

Minutes of a Meeting of the Newcastle Higher Community Council held in Smyrna Chapel Vestry, Penyfai, on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at 7.00 p.m.

Cllr Gary Haines: Presided

Present (7) Cllrs Heidi Bennett, Gary Haines, Dave Fowler, Ann John Malcolm John, Lee Robson, Meryl Wilkins  
Observers : Mr Alex Marshall (Maintenance Committee member) Cllr James Radcliffe, Claudette Evans  
Clerk: John Richfield

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Derrick Baker, Joyce Haines, Altaf Hussain and Byron Jones. No apologies had been received from Cllr Sarah Parry. The Clerk to contact her again to enquire if there was a reason for her not attending meetings.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2018

The draft minutes of 13<sup>th</sup> February 2018 were approved, subject to Cllr Meryl Wilkins declaration of interest in the Merthyr Mawr Estates planning application.

3. Matters Arising

There were none.

4. Christmas Lights - Darren Brearley – Floodlighting and Electrical Services Ltd.

The Council welcomed Mr Daren Brearley, manager of Floodlighting and Electrical Services Ltd, who attended the meeting to review the current provision and to consider how to enhance it for future years.

The NHCC currently owned 8 decorations in Penyfai – with a further two on loan from Floodlighting Ltd, a total of 10.

Mr Brearley had previously met with Cllrs Derrick Baker and Gary Haines to discuss the possibility of obtaining refurbished LED equipment in good condition. The refurbished LED equipment had a potential life of up to 10 years.

The Cllrs of the Maintenance Committee, Cllrs Gary Haines, Mal John and Heidi Bennett would walk the area to plan, and meet with Darren Brearley to look at possible additional posts and decorations for 2018/2019.

They would include in consideration the northern end of the community at Pentrefelin. Last year some infrastructure wires across the street in Aberkenfig had to be replaced.

5. Report on Merthyr Mawr Estates Application P/16/366/OUT

Claudette Evans, of the Tondu Hub, reported on the forthcoming site meeting to be held this week in Tondu, prior to the BCBC Planning Committee.

The eligible people to speak at site visits were the County Borough Councillor, the Cabinet Member, the representative of the objectors, the Representative of the Town or Community Council, and the Applicant or agent.

The purpose of the site visit was so that the Planning Committee would be able to make up their minds on the evidence of the strength of the arguments.

Cllr Meryl Wilkins declared her interest in this application and stated that Mr McLaggan was not the owner of the land.

Mrs Evans had concerns that the process was not adequate or democratic, and it might be worth being reviewed by the Public Services Ombudsman, following the application, if all parties acted together.

Cllr James Radcliffe was concerned that if an application of nearly 20% over the LDP allocation was approved it may create a precedent.

Cllr Heidi Bennett and Claudette Evans would consult Planning Aid Wales telephone helpline to take advice.

The NHCC Planning Committee would meet after the meeting of the BCBC Committee to consider the outcome.

It was noted that, in addition to Cllr Gary Haines, Cllrs Ann John, Mal John, Dave Fowler and Heidi Bennett would attend the site meeting to observe.

6. Report from PACT Meeting

PACT had not met since the last meeting of NHCC. It was reported that PCSO Chris Bowen's wife had died. The Clerk would send a card on behalf of all the Council.

7. County Borough Councillors

Cllr Altaf Hussain (Penyfai)

Cllr Altaf Hussain was not present.

Cllr James Radcliffe (Aberkenfig)

Cllr Radcliffe thanked the NHCC for sending him some details on un-adopted roads. He reported a debate in Senedd – the Welsh Government was to set up a task group to look at this matter.

8. Report on Joint Meeting with other Community Councils held on 27 February in Tondu Methodist Church

The Council welcomed the joint meeting held on 27 February jointly with the other community Councils. It was a helpful meeting showing unity - a good principle. The Clerk sent an agreed note from the Councils from all participants to BCBC, AMs MPs, etc. and to Mal Reeves of the Welsh Assembly Government.

9. Community Development Plans- report from Committee

Cllr Lee Robson reported that he had made arrangements to have the appropriate forms printed – the Charity shop would take the forms in for collection once a week Cllr Altaf Hussain was looking at making arrangements for deliveries to all houses.

The Clerk would send Cllr Lee a copy of the NHCC Logo – the Committee would meet again shortly to review progress.

10. 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 to update the Council on the installation and emptying of bins

Work continued to identify locations for bins for dog refuse in the Community Area, The Clerk had asked BCBC and the Commons Regulators to approve installation in principle. Firstly they would need to be advised of the precise intended locations.

It was agreed that the Maintenance Committee bring an intended location list to the next meeting.

11. Speed Signs Penyfai - Update

It was felt it would be useful to have a copy of the data used by GO Safe which did not meet the criteria for the BCBC for installation of speed signs. In looking at the options to make progress, a site meeting would be arranged with Members of the Community Council and Mr Keith Power of Highways to consider how the BCBC could provide the signs to be paid for by the Community Council.

12. Allotments Meeting report

As previously advised, the Allotments Association was not happy that the fence had still not been repaired, despite the NHCC engaging a contractor some months ago. At the meeting to collect the rents on 7 march Cllr Gary Haines had given an undertaking that the work would be done within three months.

Another contractor would be engaged to carry out the work.

The Clerk would arrange for a quotation from Mr Thomas of GT Developments to carry out the repairs to the fencing and gate as soon as possible. The Secretary of the AAA would then proceed to collect all the rents and to send a cheque to the Clerk.

The Allotments Association had also requested provision of a third skip which was agreed.

13. Report on new Website

A draft version of the Community Council website (which would require further attention) was online, and while it was noted that it might be more visual, the contents complied with the requirements of the Welsh Assembly Government. Members who had digital photos they had copyright to would send them to the Clerk, to be passed to the website host.

14. Council Submission to Independent Review Panel for Community and Town Councils

All Councillors had been advised that an Independent Review Panel had been set up to consider the future role of Community and Town Councils to 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 asked four questions:

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 had sent the Clerk their thoughts in answer to the four questions, which had been assembled and circulated to all members. The Council endorsed the text for submission to the review panel.

15. Nomination of Governor St Roberts School

Cllr Altaf Hussein had advised that his term of office was drawing to a close, and the Council needed to nominate another member to serve on the Governing Body. Due to pressure of time, this item was deferred to the April meeting.

16. Correspondence

1. Review Panel

Invitation to a consultation event- on instruction of chair and deputy Chair. Two spaces booked. Cllr Lee Robson to attend on Thursday 15 March 9.30 Old St Mellons Cardiff.

2. Cllr James Radcliffe

Concerning a question from Cllr Heidi Bennett on Ward boundaries, Cllr James Radcliffe will keep NHCC updated.

3. Mr K Power BCBC Highways

Further to the Clerk's enquiries he has stated that the speed survey carried out and reported to PACT did not meet the criteria for Go Safe to endorse a speed sign. Further discussion to follow.

4. One Voice Wales

OVW had commissioned solicitors to prepare a toolkit for the use of Councils regarding the guidance for compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation.

5. BCBC Town and Community Council Forum

Their meeting to review is to be held on 19 March. The Council's representative is Cllr Heidi Bennett.

6. David Howell Cowbridge

Information on how he the Royal British legion Poppy Appeal organiser, did the research for the poppies in Cowbridge in 2017

7. Justine Stroud (Ceramic Artist)

Justine has contacted the three schools to arrange a date to meet with each headteacher to discuss the mosaic Centenary Project. To report when she has seen all the headteachers.

8. Neil Hinds

Summary of thoughts and likely costs for the Maintenance Committee for maintenance of the Community Woodland.

9. Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen

Grant request.

10. Cllr Heidi Bennett

Copy of petition details to P/17/1073/FUL land off All Saints Way.( Protect Penyfai)

11. Councils in area

Responses to Clerk's draft note to accompany Tondu Residents Presentation to planning Committee.

17. Planning

(a) Planning Applications

P/18/121/FUL 6 Y Llest Penyfai

P/18/111/RLX Dogs Trust Court Colman

The planning Committee reported there were no issues it wished to raise on these applications.

18. Reports

Cllr Heidi Bennett reported observing a meeting of the BCBC during discussion on the Local Development Plan. The Welsh Government advised Local Authorities to have an LDP, as if there was no LDO this may allow unplanned development.

Cllr Dave Fowler reported that the two cars apparently abandoned in Meadow Street were still present. Cllr Meryl Wilkins reported that she intended to write to BCBC on her own behalf concerning P/18/1073/FUL.

Cllr Meryl Wilkins also reported that it was good to see the daffodils emerging despite the recent snow and some vandalism.

The Clerk would request and circulate a copy of Cllr Altaf Hussain's letter objecting to P/17/1073/FUL

19. Finances

(a) Accounts for payment

The following accounts would be paid:

	£
Mr Neil Hinds (Woodland Report)	360.00 (201581)
Gary Haines (reimbursement)	62.45 (201582)
Clerk (3 months salary)	1,326.00 (201583)
Clerk (reimbursements)	354.25 (201584)
HMRC(tax)	331.40 (201585)

(b) Budget Update for Quarter

The budget update which set out progress against budget for the quarters January to March 2018 was received.

20. Any Other Business

1. The Clerk would find out how the Council could consider a change of name;
2. It was noted that Councillor Derrick Baker had recently come out of hospital and it was agreed to send him a card and flowers for Carol Baker;
3. To deal with the rubbish on the land behind the Swan the Maintenance committee would identify a suitable date to hire a skip;
4. Cllr Meryl Wilkins would contact Cllr Altaf Hussain about potholes, caused by the recent snow and ice.
5. Cllr Meryl Wilkins also stated that the gate of Sarn Cemetery had been locked on Mothering Sunday, which was regretted.

The meeting ended at c.9.20

The next meeting of the Council would take place in Smyrna Chapel Vestry, Penyfai on Tuesday 17 April 2018.