with Jenny Morgan as main organiser, were to hold a Remembrance Festival and event, and this Council had already assisted with a grant of £350.00 A representative of the Council would attend Remembrance Day in Penyfai, as in previous years, and lay a wreath.

Cllr Mal John also updated the council on the annual Penyfai Fun Day that was to take place on Saturday 1 September. The Chair or Deputy Chair of the Council had been invited to formally open the day, and Cllr Heidi Bennett would be present with a Community Council stall.

11. Correspondence

1. Clerks and Councils Direct

Local Government publication – noted.

2. Cllr Heidi Bennett

A note highlighting the importance of the LDP and the new LDP Process, also about the next steps for the speed boards now Cllr Altaf Hussain had the application form for funds.

3. Cllr Mal John

A series of email correspondence regarding work to be done by Matt Scott in the woodlands Aberkenfig. Noted and endorsed.

4. Mr Alex Marshall

Letter indicating his interest in co-option to the Community Council. See item 6.

5. ABMU Health Board

In response to the Clerk's enquiries, the Health Board was not aware that any offer was made to the developer regarding a medical Centre for Tondu. The LDP for Bridgend had been considered by the Health Board and the anticipated impact of the LDP in population health terms across Bridgend. The Board was progressing opportunities to extent the range of health and wellbeing services.

6. Bridgend Samaritans

Grant request for their work. To be taken at the October meeting,

7. Beth Lowden Vice Chair Ynysawdre Community Council

Making Contact with NHCC to look at working together with a summer fete and the Armistice Celebration on 10 November. Noted – See report from Cllr Mal John.

8. BCBC

Invoice for bus shelter cleaning £59.63. To be paid.

9. A. A. A.

Concerns from the Allotments Secretary that they had problems with rats. Clerk had advised them to contract BCBC Environmental Health Department. Noted. Cllr Mal John met with Bob Edwards to advise , BCBC were working on this.

Also £400 was received with thanks from AAA to contribute to the cost of repairing the roadway in the allotments.

10. Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales

The Council was required to submit a return on any payments to members by 30 September. Clerk to action, as nil return.

11. ABMU Stakeholders

Notice of a Bridgend Boundary Change to Cwm Taf University Health Board. Noted.

12. One Voice Wales

Confirmation for Course on Chiring Skills for Cllr Heidi Bennett 4 July. (course cancelled before it could be run)

13. Maesteg Town Council

Invitation to Civic Service on Sunday 15 July at 2.30. to Chair or Deputy Chair. To attend if possible.

12. Planning Applications – Report from Planning Committee

P/18/523 The Coach House Penylan Farm, Penyfai

P/18/436 Jortonette 10 Clos Pwll Clai Tondu

P/18/491 9 Riverside Aberkenfig

There were no comments on these applications.

However, concerns were expressed at the lack of visible consultation from the BCBC on the whole LDP process.

The members of the Committee would monitor the engagement of the BCBC with others on this important issue.

13. Reports

Defibrillator

Cllr Alex Marshall reported on the possibility of a Community defibrillator being provided in Penyfai. Alex had contacted the ambulance service for advice – they stated that the equipment had to be kept in a closed, but not locked, cabinet. The cabinet would cost £400, there were grants of £300, taken with the equipment, the overall cost would be £1,300.

The Council would be asked to consider a report from Cllr Alex Marshall in the September meeting, he would consult Cllr Altaf Hussain and the St John's Ambulance.

Cllr Heidi Bennett stated that a number were being installed, and that there were first responder courses offered for people using them. Were a defibrillator installed, it would need to be central in the village to be of use.

Planning Application at Quarry

Cllr Heidi Bennett reported on the ongoing planning application that had not yet been determined at All Saints Way Penyfai.

There were new issues and the BCBC Planning Committee had deferred its decision until 19 July in the light of this information. In addition, Cllr Altaf Hussain mentioned that the BCBC still had no evidence on the stability of the land. Many residents had written to object to the proposals, and Cllr Heidi Bennet had written to every County Councillor on the planning Committee personally.

The Clerk would send a further letter including the new evidence and reiterating the old, also to each of the Councillors on the Committee to try to persuade them to listen to the views of the residents of Penyfai.

In answer to a question as to whether the land had been sold by BCBC it had -to Morganstone on 30 November 2017 title number Cym 228061.

Review Panel

Cllr Heidi Bennett also reported that she had attended a presentation on what was likely to be included in the report of the Independent Review Panel. One of their recommendations would be for Community Councils to set aside some money in their budgets for each Councillor to receive and individual Councillors would have the choice to accept the money or not. The Clerk would look into this and prepare a report and agenda it.

LDP

Cllr Heidi Bennett also drew attention to the fact that the BCBC had not widely consulted about their Local Development Plan. There would now be a time frame to go out and consult others over a period of some years. The NHCC Planning Committee members would continue to monitor this.

Refuse

Cllr Byron Jones reported on recent problems with rubbish collections – any specific problems would be passed on to Cllr Altaf Hussain.

Road Safety

Cllr Dave Fowler suggested that the installation of a box junction to stop people blocking the road at the traffic lights leading out of Pentre Felin, or to re-sequence the lights themselves. Cllr Altaf indicated that he needed to talk to Cllr James Radcliffe. The Clerk would send him a note to assist.

Cllr Altaf Hussain reported that while on a walk around the lane to the rear of Plas Ty Mawr, the light is still covered by hedge foliage, although the BBC team had previously trimmed the hedges. The Clerk would send a note to highways to supplement Cllr Hussain's referral.

Tondu & Aberkenfig Community Association

It was reported by Claudette Evans and Lyn Masters (who requested to speak) that Tondu and Aberkenfig Community Association was now operating, the Committee was grateful to Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations for advice. The Association's priority was road safety – in particular people noticed that it was difficult to safely cross the Maesteg Road by the bridge. Cllrs Tim

Thomas and James Radcliffe reported that there was no money in the BCBC funds at this time to help. The Community Association requested help from the Community Council to bring this concern to the BCBC. The Clerk would write to BCBC to support them. Other priorities for the Community Association were a notice board, and they asked if additional money was available from the Community Council for flower baskets and Christmas lights.

The Community Association also noted that the BCBC had been chopping down Japanese Knotweed by the underpass and not disposing of it properly.

The Tondu and Aberkenfig Community Association requested support from the Community Council in their aims to secure some flower baskets in their area, more lights at Christmas and a notice board.

Mrs Evans and Mrs Masters were thanked for their report to the Council.

Bus Shelters

Cllr Ann John had heard that the BCBC was reviewing the programme of cleaning bus shelters.

14. Finances

(a) Accounts for payment

The following accounts would be paid:

	£	
Bridgend County Brough Council (bus shelter cleaning)	59.63	(201614)

15. Any Other Business

1. Cllr Meryl Wilkins observed that with the nearest public toilets in the Designer Outlet, it was time for the BCBC to consider re-opening the public toilets in Aberkenfig;
2. She also reported that she had declared her interests to the new BCBC Monitoring officer following the recent retirement of Andrew Jolley;
3. Cllr Heidi Bennett had recently attended a One Voice Wales meeting, where with other matters, accessibility for meeting locations for Councils was discussed.

Meeting ended 20.45

The next meeting would be held in Smyrna Chapel Vestry, Penyfai on Tuesday 4 September 2018.