

Minutes of a Meeting of the Newcastle Higher Community Council held in Tondu Methodist Church, on Tuesday 13th February 2018 at 7.00 p.m.

Cllr Gary Haines: Presided

Present (6) Cllrs Heidi Bennett, Dave Fowler, Gary Haines, Altaf Hussain, Lee Robson and Meryl Wilkins
Observers: Alex Marshall, (Maintenance Committee Member), Lynn Masters, Claudette Evans
Karen Lany, Anthony Lany
Clerk: John Richfield
In attendance PCSO Chris Bowen

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Derrick Baker, Joyce Haines, Ann John, Mal John, Byron Jones, and Sarah Parry.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th January 2018

A number of amendments were made to the draft minutes of 9th January 2018, and the approved minutes reissued to Council.

3. Matters Arising

North Lodge was now a Care Centre – noted that refuse was to be collected as domestic waste.

The Website Link on Consultation on Planning Laws in Wales would be forwarded to Cllr Meryl Wilkins. Information had been received that the concrete road at Mount Pleasant had been laid by a private individual in 1951.

The cars parked on the footpath between Meadow St and Pentrefelin had not been removed. Clerk to remind Rights of Way.

4. Report from PACT Meeting

PSCO Chris Bowen was welcomed to the meeting.

He reported on the last meeting of PACT, referred to recent crimes, noted that around 10 members of the public attended, commented on priorities and regretted that no one from BCBC was present.

The priority of the Penyfai Road contravention of no entry order was noted. Residents could text the PSCO with registrations of vehicles observed to contravene the order, and the PCSO would issue a final written warning to local drivers.

Cllr Altaf Hussain had been approached by a constituent concerning parking at school run times in Protheroe Avenue and had taken the matter to BCBC Highways for appropriate action.

Cllr Gary Haines committed to attending the next PACT on 26 March and urged Community Councillors to attend.

Cllr Heidi Bennett reported on the cycle path under the motorway, where fly tipping and graffiti had been referred to BCBC for action. It was reported that the Street Works Team had made arrangements for this to be cleared within the week.

5. County Borough Councillors

Cllr Altaf Hussain (Penyfai)

Cllr Altaf Hussain reported on the following matters:

A pothole on Court Colman Road had now been repaired, one by St Roberts School was not repaired as yet.

The lights in Protheroe Avenue that had failed were now repaired, and V2C would repair a run down garage in their ownership.

The BCBC had recently provided assistance to a man in need of housing in the village.

Cllr Hussain had met with the Cabinet Member for Education to discuss proposals for a safe walking route to Bryntirion.

Proposals had been requested from BCBC for the pedestrian lights by the Texaco Garage – a watching brief would be maintained.

It was welcomed that the daffodils that had been planted by the Community in the autumn were starting to emerge.

Cllr Altaf reported that his term of office as a CC governor at St Robert's School was drawing to a close.

Clerk to Agenda this for the Council to appoint a replacement Governor, liaising with BCBC Education.

Questions were asked following Cllr Hussain's report:

Cllr Lee Robson asked about the lanes going past the Dogs Trust to the panels – he would email Cllr Hussain to clarify how to have others similarly upgraded.

Cllr Meryl Wilkins would email Cllr Hussain with specific locations of potholes in Penyrheol for action.

Cllr James Radcliffe (Aberkenfig)

Cllr James Radcliffe had apologised for absence and had sent the Clerk a note to report on his behalf

It covered the following matters:

Proposed new Housing development and Planning matters

Cllr Radcliffe understood that the proposed new development was delayed at planning. Regional Am Dai Lloyd had written to the BCBC about concerns over process and had been informed that the community had not requested to discuss S 106 agreements. This was incorrect, as he had specifically requested such a meeting with the Planning and the Community Council. The Community Council would write to BCBC with a formal request for such a meeting.

BCBC would provide a training session on the new LDP, Cllr Radcliffe had asked if Community Councillors would be able to attend.

Community Action Fund

Cllr Radcliffe would ask if there were any proposed projects what may be suitable for Community Action Fund assistance. He had identified that it was possible to use the fund to jointly fund a Community Council project. This would return to the agenda soon.

Crime Figures

Cllr Radcliffe had requested more detailed figures – reply awaited from Police.

Un-adopted Roads

There was a debate in the National Assembly on Wednesday 14 February on un-adopted roads. The Clerk would advise Cllr Radcliffe about Factory Terrace, Mount Pleasant Heol Llyfrau and Hillcrest.

6. Report from the Community Council Maintenance Committee

The members of the Maintenance committee, Cllrs Gary Haines, Mal John and adviser Mr Alex Marshall reported as follows:

A site visit, at which Elen Richards, a Coed Cymru Officer, was in attendance, was held at Aberkenfig Woodlands on 23 January, to make a preliminary assessment of the works that had to be done, principally water damage and flooding.

Elen Richards undertook to identify a contractor to draw up a plan of action, pending this work on the footpaths cleaning would commence.

On the recommendation of Coed Cymru it was planned to meet with Mr Neil Hinds, Woodlands Officer of Neath Port Talbot on 17 February to survey the woods and produce a specialist report on action required.

The Council authorised progress on all this work, noting it was budgeted.

It was noted that the son of Delyth Thomas, owner of the local farm, might be able to help with some works, and that Cllr Derrick Baker had his contact details.

7. Joint Meeting with other Community Councils to be held on 27 February in Tondu Methodist Church

As the proposals for housing in Tondu impacted a wide area a Joint Meeting had been arranged to take place at 7.00 in Tondu Methodist Church on 27 February to hear about the planning proposals and try to identify a joint response from all Community Councils invited, to be sent to the BCBC.

Cllr Gary Haines would introduce the meeting, as the person who was to speak to the Planning Committee on behalf of the Community Council, and Claudette Evans of Tondu would lead the presentation. Cllr James Radcliffe, BCBC Member would also attend.

It was hoped that all Community Councillors would attend.

Cllr Gary Haines hoped that the Council would hold regular consultation meetings for members of the Community and that this become integral to the Council's modus operandi in the future.

8. Community Development Plans

It was noted that One Voice Wales had information on training in Developing Plans. Part of the process included identifying the parameters and scope of Community Council powers, to ensure that once priorities had been identified they could be delivered. This in mind, it was agreed that five members of the Council (Gary Haines, Lee Robson, Heidi Bennett, Meryl Wilkins and Altaf Hussain) meet and look at ways to achieve this and report to the Council at the next meeting.

9. Bins – Installation and emptying - update

The Maintenance Committee were asked to do the following:

1. Produce a definitive location plan for all the bins – suggested to consult local people for suggestions to the Maintenance Committee.
2. when the definite locations identified, to request Bridgend Town Council confirm price to supply, install and collect from the bins on an ongoing basis.
3. the exact type of bins, and the costs as initial capital and for annual emptying to be agreed at the next convenient Council meeting.

It was noted that Bridgend Town Council had agreed to help in principle.

In the interim, Clerk to formally ask both BCBC and Julian Golunski of the Commoners for permission in principle to locate bins on their property, which NHCC would pay to install and empty.

10. Speed Signs Penyfai - Update

The BCBC Highways Department had been consulted about the suggested installation of speed signs in Penyfai. The Clerk reported that he had not yet received a reply to two emails sent to the Highways Department to consider installation of speed sign in Penyfai.

He would write again asking for an urgent response, copying the two County Brough Councillors.

11. Review of BCBC Town & Community Council Charter

The BCBC had arranged to review the Charter at their regular Forum Meetings of Town and Community Councils. Cllr Heidi Bennett was the Community Council's representative to the Town and Community Council Forum, and reported that their meeting had been cancelled.

She had also attended the One Voice Wales regional meeting in Cowbridge.

12. Correspondence

1. Cllr Altaf Hussain

He raised the issue of a pothole in front of the school gate at St Roberts School. The response was disappointing – as it was not adopted highway.

2. Lynette Thacker

Ms Thacker had contacted James Radcliffe and also now the Community Council about the water from the woodlands. She stated that since work has been carried out to stop flooding of Pleasant View adjacent to their house the water was overflowing down the road. Noted the Maintenance Committee were planning action in this area.

3. Christine Took Aberkenfig Allotment Association

The Allotment holders were unhappy at how long the repairs to the fence are taking at the Allotments. (NB This work was instructed to Messrs Daly, but not commenced as yet)

Also the date for rent is 7 March – so this would likely be raised then.

4. One Voice Wales

OVW has commissioned solicitors to prepare a toolkit for the use of Councils regarding the guidance for compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation. Clerk to find out when it was ready.

5. Aberkenfig Allotments Association

Their meeting associated with the payment of rents will be 7 March. The Clerk would welcome any Councillors who could be present.

6. Professor Jeff Jones

Agreeing to the use of the Meeting room on Tuesday 13 February.

7. Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru

Request for a grant. Suggest to take in March with other applications.

8. Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales

The Commission is to review the electoral arrangements for the County Borough of Bridgend with a view to considering and formulating proposals for future arrangements. Close of consultation on 25 April 2018.

9. Teenage Cancer Trust

Grant request.

10. Gareth and Elaine Jenkins

Copy of letter of objection to P/17/1073/FUL land off All Saints Way.

11. Cllr Altaf Husain

Copy of letter of objection to P/17/1073/FUL land off All Saints Way.

13. Planning

(a) Planning Applications

The Council discussed the following current planning applications, and noted 32 and 118

P/18/32/FUL Laundry Cottage, Penyfai Road, Court Colman

P/18/47/FUL Land opposite Park View, New Road Tondu - Cllr Meryl Wilkins would object and send the clerk a copy of her objection. The Clerk would forward to the other planning Committee members for consideration when received.

P/18/118/FUL 93 Bridgend Road, Aberkenfig

(b) NHCC Planning Committee

A Committee was appointed comprising Cllrs Gary Haines, Heidi Bennett and Meryl Wilkins – an item for their report to be on next agenda;

The committee to look at the cost and benefits of utilising planning consultants, particularly in regard to the forthcoming LDP consultation, and report to the Council.

(c) Report on All Saint's Way Consultation and response

Cllr Heidi Bennett reported that a public meeting had been held in Smyrna with 40 people present. A number of responses were sent to the BCBC

This application would go to Planning Committee as three or more objections had been received. In this context, Cllr Gary Haines felt it was necessary to hold more consultative meetings

The importance of preserving the Penyfai Green wedge was reported – the LDO process was imminent.

Clerk to ask BCBC for their LDP Consultation Dates, timetable and to ask for BCBC's plans to hold public meetings in both Aberkenfig and Penyfai to enable people to respond to the LDP proposals . It was open to NHCC to hold a public meeting.

14. Independent Review Panel for Community and Town Councils

All Councillors would be advised that an Independent Review Panel had been set up to consider the future role of Community and Town Councils. The review would explore the potential role of local government below Local Authority Councils, drawing on best practice; define the most appropriate model(s) structure(s) to deliver this role and consider how these models and structures should be applied across Wales. This would include consideration of any situations in which they would not be necessary or appropriate.

The Panel has asked four questions, as follows:

1. What should Community and Town Councils be responsible for?
2. How should they operate?
3. What is standing in their way to deliver for the local community?
4. How do Councils ensure they best represent their local Community?

All members of the Council would be asked to send the Clerk their thoughts in answer to the four questions, which would be assembled together to be circulated to all members before the March meeting. The approved response would go to full Council in March for endorsement and submission to the review panel.

14. Reports

The Clerk reported he had arranged with the Secretary to the Allotment Association to hold the annual rent collection and consultative meeting on Wednesday 7 March in Aberkenfig, to which councillors were asked to attend to meet with their tenants.

The Clerk reported that he had now assembled drafts for the webpages for the Community Council website – to circulate to Councillors for comment with in a period of time before sending on to the website contractor so that the site would be online by the next meeting.

Cllr Altaf Hussain, as BCBC member, undertook to meet with residents of Hillside, Y Llest and surrounding streets to discuss how development proposals impact people.

15. Finances

(a) Accounts for payment

The following accounts would be paid:

	£	
Floodlighting & Elec Services Ltd (Christmas lights)	5,582.16	(201575)

Heidi Bennett (reimbursement)	26.70 (201576)
St Roberts School (cost for Christmas Cards)	75.00 (201577)
Tondu School (cost for Christmas Cards)	75.00 (201578)
Penyfai School (cost for Christmas Cards)	75.00 (201579)
Tondu Methodist Church (3 room uses)	75.00 (201580)

16. Any Other Business

1. The Deputy Chair asked Councillors to consider:

- (a) consider changing the name of the Council
- (b) List of potential contractors for maintenance
- (c) Response to Bus consultation.

2. In answer to a question, the Clerk reported on the process followed with the contract for the hanging basket flowers. The lower quote from Boverton had been agreed by the Chair and Deputy Chair and the contract made.

The meeting ended at c.9.20

The next meeting of the Council would take place in Smyrna Chapel Vestry, Penyfai on Tuesday 13 March 2018.