

Minutes of a Meeting of the Newcastle Higher Community Council held in St John's Church, Aberkenfig, on Tuesday 8th May 2018 at 7.00 p.m.

Cllr Gary Haines: Presided

Present (6) Cllrs Heidi Bennett, Gary Haines, Dave Fowler, Ann John, Lee Robson & Meryl Wilkins
Clerk: John Richfield
Observers : Mr Alex Marshall (Maintenance Committee member)
Lynne Masters, Claudette Evans, (representatives of the Tondu Hub);

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Derrick Baker, Joyce Haines, Altaf Hussain, Mal John and Byron Jones.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th April 2018

The draft minutes of 17th April 2018 were approved.

3. Matters Arising

Cllr Meryl Wilkins declared her ongoing interests in the planning applications in Tondu and (P/17/1073/FUL), Penyfai, off All Saints Way.

Page 7, regarding the Rocks at Common Meryl Wilkins had telephoned Mrs Wooley in Planning She also asked questions about the LDP. Cllr Lee Robson would arrange printers to complete leaflets for the Community Survey – it was agreed it would cost in the region of £96.00. Cllr Lee Robson would send the Clerk the invoice to bring to the next meeting for payment.

The Clerk explained that it had come to his notice that, in the interests of transparency, Councillors were asked to declare if they represented any political party. This ought therefore to be included in the information on the website. This was purely to be transparent, and it was endorsed that the Community Council would continue to act as one body regardless of whether some or all of its members were linked with any political parties or none. The Clerk would, as part of the register of members interests he intended to send out, include a section on political parties.

4. Report on PACT Meeting

There had been no meeting of PACT since the last Council meeting.

5. County Borough Councillors

Cllr Altaf Hussain (Penyfai)

Cllr Altaf Hussain was not present at the meeting, and had not supplied a written report on this occasion.

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:

Post Office

A local business was interested in providing a Post Office in Aberkenfig. The business was now in negotiations with the Post Office Regional Office. A change of use in planning might be necessary to make provision, and Cllr James Radcliffe would support any such application. The clerk would write in support of Cllr James Radcliffe.

Unauthorised Travellers Site

The planning application for the site near the Fountain had been refused, and was currently being appealed. Some caravans were on site regardless. The BCBC had commenced enforcement proceedings subject to the outcome of the appeal.

Tondu and Aberkenfig Resident Association

Cllr Radcliffe would attend the launch on Monday 14 May.

6. Report on Casual Vacancy for Councillor for 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 on the Notice Board inviting members of the public to request an election if they wished to write to the returning officer of BCBC.

Following the initiation of the procedure, the Clerk had posted the requisite notice on the Council's notice Board. The BCBC Electoral Department would inform the Clerk by 30 May if there was a request for an election.

The outcome of this process would be reported to the Council at its next meeting.

7. Correspondence

1. BDO Auditors

Notification of Intended Audit. Clerk to action.

2. BCBC

Acknowledgment of Casual Vacancy in the Penyfai Ward of the NHCC.

3. The Samaritans

Invitation to AGM on Friday 29 June at the Vale Cricket Club, Corntown. Noted.

4. Independent Review Panel

Request for Councils to hold event to collect community Views on 24 May 2018. NB Cllr Heidi Bennett to run event in Penyfai – confirmed, ideally one in Aberkenfig also. Clerk advised panel this would happen.

5. Information Commissioner

Data Protection fees to be paid to the Information Commissioners Office. Fee to be £40 for small Councils. (NB We do not come into the exempt categories) Clerk to register the Council and pay the fee.

6. BCBC Planning

Notification of LDP – circulated to all members of the community Council noted the programme for this important consultation.

7. BCBC Rights of Way

Approval of Clerk's request for reimbursement for works for 2017-2018 in the sum of £659.12.

8. Craig Flower BCBC

Notice of site meeting Penyfai (NB received after last meeting)

9. Information Commissioners Office

Information on guide to the GDPR and FAQs.

10. BCBC

Information on alleged unauthorised work to the former playground, Fountain. Noted.

11. Bridgend Town Council

Information on Christmas lights and bins. BTC could offer a dog waste bin disposal service at cost of £40 per week per 5 bins. – waste to be deposited at Bryncthein BCBC Depot. Budget implications noted – wait for permission to install from BCBC.

12. Various emails on subject of site meeting Penyfai

Various emails on this subject.

13. One Voice Wales

Update on GDPR - a government amendment to the Bill to exempt all Community and Town Council in Wales from obligation to appoint a Data Protection Officer under GDPR. Clerk to write to regular suppliers (a short list). Noted that the Council does not engage in any marketing, or maintain any lists for whatever purpose save for lists of Councillors, for the legitimate purpose of enabling them to carry out functions as members of the Council.

Also information on what OVW actually does. Clerk had circulated their short guide.

14. BCBC

Notice of BACS for Precept in sum of £41,000, also Footpath Agreement in sum of £659.12.

15. Horizon Media

Invoice for Tondu Residents association posters and flyers in total £117.00

8. Planning

(a) Planning Applications – Report from Planning Committee

P/18/239/OUT Rear of 2 Hillcrest Penyfai

P/18/307/FUL The Pheasant Penyfai

P/18/308/LIS The Pheasant Penyfai

P/18/319/FUL 26 Graham Avenue, Penyfai

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

Noted that planning Committee to consider amended application at Penyfai Quarry on 7 June. Clerk would provide an updated letter of objection one Community Councillor and the County Borough Cllr able to speak at the Committee.

Cllr Lee Robson reported on behalf of the Planning Committee that they were considering using a planning consultant where appropriate to make observations more effective. It was noted that this would need to be incorporated into the budget.

9. Reports

Report from Tondu Hub (Proposed Community Association)

Lyn Masters and Claudette Evans were present and reported at the invitation of the Chair.

The Posters and flyers for the proposed new Community Association for Tondu and Aberkenfig had all been delivered pending the public meeting on Monday 14 May – the representatives thanked NHCC for paying for them.

The Clerk had placed a poster on the Notice Board advertising the meeting.

The BAVO team would attend to help with the meeting on Monday.

It was felt that open communication between people in the community was welcomed – noted that there would be a second meeting if there was demand – one was scheduled for Tuesday 28 June again in the Cricket Club.

The aim of the association was to help people do the best they could to influence local events, such as planning matters. Cllr Gary Haines endorsed this as Chair of the NHCC – he intended that the Community Council continue to be open to communities and be there to hear people by using open days. The Clerk reported that he had told the Review Commission, in response to an invitation, that members from this Council would run an open evening to hear the public regarding the Review of Town and Community Councils, the time and venue to be arranged.

Members of the Community Council would intend to be present at the launch of the Community Association and also at the public Open Evening to invite people to contribute to the review of Community and Town Councils.

Some general discussion took place on the Pentrefelin planning application - people felt it was over developed and there was no corresponding infrastructure. Cllr Meryl Wilkins wished to see a revisit of what happened at the review of the previous LDP and for meaningful consultation for the next LDP.

Claudette Evans referred to an email from Dr Alistair Nelson (who visited the Council at the last meeting) about his ongoing efforts about access to site in Bridgend and in this context she mentioned the land at Tondu that had been offered for medical purposes
In the case of Pentrefelin the land had been offered for a medical centre but it was not taken up. Cllr Lee Robson would look into this to check on what happened to the request from the Health Authority.

To resolve what had happened the Clerk would write to the Abertawe Bro Morgannwg Health Board asking what happened to the offer of land for medical facilities at the Tondu site.

Hillcrest, Penyfai

Cllr Meryl Wilkins reported about Hillcrest Penyfai. The new footpath had been diverted. Cllr Wilkins had contacted BCBC Property Officers and sent in written questions, which had not as yet been resolved. It was noted that the land had not yet been sold, and that the situation might change when that happened.

Speed Boards in Penyfai

Cllr Heidi Bennett reported that she was waiting for the return of quotations she had sought for the provision of speed boards. When all had been received the Clerk would send off the application for funds to offset the costs of this project.

It was noted that it would be necessary to use a BCBC lamppost to run the electricity for the devices and it would be useful to review the lamp post map for posts we could potentially use. The Clerk would ask Highways if there was an updated map.

Parking

Cllr David Fowler reported the presence of a 4x4 car which was frequently parked on the footpath between Meadow Street and Pendre – just before the railway crossing. The Clerk would report this to the BCBC Footpaths Officer.

Maintenance Committee Report

Alex Marshall on behalf of the Maintenance Committee reported on the following:

Pandy Allotments

A quotation had been received from Matt Scott for the refinishing of the pathway on the allotments in the sum of £1,250.

This was endorsed to be actioned.

Aberkenfig Woodlands

A Meeting with Neil Hinds author of the Woodlands Report was to take place soon and he would send the complete report to the Council. The Maintenance committee would meet on 19 May to consider action.

Allotments

Cllr Gary Haines reported on an Allotments issue – some members of the Aberkenfig Allotments Association had fenced in their allotments, contrary to their rules. The Clerk had informed Bob Edwards that the Community Council would review this matter, and the Council agreed to back the Allotments Association. The Maintenance Committee would go on to inspect the Allotments after their meeting at the Community woodlands on 19 May.

Cllr Meryl Williams asked if Justine Stroud the Ceramic Artist had completed her work with the Head Teachers of the schools. The Clerk reported that she had completed the initial work and that this subject would return to the Agenda in June, particularly as the lead Councillor on the project Cllr Derrick Baker was largely recuperated from illness.

Open Evening for Review of Community and Town Councils

There would be an opportunity for members of the Council to engage with members of the public in an open evening to hear people's views on the Review of Community and Town Councils. The clerk had arranged with the Welsh Government people to send materials and a venue would be booked in liaison with Cllr Heidi Bennett. Cllr Heidi Bennett was thanked for her taking the lead on this meeting.

10. Finances

(a) Accounts for payment

The following accounts would be paid:

	£	
B I B Insurance (Council Insurance policy)	379.62	(201590)
One Voice Wales (annual membership)	554.00	(201591)
One Voice Wales (training HB)	40.00	(201592)
Horizon Digital (posters)	140.40	(201593)
Information Commissioner's office (registration GDPR)	40.00	(201594)

(b) Statement of balance and approved Budget for 2018

The Council received a statement of the end of year balance for the Council and a restatement of the budget for 2018-2018 at the meeting next to the AGM. The budget and balance were noted.

Balance as at year end £55,246

Budget:

Budget* for 2018-2019

* Guide figures, not cash limits

	£
General Administration	10,000
S 137 (up to)	10,000
Salaries	6,500
Christmas Lights	7,000
Insurance	500
Audit	500
Allotments	1,000
Playschemes	5,000
Footpaths	2,000
Woodlands	5,000
Hanging Baskets provision	6,500
Total	<u>54,000</u>

(c) Grant Applications

Consideration of grant requests (deferred from March)

The Council considered requests which had been deferred from March. It was decided not to assist the Penyfai Scout Hall, as the application was retrospective, the work had been carried out, and they were eligible to seek help from a number of other sources. Also the request from Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen was too vague, so would not receive a grant.

The other payments were agreed, as the benefit to the community was commensurate with the cost:

	£	
People First Bridgend	100	(201595)
Bridgend Carers Centre	100	(201596)
St John's Aberkenfig Churchyard	500	(201597)
All Saints' Penyfai Churchyard	500	(201598)
Smyrna Chapel, Penyfai Churchyard	500	(201599)
Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru	100	(201600)
Wales Air Ambulance	200	(201601)
Teenage Cancer Trust	200	(201602)
Penyfai Fun Day	2000	(201603)
Remembrance Events at Penyfai Church	350	(201604)

When the Tondu Residents Association was established, it would be welcome to apply for assistance.

11. Any Other Business

1. Cllr Heidi Bennett indicated she would ask the maintenance Committee to meet to consider a Notice Board in Penyfai.
2. Cllr Heidi Bennett had attended a course with One Voice Wales – one thing mentioned was to aim to use accessible meeting venues.
3. Cllr Lee Robson informed the Council that he intended to stand for election to Bridged Town Council in the Newcastle Ward. If successful, this would not affect his commitment to this Community Council.
4. Cllr Gary Haines invited Claudette Evans and Lyn Masters of the Residents Association to report that there were significant problems at Tondu related to the work of Kier and litter being dropped everywhere. The Clerk would write to Kier and BCBC (copies to the County Borough Councillors) about the regularly witnessed sight of lorries coming through with their flaps open, which was causing a lot of litter to be dropped. There was also an open topped bin in Pentrefelin Play Area, which suffered from the wind blowing items out of it, I was suggested that BCBC obtain a closed top type bin and empty it regularly.
5. It was intended that work start in the Woodlands very soon.

Meeting ended 20.50

Net meeting to be held in Smyrna Vestry Penyfai on Tuesday 12 June 2018.