



Minutes of the Newcastle Higher Community Council meeting held by video conference via Zoom on Tuesday 12th October 2021 at 7.30 p.m.

Cllr Meryl Wilkins: Presided

Present (6)

Councillors, Marged Griffiths, Meryl Wilkins, Heidi Bennett, Altaf Hussain, James Radcliffe, Jane Gebbie. Member of the Public, Sarah Botterill.

Clerk, Adam Davies

1. To receive apologies for absence

There were none

2. To receive declarations of Interests (if any) of Members in respect of the business to be transacted

Cllr Meryl Wilkins made a declaration relating to her personal interest in the following subject; Street Naming of the llanmoor homes development Parc Tondu, Merthyr Mawr Estate land. PenY Fai Common. Cllr Meryl Wilkins' full list of declarations of interests can be found on the Councils website.

Cllr James Radcliffe declared an interest relating to Planning due to his appointment on Bridgend County Borough Council Planning Committee.

3. To confirm and sign minutes of the Council meeting held on 14th September 2021

Resolved:

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 14th September 2021 were confirmed and signed.

Proposed by Cllr Bennett, seconded by Cllr Griffiths.

4. To consider matters arising from the Council meeting on 14th September 2021

There were no matters arising on the minutes

5. To receive reports from Community Associations

Cllr Griffiths informed the Council that the AGM of Pen Y Fai Community Association will be taking place at the end of October, a venue has not yet been chosen but the association will provide further information on its social media account.

The Clerk noted that Tondu and Aberkenfig Community Association was unable to attend due to other meeting commitments.

6. To receive questions or comments from Members of the Public

There were no questions from members of the public.

7. To review standing orders

Cllr Bennett updated the Council that she has received a copy of Bridgend Town Councils standing orders that are very comprehensive and unnecessary for this Community Council. Model Standing Orders were requested from One Voice Wales to be amended.

Clerk thanked Cllr Bennett for volunteering to undertake the Standing Orders review as it is a long process to undertake.

8. To receive a Maintenance report

a. Pheasant Field

The Clerk informed the Council that the hedge along Church Road has been cut by BCBC at no cost this year. The Council will be expected to pay for the same work to be completed next year.

Correspondence was received from a local resident regarding the internal hedge cut. The Clerk responded to the email confirming that a request has been made to Crown Garden Maintenance to complete a cut as soon as possible.

b. To decide on a solicitor for the lease registration at the land registry

Cllr Wilkins declared an interest regarding the Pheasant field and did not comment. .

The Clerk presented costs of £200 Plus VAT for King Davies and Partners Solicitors to undertake the relevant land registration of the Pheasant Field.

Cllr Bennett proposed to convey King Davies to undertake the relevant Land Registration process. It was seconded by Cllr Hussain.

c. Rights of Way

Cllr Bennett informed the Council that PVCA has placed a post on it's social media account to encourage residents to comment and recommend areas to improve. No responses were received from the post, as Councillors Bennett, Griffiths and Gebbie noted that they will try and walk some of the rights of way. Cllr Bennett suggested that PVCA incorporate some of the rights of way into its litter picks to gage current conditions.

Recommended.

Councillors suggested we obtain laminated copies of the Rights of Way map from BCBC to be disseminated to Councillors for their information.

9. To discuss NHCC current assets

a. Tree survey at the Woodland in Aberkenfig.

The Clerk informed the Council that he has received a tree survey from ARBTS which was conducted in 2019, the tree survey included trees within the Woodland.

Resolved

Councillors agreed to reevaluate the tree survey in the spring, when it is easier to evaluate their state.

10. To receive co-option papers for Councillor vacancies

The Clerk provided Co-option papers from one member of the public. Members of the public were removed and the Council discussed the application received.

The Council voted unanimously to Co-Opt Sarah Botterill to Newcastle Higher Community Councils Aberkenfig Ward.

Resolved:

The Clerk will make the necessary declarations of acceptance paperwork to Sarah in the coming days.

11. Christmas Lighting Report

a. To agree on a budget for Christmas lights purchases

The Council discussed the current state of the Council's Christmas Lighting.

Actions:

The Council agreed to hire 8 lights to be installed in Pen Y Fai. To install the Council's current lights into Pentre Felin this year.

Recommendation:

It was proposed that the Council look in depth during the months of March / April 2022 regarding the Councils Christmas Lighting for 2022.

12. Maintenance Contract Aberkenfig Square and Woodland

The Clerk presented to the Council a tender for Aberkenfig Square and Woodland. The Council discussed the proposal and agreed that they will revisit this item next year.

Cllr Bennett suggested that the Council has the funds and budget to employ a maintenance person and suggested we may consider this for next year. The Clerk noted that a number of budgeted items can be undertaken by a maintenance person, ensuring a better value for money for the Council.

Cllr Gebbie suggested that the Council should ensure anyone the Council employs is a real living wage employer. The Council discussed that it was a priority to ensure Aberkenfig Square is clean for Remembrance Sunday.

Resolved:

Cllr Bennett Proposed that a £300 delegated authority is provided to the Clerk to conduct cleaning and maintenance at Aberkenfig Square in readiness for Remembrance Sunday. Seconded by Cllr Hussain.

13. Finance

(a) To receive accounts for payment

	£
Bridgend Town Council (Empty dog bins)	1040.00
Bridgend County Borough Council (Bus Shelter Cleaning)	59.63
Clerks Monthly Wage (September 2021) (Provided to Chair and Deputy Chair)	****

The Council accepted these payments.

(b) To receive 6 monthly budget spending and forecasts for 2021 - 22 Financial Year.

The Council was presented with a budget to date for their approval. Due to the document type Councillors were unable to open the documents.

Resolved:

The Clerk to resend the documents for Councillors consideration at the next meeting.

14. To Consider Planning Applications

T/21/64/TPO Land at Pant Farm Court Colman Bridgend CF31 4NG
(Remove lower branches of several trees)

Councillors discussed this planning application in detail.

Councillors Hussain and Wilkins expressed their concern that the cutting of the tree may cause detrimental impact on their viability in future.

A vote took place to object to the planning application and results are below

For	Against	Abstain
Cllr Hussain	Cllr Gebbie	Cllr Bennett
Cllr Wilkins		Cllr Griffiths
		Cllr Radcliffe

A majority of Councillors chose to object under the Future Generations Act 2015, to ensure the tree is treated in a sympathetic way.

Cllr Griffiths provided an amendment to the proposal to request BCBC planning committee look at the application and reflect on the process of its preservation.

A vote took place, 5 for and 1 against.

The Council noted the following applications made, with no objections:

P/21/844/FUL 14 Dunraven Street Aberkenfig Bridgend CF32 9AS
(Single storey infill/rear extension)

P/21/690/FUL 7 Plas Tymawr Penyfai CF31 4NH
(Remodelling of house – raise roof to create first floor, pitched roof projection from front to back (90 degrees to main roof); single storey side extensions [amended plans and supporting documents received 28-9-21])

15. To receive BCBC Members Reports

(a) Cllr Altaf Hussain

Cllr Hussain thanked the Clerk for providing him with £650, £200 was sent to Alzheimer's UK and £450 was provided to Cllr Hussain to donate to a charity of his choice.

(b) Cllr James Radcliffe

Cllr Radcliffe informed the Council that there has been some Japanese knotweed reported on land not owned by BCBC. Cllr Radcliffe noted he will email the Clerk the locations and see if it is on the Community Council's property.

Cllr Radcliffe noted that he would like to encourage the local PCSO to attend the Council's meetings as they previously did. He informed the Council that he has made contact with Aberkenfig Police Station and they have said that there is not a PCSO currently covering the Community Council's area.

16. To receive Reports from Councillors

The Clerk updated the Council regarding the rights of way access along the Pennant Homes development. The Clerk informed the Council that he assures that the footpath will be put back into good order but is currently unaware of the timeline for completion.

Cllr Gebbie requested if the Council would request to become part of the Welsh Government's 20MPH pilot scheme, particularly for areas in the Council's wards at Bridgend Road and Pen Y Fai Road in Aberkenfig. Councillor Bennett seconded.

Cllr Wilkins noted that a Bus Shelter in Pen Y Fai has a broken roof and requested the Clerk to look into this.

Cllr Bennett suggested that the Council become a part of a pilot for the Self-Assessment tool to support the Community Council. The Clerk informed Cllr Bennett that this has already been requested.

Cllr Bennett previously contacted Go Safe Wales and they have provided apparatus in Aberkenfig, she is awaiting further information regarding its progress.

Cllr Bennett has requested BCBC to look into the process of shutting down the junction towards the Scout Hall on Court Colman Rd.

The Council agreed to purchase two Remembrance Day wreaths for Cllr Wilkins to present in Pen Y Fai and Cllr Radcliffe to lay a wreath in Aberkenfig.

17. Correspondence

Audit Wales

Further items were requested for audit 2020 - 2021 which have been supplied.

BCBC

BCBC have noted that they will not charge for the work undertaken this year along the road at the Pheasant field.

Crown Garden Services

The Clerk contacted Crown Garden services requesting they complete the hedge cut as stated within the Tender process.

Plas Tymawr Resident

A Plas Tymawr resident emailed requesting if the Council will continue the current arrangement of hedge cutting at the Pheasant Field. BCBC would previously cut the tops of the hedge. The Clerk responded noting that we will continue the commitment that the tops of the hedges will be cut by our contractors.

Expression of interest

Forms were sent during the month of September requesting Cllrs to update their form for 2021.

Kerry Grabham (Internal Audit)

Kerry has provided a quote to provide 1 days work for the Councils internal audit for 2021 - 22 to the value of £225. Kept for future reference.

Aberkenfig Allotments Association

The Allotment association has requested the 2nd skip of the financial year.

Pennant Homes

Pennant Homes were contacted as a result of our last meeting. Pennant Homes were asked if they would ensure that the footpath (New/29/1) currently blocked off would be reinstated to a good standard. The Clerk was reassured that they will reinstate the pathway to a good state.

Guy Smith BCBC

A list of works has been provided to BCBC's Pippa Kestle for consideration in readiness for work to be tendered out for the Pheasant Field.

ARBTS

A tree survey was kindly sent from ARBTS, which was completed in 2019 and attached to Councillors documents.

BCBC Electoral Services

Cllr Lathey's Resignation was provided to BCBC and the vacancy process has started.

Pen Y Fai Junior Football

The organizer has informed the Council that they have now completed their last use of the field this year and hopes to restart at Easter 2022.

Cllr Bennett

Cllr Bennett contacted B-Leaf and reminded the Clerk to contact B-Leaf to obtain a quote for the Council's hanging baskets for 2022.

Pen Y Fai's All Saint Church

Reverend Anthony Beer was contacted by the Clerk to ensure if the Council is responsible for any part of the Service in Pen Y Fai. Reverend Beer confirmed that the Council has no responsibilities for the day but welcome all to attend the service and place a wreath on the Council's Behalf.

Aberkenfig St Johns

Reverend Suz Brumwell was contacted by the Clerk to ensure if the Council is responsible for any part of the Remembrance Sunday Service in Aberkenfig. Reverend Suz noted that she was not aware that the Council took any part of the service as she started in post in late 2019. She recalls that the Council

There being no more business, the meeting closed at 08:30p.m. The next meeting would be via video link, on Tuesday 9th November 2021 at 7:30pm.