

Minutes of a Meeting of the Newcastle Higher Community Council held in Tondu Methodist Church, on Tuesday 9th January 2018 at 7.00 p.m.

Cllr Ann John: Presided

Present (7) Cllrs Heidi Bennett, Dave Fowler, Gary Haines, Ann John, Mal John, Byron Jones and Meryl Wilkins

Observers: Lynette Merchant, Lynn Masters, Claudette Evans

In attendance: Clerk: John Richfield, Cllr James Radcliffe

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Derrick Baker, Joyce Haines, Altaf Hussain, Lee Robson and Sarah Parry.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th December 2017

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th December 2017 were approved as a true record, subject to the meeting held at St Johns Aberkenfig, and to record a declaration of interest made by Cllr Meryl Wilkins at item 13 - the update on residents' concerns about the proposals for houses in Tondu.

3. Matters Arising

Item 3 - Cllr Ann John had contacted Kevin Pascoe, Chair of Governors in Penyfai School and he had undertaken to put the potential hazard of the pole in the playground on the agenda for action by the school Health and Safety Committee.

The Clerk reported that Darren Brearley of Floodlighting and Electrical Services Ltd was to attend the Council meeting in March to discuss options for Christmas Lighting 2018-19.

4. Report from PACT Meeting

The Clerk tabled copies of the crime and anti-social behaviour statistics received from Cllr Altaf Hussain, in his absence and in the absence of PCSO Chris Bowen who was off sick.

The next PACT would take place 29 January at 7.00p.m.

5. County Borough Councillors

Cllr Altaf Hussain (Penyfai)

An oral report was given by the Clerk on behalf of Cllr Altaf Hussain in his absence. The report covered the following points:

Planting of Poppies

Cllr Hussain had held a meeting with Clive Thomas of BCBC and Angela Smith of Penyfai WI on 19 December and V2C had no objections to the planting of poppies on the land.

Cllr Heidi Bennett noted her disappointment that she had not been invited to the site meeting as had been agreed in the previous meeting.

All Saints Way

An objection to the Planning Application P/17/1073/FUL land at All Saints Way, Penyfai for housing would be submitted by the County Council and the Community Council agreed it would also object to this application.

Waste

Fly tipping of building material under the motorway bridge had been reported to BCBC by Cllr Hussain. Waste collection at North Lodge had now been resolved.

Cllr Meryl Wilkins reported that there as a large amount of rubbish in the garden of one of the houses in Protheroe Avenue, the house was composed of two flats, and the fence was down at the rear. It was noted that this might be a private residence and the Clerk would write to V2C.

Cllr James Radcliffe (Aberkenfig)

Cllr James Radcliffe was welcomed to the meeting and made the following report:

Roads

Cllr Radcliffe reported that BCBC had resurfaced Heol Persondy, following complaints the contractors undertook to redo the work.

He also reported that Mount Pleasant was in a very poor state – an un-adopted road - a resident had fallen recently – Cllr Radcliffe was concerned and investigating.

Developments

Cllr Radcliffe had discussed the promises made by developers and not fulfilled. A number of councillors were taking independent legal advice on this to find the necessary powers for the BCBC to enforce what been promised.

Concerning the proposals in Tondu, Cllr James Radcliffe had spoken with the Deputy Chair of Planning of another authority for advice on how to deal with the proposals. Noted that a Councillor can chose who speaks on behalf of the objectors.

Health Authority Area

The Welsh government had put out proposals and consultation to change the health board boundaries from ABMU to Cwm Taf. Consultation to be noted

Land behind Tondu School

Cllr Radcliffe had held a meeting on site where damage had taken place by the path at the back of Tondu School. On taking the matter up with the BCBC with a view to taking enforcement action, He felt that the BCBC would not actively pursue a prosecution, and had left the education department to resolve it. He would request the enforcement officer to visit. The Clerk would write to the BCBC Environment Department endorsing this request.

6. Report from the Community Council Maintenance Committee

The members of the Maintenance committee, Cllrs Gary Haines Mal John and adviser Mr Alex Marshall had met on site to look at a number of maintenance issues.

They had been informed that Bridgend Town Council was able to provide some bins suitable for dog waste, and also to provide emptying facilities on a rechargeable basis.

The Clerk had written to their Clerk asking to confirm the price.

The Committee examined the site of the community Woodland with particular reference to drainage on the site. Discussions has taken place with Mr Rob Jones of BCBC who had been very helpful when the project

was first carried out. Arrangements had been made for Dr Elin Richards of Coed Cymru to visit the site in the presence of councillors to advise on the best way forward.

It was agreed that the Council needed:

- (i) Professional advice on water management in the site;
- (ii) Reconstruction and redefinition of the pathways in the woods;
- (iii) Then it would be possible to undertake a further planting programme of native species.

It was also recommended that the pathway between the school and the woodlands was resurfaced in tarmac or similar to improve this for the pupils. It was also necessary to identify a reliable supplier to undertake the work.

The Committee members wished to thank Mr Alex Marshall for his input and expertise.

7. Consultation on Planning Laws in Wales 2018

The Clerk would provide a note to comment on this matter. Also send Cllr Meryl Wilkins a copy of how to access the consultation document.

8. Independent Review Panel for the Community and Town Council Sector in Wales

It was noted that the Independent Review Panel for the Community and Town Council Sector in Wales were consulting widely for the views of a range of people to inform their thinking on the future of Town and Community Councils.

The four questions were - What should Community and Town Councils be responsible for? How should they operate? What is standing in their way to deliver for the local community? How do Councils ensure they best represent their local community?

A response from the Newcastle Higher Community Council would be discussed at the next meeting.

9. Hanging Basket Provision in 2018

The Clerk had previously received a quotation from Boverton Garden Centre and awaited a competitive quote from Awen Trust. When this was received, the Clerk would consult the Chair and Deputy Chair, and instruct the successful applicant accordingly. It was agreed to continue with Mr David Thomas to provide installation watering and taking down facilities.

10. Bins – Installation and emptying

Bridgend Town Council had agreed to provide for installation and emptying of bins on a rechargeable basis. The Clerk had requested details of the costs for the Council's approval. When this was received, he would return to the Council.

11. Speed Signs Penyfai - Update

BCBC Highways Department had been consulted about the suggested installation of speed signs in Penyfai. No reply had yet been received. The Clerk would ask again.

12. Review of BCBC Town & Community Council Charter

The BCBC had arranged to review the Charter at their regular Forum Meetings of Tondu and Community Councils – it was noted that Cllr Heidi Bennett was our representative on the Forum, and would advise the Council with their recommendation after the meeting.

13. Correspondence

1. Cllr Heidi Bennett

Report following attending a Planning Aid Wales training session on 18 December. This mentioned the pre-consultation process required of developers in certain circumstances. The requirement of the developer was to consult with stakeholders including Community Councils. A developer needed to submit a pre-application consultation report detailing the consultation responses and action taken.

2. One Voice Wales

Letter from OVW Chair concerning the Community and Town Council Review Panel which would review the future role of the Community and Town Council sector. One Voice Wales had consulted and would submit a detailed sector submission outlining aspirations for the future. OVW encourages Councils to submit their own evidence as well.

3. The Independent Review Panel

The review of Community and Town Councils in Wales was launched to give everyone in the sector, and wider community, the opportunity have their views heard and to shape the future of Community and Town Councils. It is important the views of our council are fed into the review panel to inform their consideration of what Community and Town Councils should be responsible for, how should they operate, and what is standing in their way to deliver for the community.

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4. BCBC

BCBC requested that the review of the Town & Community Councils Charter was on Agendas for January or February to consider how the Charter can be updated to create an effective framework for maintaining and developing working relationships between Councils across the County Borough.

5. HMRC

Update on reclaim of VAT. Clerk had noted the changes.

6. Professor Jeff Jones

Agreeing to the use of the Meeting room on Tuesday 9 January and expressing thanks for the new Christmas lights in Tondy which had been commented on favourably, also an update on the grant the Council gave for the storage cupboards in the kitchen and downstairs meeting room.

7. BCBC

The next meeting of the Town and Community Council Forum to be 29 January 2018 at 4.00 p.m.

8. One Voice Wales

The next meeting of the OVW Bridgend / Vale/ Cardiff Area Committee will be on Monday 15 January at the lesser Hall Cowbridge at 7.00 p.m. Forwarded to Cllr Heidi Bennett.

9. Alex Marshall

Agreement to attend the January meeting of the Council to help present a report from the maintenance Committee.

10. BCBC

Invoice for bus shelter cleaning in the sum of £59.63 for the quarter.

11. AABC Limited

Initial Invoice for the registration of the website address and 50% of the build cost and hosting for the first year for the Council's website. £307.20.

14. Planning Applications

The Council discussed the following current planning applications and made no comments on the first two.

P/17/1030/FUL 50 Graham Avenue, Penyfai CF31 4NP
P/17/993/FUL Llangewydd Cottage Court Colman CF32 0HE

P/17/1073/FUL Land off All Saints Way Penyfai

Regarding this application it was agreed that Cllrs Gary Haines and Heidi Bennett would attend a site visit and develop a response.

15. Reports

Cllr Heidi Bennett mentioned that a number of Penyfai residents had publicly expressed their disappointment about the Christmas Lights in Penyfai this year. A meeting had been arranged last year with the joint suppliers to plan the lights in advance which all councillors had been invited to attend. The Clerk reported that he had arranged with Mr John Lewis of Highways to hold a meeting with Councillors to look at the possibility of installing a small number of poles for use for hanging baskets, Christmas lights etc, in Penyfai, given that not all owners of lighting columns telephone columns, etc were in agreement to their property being used. It was also noted that the Clerk had invited Mr Darren Brearley to attend the March meeting of the Council to prepare options in good time for the next season.

It was agreed, given the recent pre-application consultation in Penyfai, that it would be helpful for a number of councillors to act as a planning committee. Three Councillors volunteered, Cllr Gary Haines, Cllr Heidi Bennet and Cllr Meryl Wilkins. They would take a preliminary look at applications for major developments as they arose, and would made a report to the Council about them. The Clerk would agenda Planning Committee for the next meeting to confirm this formally.

Cllr Dave Fowler reported that there had been two cars parked long term on the public footpath between Pentrefelin and Meadow Street. The Clerk would arise BCBC Rights of Way accordingly.

Cllr Dave Fowler also mentioned that trees had been cleared under railway line – Cllr James Radcliffe had asked them to look at the trees and at fly tipping.

Cllr Meryl Wilkins reported on the consultation carried out by the Welsh government on the ban on children being smacked, and welcomed it.

Cllr Mal John thought the poppies on lamp posts that had been provided in Cowbridge in 2017 were very effective. He felt that they could be looked into for next year The Clerk would ask the Cowbridge Town Clerk for details.

16. Finances

(a) Accounts for payment

The following accounts would be paid:

	£
BCBC (bus shelter cleaning)	59.63 (201571)
AABC Ltd (website work)	307.20 (201572)
David Thomas (Hanging basket maintenance)	5,400.00 (201573)
Cllr Derrick Baker (Framing for Winning Card)	29.00 (201574)

NB Cllr Heidi Bennett had obtained emailed approval from the Community Council to purchase additional advent calendars for distribution to the Scout Hall nursery and highlighted the need to

continue to include them in future Christmas card competitions. She would provide the receipt before reimbursement.

13. Any Other Business

1. The Clerk would enquire if Cllr Sarah Parry was well, as she had not attended recent meetings.
2. It was agreed the dates of monthly meetings this year would normally be the second Tuesday, save for the April and September meetings which would be as follows: Tuesday 17 April 2018, and Tuesday 4 September 2018. It was also noted that there would not be a meeting, unless specifically agreed, in August.
3. Alex Marshall reported that the library had been visited by a camera crew from S4C recently. In 2001 Geoffrey Fisher and others began to use the library for a conversational Welsh language group on Tuesdays at 11.30. S4C gave Geoff Fisher an award and prize for his commitment to the Welsh Language. The Clerk would send him a letter of congratulations.
4. Cllr Meryl Wilkins was concerned about the safety of a group of runners who ran up and back the Penyfai road.
5. Cllr Heidi Bennett reported to the Council that the Solar Grant was open to suitable groups to apply to BAVO for funds. Cllr Altaf and Cllr Ann John were two members of the panel.
6. It was agreed to hold the February meeting in the Tondu Methodist Church again. Clerk to arrange.
7. Cllrs Gary Haines and Heidi Bennett asked for an update on the development of the website and asked that the Clerk instruct the contractor that the website to be up and running in time for the next community Council meeting.

Finally an update on residents' concerns about the proposals for houses in Tondu was given to the Community Council by residents Lyn Masters and Claudette Evans.

Claudette and Lyn wrote to Maesteg Community Council and attended a meeting with Ynysawdre Community Council. They had also held a meeting with Councillor Gary Haines to plan the presentation to the BCBC Planning Committee.

Cllr Meryl Wilkins recalled a meeting that the Council had organised between the Councils of the Llynfi valley in 2007 to try to discuss the traffic problems of the A 4061 road, which reminded her of the current problems with traffic in Tondu which may be exacerbated by the proposed huge increase in housing.

Cllr Heidi Bennett had attended a meeting at Planning Aid, which had useful information in the pre-consultation process.

When the developers met with the Community Council first Cllr Gary Haines showed them the old Heol Persondy School which would have made a good site for a Community centre and good value. Now the developers were only offering £200 for cycles. Gary Haines felt that the Community had been ignored and there were to be no community facilities, no surgery no hotel, etc., because there was no funding. Cllr Heidi Bennett had attended a Planning Aid Wales training session and was informed that the Local Development Plan was a key document in identifying land and areas for future development in the Borough and the Tondu area had been earmarked in the current LDP. It was necessary to make people aware of how important it is to contribute to the LDP process, which was imminent.

The meeting ended at 9.00

The next meeting of the Council would take place in Tondu Methodist Church on Tuesday 13 February 2018.