

Minutes of a Meeting of the Newcastle Higher Community Council held in Wesley Church, Tondy, on Tuesday 17th April 2018 at 7.00 p.m.

Cllr Ann John: Presided

Present (7) Cllrs Heidi Bennett, Gary Haines, Altaf Hussain, Dave Fowler, Ann John, Lee Robson & Meryl Wilkins
Clerk: John Richfield
Observers : Mr Alex Marshall (Maintenance Committee member)
Lynne Masters, & representatives of the Tondy Hub;
Mr Gareth Jenkins and Mrs Jenkins, Penyfai; Dr Alistair Nelson, Bridgend

1. Request for in principle support – Walters Road Bridgend access

Following an approach, Cllr Gary Haines had invited Dr Alistair Nelson to attend the meeting, and the Clerk had circulated papers to explain his request for in principle support concerning the Planning System in Wales. Dr Nelson of Walters Road, Bridgend, attended the meeting to request the help of the Council in connection with the issues he and others had concerning access arrangements in Walters Road Bridgend. Dr Nelson informed the Community Council that he had applied to the Administrative Court to have a Judicial Review of the decision by the Welsh Government Planning Directorate, dated 5 March 2018, concerning Coed Parc – Revocation Request – Welsh Ministers Decision reference A/1317688. He requested the Council to send a letter of support to the court. The Council agreed to send a letter offering in principle support as this was a point of principle, and would be to the detriment of the public and to general confidence in the Planning System in Wales if Dr Nelson's case was not heard. Dr Nelson had also applied to the court for a Cost Capping Order for this Review to be heard. In view of the wide public importance of the case in terms of good governance and the fact that without a Cost Capping Order Dr Nelson would be exposed to great risk of very substantial adverse costs, making it unwise for him to proceed without it, the Community Council also supported him in the principle of this matter and would request the Court to consider looking favourably on his request for the Cost Capping Order. Dr Nelson had sought and received support in principle from a number of other Community Councils and Assembly Members.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Derrick Baker, Joyce Haines, Mal John and Byron Jones
The Clerk had contacted Cllr Sarah Parry, who had resigned from the Council owing to pressure of work. (see item below)

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th March 2018

The draft minutes of 13th March 2018 were approved, with the confirmation of Cllr Meryl Wilkins continued declaration of interest in the Merthyr Mawr Estates planning application.

4. Matters Arising

Cllr Meryl Wilkins again made a declaration of interest in the Merthyr Mawr Estate Application.
Cllr Lee Robson gave apologies as he was not able to attend the meeting with the Review Panel owing to illness.
Cllr Heidi Bennett reported observing a meeting in BCBC about the forthcoming LDP Process. She explained to the Council the reason why an LDP was necessary and desirable.

5. Report on PACT Meeting

Cllrs Heidi Bennett and Gary Haines were present at the last PACT Meeting. A key subject under discussion was the obstruction of the Highway outside the Chinese Restaurant in Aberkenfig. The PCSO had advised on enforcement of parking and obstructions.

The Common and the issue of the Posts obstructing the common continued to be under discussion. The Clerk would write to Julian Golunski of Dunraven Estates to ask what action Dunraven Estates was taking about this.

Cllr Meryl Wilkins also commented on this issue.

The Clerk would ask the Chief Constable of South Wales Police to clarify the powers of PCSOs in regard to parking regulations – to find out if PCSOs could issue parking tickets.

Two further issues were discussed at PACT – Fly tipping and vehicles going through the no access part of the Penyfai Road.

6. County Borough Councillors

Cllr Altaf Hussain (Penyfai)

Cllr Altaf Hussain reported on the following matters:

Site Meeting with Jason Jenkins of BCBC

Cllr Hussain and Mr Jenkins looked at a number of areas in Penyfai;

- (i) there was a need to provide a grit bin near to Penyfai Shop – which was agreed;
- (ii) The potholes on Penyfai Road had been repaired as a one off piece of work;
- (iii) A new street sign for Plas Ty Mawr would be installed;
- (iv) Locations where trees would benefit from being trimmed were identified;
- (v) The potholes on Tondy Road would be attended to when funds permitted;
- (vi) It was suggested that the requirement for dog refuse bins be brought to the attention of Sian Hooper BCBC; and the two bins on the playing field may be moved to the exits;
- (vii) Cllr Hussain reported a complaint about a dead horse on the footpath by the railway bridge, that would need to be removed forthwith as a matter of public health;
- (viii) Finally Cllr Hussain discussed a suggestion given to him by a resident that the triangle of land outside Penyfai Church leading to Cefn Glas road be considered for replacement with a roundabout. This possibility was reported; however in discussion with fellow members of the Community Council it was suggested to Cllr Hussain that this was not necessary and was unlikely to be welcomed by the majority of Penyfai residents.

Cllr Mal John reported that there was a quantity of rubbish dumped near to Glan Rhyd Farm, and that the BCBC had sent their enforcement officer. The land was private land, so it was for the owner to resolve this.

A complaint had been made about parking at the Common and the bollards – the complainant was recommended to take this up with the stewards of the Common.

Cllr Altaf Hussain had met with Mike Mordecai to hear his concerns about the proposed development of houses, in particular the affordable houses close to his property, and that the passage to the field was to be 6M wide, and the recent landslides.

Cllr James Radcliffe (Aberkenfig)

Cllr James Radcliffe had given his apologies for the meeting and had sent in the following report to the Clerk, who presented it to the Council:

Closure of Aberkenfig Post Office

Cllr Radcliffe had received communication from the External Relations Manger at the Post Office about the temporary closure of the Aberkenfig Post Office. The background was that the operator of the Post Office had sold the shop from where the Post Office operated and the new owner did not want to include a Post Office in the store. The Post Office was approaching any other appropriate retailers in the area to see if there was any interest in incorporating a Post Office into either an existing or a new business. Any person who was aware of any potential interest would be very welcome to pass on such information to the Post Office for them to take forward. The Post Office was also looking into any way of providing a temporary service for the village using one of their outreach type services. Cllr Radcliffe was working with the Post Office to try to identify alternatives and he had received expressions of interest from a few local businesses in taking it on, and he was exploring this with all parties.

Cllr Gary Haines observed that we had been in this position before and the only hope of re-establishing a post office service was to find another business to take it on.

The Clerk would write to Cllr Radcliffe endorsing his plan to contact all local business to enquire if they were interested in taking on the Post Office. The Clerk would also write to the Bridgend Chamber of Commerce advising their members of the potential business opportunity in Aberkenfig for a new business that might wish to incorporate a Post Office.

7. Response to Site meeting and Planning Committee Meeting on Application P/16/366/OUT

Cllr Gary Haines reported on the disappointing outcome of the site meeting and subsequent meeting of the BCBC Planning Committee, where despite an overwhelming case, the Committee did not heed the views of local people. He had drafted a letter complaining about the way in which the application had been dealt with, and was consulting members of the Council about this.

Cllr Meryl Wilkins declared her interest in this application.

8. Community Development Plans- report from Committee

Cllr Lee Robson reported that he had sought quotations for having the questionnaires printed and delivered to local properties. It was agreed in principle to give the business to a local company, the Council to authorise the figures when obtained. It was noted that most responses would be emailed to the Clerk or Cllr Lee Robson.

9. Report from the Community Council Maintenance Committee

Maintenance at Pandy Allotments

The Council welcomed an oral report from the members of the Maintenance Committee. The work at the allotments consisting of a replacement fence and gate was completed and the invoice received for payment. The Committee would request Matt Scott Landscapes to provide a quotation for further work on renewing the roadway area at the allotments.

Bins – Installation and Emptying

Mr Alex Marshall had produced two maps showing the intended positions of the bins. The Council had a discussion on the locations, and Cllr Meryl Wilkins expressed concern at the intended location of one

near the Common in Penyfai. When the Committee had resolved this with Cllr Meryl Wilkins, Mr Marshall would email the maps to the Clerk, for passing on to BCBC formally seeking permission to install, and to BTC, as contactor, for a price quotation to install and subsequently empty.

10. Speed Signs Penyfai – Update following site meeting

It was reported that the meeting held with Mr Keith Power of Highways to consider how the BCBC could provide the speed signs to be paid for by the Community Council as very positive. Mr Power advised how other Communities had carried out similar projects. Additional to the signs themselves there was the cost of 'civils', however a sign could be placed on a BCBC lamp post. Jason Jenkins of BCBC would supply a map of the BCBC controlled posts (this information would also be helpful for installing Christmas lighting.) The signs would not be sited within the 20 mph zone, but on the approaches, perhaps on Heol Eglwys on the daffodil covered island and at the top of the village before the brow of the hill. Keith Power would return to the Council and advise in due course.

Cllr Altaf Hussain had agreed to submission of an application for funding from the Community Action Fund. Cllr Heidi Bennett had started to draft an application to the Fund, and the Clerk would submit the application when the necessary quotes were received.

Other items for possible funding from the Community Action Fund were the cost of the bins and or another notice board. The application for Penyfai would be brought to the attention of Cllr James Radcliffe, in case he was minded to apply for this work in Aberkenfig.

11. Joint Community Events with Ynysawdre Community Council

Ynysawdre CC was planning two community events – a Summer Fete at Pandy Park and to celebrate the centenary of the end of World War I in the autumn. The Ynysawdre Community Council wished to work together with NHCC, which was welcomed. The Clerk would respond accordingly.

12. Report on further work on new Website

A draft version of the Community Council website was online, the contents of which complied with the good practice requirements of the Welsh Assembly Government. Members who had digital photos they had copyright to were invited to send them to the Clerk, to be passed to the website host. Cllr Gary Haines confirmed the Council's policy of the website being entirely non political, and to be an informative vehicle for the community.

13. 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. This item had been deferred to the April meeting. It was agreed that Cllr Lee Robson was nominated - the clerk would advise BCBC Education Department.

14. Casual Vacancy in Penyfai Ward

The Clerk reported the procedure that had to be followed following the resignation of a member of the Council. He would place the requisite notice inviting members of the public to request an election if they wished to write to the returning officer of BCBC in a place in the Community when confirmed with the BCBC.

15. Cllr Gary Haines – future Communications

Cllr Gary Haines reported that, if he was elected as Chair for 2018-2019, he intended to introduce significantly more community engagement work for councillors. Community engagement meetings (or surgeries) would be established on a regular basis, and the Council's modus operandi would be enhanced to ensure a more outward facing body, in order to provide more opportunities for people to speak with their Community Councillors.

As part of this initiative, he intended that publicity be arranged to better enable engagement with far more members of the public.

The Council welcomed this initiative.

16. Community History Project (poppies)

This item would be deferred to a future meeting of the Council.

17. Correspondence

1. Alex Marshall / Neil Hinds various emails

Concerning works undertaken by Groundwork in Woodlands and Mr Hinds report on management of water at the site. – Mr Hinds was to produce a full report, and a plan, estimated costs and recommendations. He was concerned about the oak tree on Mrs Delyth Thomas's farm. When the description of the proposed works was available, the Clerk would contact Mrs Thomas.

2. Cllr Mal John

Note to members about the site meeting at Tondur

3. Claudette Evans

Passing on a message from Mr Alistair Nelson, of Walters Road, Bridgend, who gave details of a planning application to develop the old Coed Parc Library site off Park Street, referring to the obtaining of access, and the developers making incorrect arguments about access.

4. One Voice Wales

OVW advised of a consultation from The Welsh government on Statutory guidance for Local Authorities – Local Toilets Strategies – relating to the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 Section 8 Local Toilets Strategies. Noted.

5. GT Developments – Quotation for works at Allotments

Series of emails concerning the quotation to repair the fences and gate at the Allotments.

6. BCBC

Details of Agenda Town & Community Council Forum Monday 19 March 2018. NHCC was represented.

7. Tom Jenkins – Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales

Information regarding ward boundaries and representation for Aberkenfig and Penyfai published in their website at their web page linked to the electoral review of Bridgend. Noted.

8. Cllr Heidi Bennett

Concerning gritting of Treharne Dive and Penyfai Village Shop, the owner of the shop has been in touch with Cllr Altaf Hussain asking for the road to be added into the BCBC Gritting schedule to avoid hazard for residents and shop deliveries. Seeking Community Council backing to support Altaf Hussain in this suggestion. (See his report)

9. Ynysawdre Community Council

Ynysawdre CC was planning two community events – a Summer Fete at Pandy Park and to celebrate the centenary of the end of World War I in the autumn. Invitation to work together with NHCC. See item.

10. One Voice Wales

Copy of response to the Community and Town Council Review, with note on the importance of External Audit.

11. Dr Dai Lloyd AM

Information on taskforce to develop improvements to the house buying and road adoption process. He will keep the Council up dated, and invite, in due course, participation.

12. Cllrs Ann John Heidi Bennett

Email about making website more visual – website on the agenda.

13. One Voice Wales

Details of a one voice wales event on 16 May 2018 in the Metropole Hotel Llandrindod to focus on financial governance, devolution of services and cyber security etc. Noted.

14. Anne Sparkes

Copy of email sent to Cllr James Radcliffe, mainly on the subject of littering and rubbish. Noted.

15. One Voice Wales

Bulletin – forwarded to Councillors.

16. BCBC

Invitation to continue to support Summer Holiday Activity Schemes, as in the past – a similar model to that of the summer 2017. Council agreed to indicate support for this.

17. Elan City

Details of radar speed signs – marketing. Noted.

18. One Voce Wales

General letter seeking motions for their AGM to take place on 29 September, needed by 31 May. All such motions must reflect a national issue of problem or Wales. Agreed to suggest the legal framework of planning nationally.

19. BAVO

Copy of Involve literature. To be by email in future.

20. BCBC

Invoice for Christmas Lighting 2017-2018 in the sum of £3,217.03. To pay.

21. One Voice Wales

Invoice for 1 place for module 8 training in Community engagement 14 March as requested Cllr Gary Haines £40.00. To pay

22. GT Developments

Invoice for Fences and repairs at Aberkenfig Allotments £2,172.00. To pay

23. BCBC

Invoice for Bus Shelter cleaning Park Road £59.63. To pay.

24. HMRC

Details of reimbursement of VAT in the sum of £2,274.79. Noted

25. Aberkenfig Allotments Association

Rent for the year 2018 - £520.00. Noted.

26. Cllr Sarah Parry

Letter of resignation from the Council. Procedure to be followed for vacancy.

27. Post Office

Copy of letter to Cllr Radcliffe about the proposed temporary closure of Aberkenfig Post Office.

28. Cllr Heidi Bennett

Copy of letter she received from BCBC regarding amended details of P/17/1073/FUL.

18. Planning

(a) Planning Applications – Report from Planning Committee

P/18/236/FUL Hemingford, Heol Yr Eglyws Penyfai

P/18/186/FUL West Barn, Penyfai

P/18/165/FUL 58 Graham Avenue, Penyfai

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

(b) Amended Planning Application (P/17/1073/FUL Amended Application)

The Council welcomed Gareth Jenkins to the meeting – he had been chosen to speak at the site meeting and Planning Committee meeting on behalf of Penyfai residents. Cllr Altaf Hussain and Cllr Heidi Bennett also intended to speak.

A petition signed by the majority of Penyfai residents had been submitted to BCBC Planning. Cllr Heidi Bennett reported that she would not be able to attend the site meeting, and it was agreed that Cllr Gary Haines attend and speak.

It was noted that Planning Aid England had a document that set out what constituted material grounds for opposition to a planning proposal.

Cllr Altaf Hussain had carried out a survey, by writing to all households in Penyfai. The result of this evaluation was that he backed the residents in being firmly against the proposals.

The Community Council noted that there was some 10 days notice of the amended plans, not supplied to the Clerk, and the Clerk would now write again to the Planning Department to mention that this had not been meaningful consultation, and reiterating the material grounds against the proposal that had previously been circulated. He would copy this to those Councillors intending to attend the site meeting. Cllrs Heidi Bennett, Altaf Hussain and Gary Haines would liaise with Gareth Jenkins prior to the site meeting which was scheduled for 2 April 2018 in order to maximise their opportunity to present the objections of this Council and the people of Penyfai.

19. Other Reports

Cllr Dave Fowler reported on the former play area at the Fountain where 4 Caravans were present without the benefit of planning consent. He indicated that the land had been sold to the owners of the caravans.

The presence of the caravans would be reported to the BCBC. Cllr Lee Robson had received a letter from the BCBC on this matter.

Cllr James Radcliffe would be requested to refer the unauthorised land use for action.

Cllr Gary Haines reported that Lynne Masters intended to hold a public meeting at the Tondu Cricket Club to invite the establishment of a Residents Association. The Community Council welcomed this initiative and agreed to support it. There being no cost involved with the Cricket Club, the Council would pay for the production of the posters and flyers that were needed. When the Clerk received the electronic versions of the posters and flyers he would arrange for printing and delivery to Claudette Evans. It was also open to the new Residents Association to apply for a small grant from the Community Council to better enable it to operate.

Cllr Heidi Bennett advised that BAVO provided a service to help with Constitutions and regulatory documents for small voluntary associations.

Cllr Meryl Wilkins reported that she had taken her concerns about the theft of the Rocks on the common for sale as dressed stone to the BCBC.

Cllr Heidi Bennett had attended the BCBC Town & Community Forum representing NHCC. She reported that they were to review the Charter, and had consulted on the number and nature of meetings per year, and asked for Community Councils to nominate an alternate for when the regular representative could not attend. The Council nominated Cllr Lee Robson as the alternate. Cllr Bennett would respond to the date consultation.

Cllr Gary Haines reported that the BCBC was asking for comments on the Review of electoral Arrangements by 25 April. It was agreed that Cllr Gary Haines respond for the Aberkenfig Ward, and Cllr Heidi Bennett for the Penyfai Ward.

20. Finances

(a) Accounts for payment

The following accounts would be paid:

£

BCBC (Christmas Lights)	3,217.03 (201586)
G.T. Developments Ltd (Allotments Fencing/Gate)	2,172.00 (201587)
BCBC (bus shelter cleaning)	59.63 (201588)
One Voice Wales (training GH)	40.00 (201589)

(b) Grant Applications

Deferred consideration to the next meeting.

21. Any Other Business

1. It was suggested to consider how to consult the schools for a potential new 'logo' for the Community Council.
2. The Clerk would keep a list of planning applications to easily check whether consultation had taken place. Cllr Gary Haines indicate that he wanted to use consultants to help the Community Council better comment on some planning applications.
3. GDPR was approaching soon the Clerk would circulate the tool kit from One Voice Wales for how this affects Councils and action needed.
4. No reply had yet been received from Floodlighting for their Christmas Lights
5. Cllr Heidi Bennett was concerned about recent BBC policy on splitting up classes from Penyfai school, to the concern of many residents.

The meeting ended at c.9.30

The next meeting of the Council (the Annual General meeting), to be followed immediately by an ordinary general meeting would take place on Tuesday 8 May 2018. The Clerk would check on whether it was possible to use St John's Aberkenfig, or return to Tondu.

The meeting was followed by the Chair and Councillors making a presentation to the Clerk who had served the Council for 30 years, followed by refreshments. The Clerk thanked the Councillors for their kind wishes and generous gift.