



Minutes of the Newcastle Higher Community Council meeting held by video conference via Zoom on Tuesday 9th November 2021 at 7.30 p.m.

Cllr Heidi Bennett: Presided

Present (4)

Councillors, Marged Griffiths, Heidi Bennett, James Radcliffe and Sarah Botterill.
Member's of the Public Claudette Evans and Ian Williams.

Clerk, Adam Davies

1. To receive apologies for absence
Apologies were received from Cllr Meryl Wilkins, Jane Gebbie and Cllr Altaf Hussain.
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 12th October 2021

Resolved:

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 12th October 2021 were confirmed and signed.
Proposed by Cllr Griffiths, seconded by Cllr Radcliffe.

4. To consider matters arising from the Council meeting on 12th October 2021

Cllr Griffiths informed the Council that the Pen Y Fai Community Associations AGM is to take place on the 30th November 2021 within the Pheasant at 7pm.

The Clerk informed the Council that the Register of Interests will be updated in the coming Month.

5. To receive reports from Community Associations

Claudette Evans of Tondu and Aberkenfig Community Association updated the Council that works along Maesteg Road have commenced, upgrading the Cycle Route. The route can be impassable due to the mud and water build up due to no drainage. Cllr Radcliffe has kindly offered to make a referral to BCBC regarding this.

Pen Y Fai Community Associations local litter pick will take place on the First Sunday of every month and the next is due on the 5th December 2021.

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

Mr Williams questioned why the minutes of the 9th May's Extraordinary meeting were not uploaded to the Website for public scrutiny.

The Clerk informed Mr Williams that the minutes were removed due to comments through social media, the comments alerted him to issues with the minutes and therefore took them down to rectify them, with support from Audit Wales at the time, the minutes can now be uploaded due to the issue being resolved.

7. To review standing orders

Cllr Bennett updated the Council that Standing Order material has now been received from One Voice Wales. One Voice Wales also informed Cllr Bennett that the Model Standing Orders issued will be updated imminently with help from the Welsh Government.

It was suggested this would be relooked at once the updated documents are received in the new year.

8. To receive a Maintenance report

a. Pheasant Field (Land Registry Process)

During last month's meeting it was requested that the Clerk request the Councils contractor to undertake a cut of the internal hedge at the Pheasant Field. The Clerk has contacted Crown Garden Services and been notified that they are currently understaffed and will undertake the cut as soon as possible.

The Clerk updated the Council that previously it was discussed that any work taking place within the Pheasant Field will require permission from BCBC prior to making any alterations to the land. The Clerk has informed the Council that it was clarified that when the Council completed the CAT transfer it provided the relevant permission for 6 months to undertake the work requested.

The Council may undertake the work suggested within the next 6 months upto February 2022 or request a further 6 months extension from BCBC.

Cllr Bennet informed the Clerk that the bins within the Pheasant Field are regularly overflowing. The Clerk has contacted Bridgend Town Council on 2 occasions to request bin collections but they must first request their Councils permission before taking on more work.

The Clerk thanks Cllr Bennet for kindly emptying the bins herself while they were full.

An update had been received from King Davies noting that nothing has yet been passed to them from BCBC, the Clerk will follow up with BCBC for the information.

b. Rights of Way

Due to health and safety concerns PVCA were unable to walk the Rights of Way routes.

Councillors suggested within the last meeting that we request BCBC to provide laminated copies of the rights of way maps to disseminate to Councillors. BCBC has noted that they will provide Laminated copies within the coming weeks due to staff not currently working within the Civic Offices.

c. Aberkenfig Square

The Clerk has attempted to contact a number of contractors to complete a tidy up of Aberkenfig Square in time for Remembrance Sunday.

Crown Garden Services do not have the time to undertake any further work. H and M Garden Services quoted £434 plus VAT but unable to undertake the work prior to Remembrance Sunday.

The Clerk has contacted an independent tradesperson called Baz Jenkins, he undertook the work on Monday and Tuesday 8th and 9th November.

The Clerk received positive comments from Mr Jenkins who undertook the work from local residents who were happy with the work he has provided.

An invoice has yet been received but an agreed amount of £300 was delegated to the Clerk for his services and will be paid once received. A Payment of £50 plus VAT was received from Boverton Nurseries for flowers to be placed within the planter in the Square.

Bakers in Aberkenfig kindly offered to paint the benches in the square at the cost of the paint. Councillor Griffiths proposed to accept the cost implications and correct signage displayed with Cllr Botterill seconded.

9. Christmas lights.

a. Christmas Lights

BCBC's Steve Cotterill has been requested to install lighting and a Christmas Tree at Pen Y Fai common and Pen Y Fai Church.

The Clerk was sadly informed that Cetregreat has already installed Christmas Lights in Pen Y Fai. The lights were agreed last meeting to be moved to Pentre Felin with new lights installed in Pen Y Fai.

Over Email the Council agreed to the following items.

To hire 8 lights for 1 year from Blachere Illuminations to the cost of £1,205.00 plus VAT.

To remove 8 lights from Pen Y Fai at the cost of £20 each and reinstallation in Pentre Felin with 2 being removed and stored to the cost of £60.

To convert 6 light coumbs in Pentre Felin and 2 in Pen Y Fai to the cost of £270 plus VAT each.

The Clerk reminded councillors further cost implications once removed and stored. Cllr Bennett proposed to ratify the decisions made over email with Cllr Radcliffe seconding.

The Clerk reiterated the Council agreement previously that no lights should be reinstalled on top of the speed signs in Pen Y Fai and suggested the Council use 2 lights at the top of Pen Y Fai at the entrance of Heol Tyn Y Garn and A4063

The Council ratified their decision by unanimously agreeing to the costs and changes.

10. Finance

(a) To receive accounts for payment

	£
Boverton Nurseries (Plants for Aberkenfig Square)	60.00
Blachere Illumination UK Ltd (Christmas Lights)	1,446.00
ACD Skips (Aberkenfig Allotments)	237.60
David Thomas (Hanging Basket Displays)	5,485.00
Clerks Monthly Wage (November 2021) (Provided to Chair and Deputy Chair)	****

The Council accepted these payments.

The Clerk notified the Council that online banking has now been organized with the Clerk, Councillors Bennett and Griffiths having access to the online banking.

Payments will be made in line with the current bank mandate which requires the Clerk to set up payments and 2 Councillors to authorise.

The Clerk reiterated that Scribe is available to all Councillors that would like to scrutinize the accounts and invoices.

(b) To discuss precept and expenditure for 2022 / 23

The Clerk provided an updated budget that reflects the current budget set in place. Councillors reiterated that reserves and current budgets do not reflect the current Councillors desires.

Action

Councillors agreed to conduct an informal budget meeting prior to the next full Council meeting to ratify any decisions.

11. To Consider Planning Applications

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

P/21/916/FUL
39 Chantal Avenue Penyfai CF31 4NN
(Extension of existing front and rear dormers)

P/21/914/FUL
Longacre Old Coachman's Lane Court Colman Bridgend CF32 0HD
(Conversion of existing garage into games room and basement cinema with glazed link to the main dwelling and associated works)

T/21/70/TPO
37 Riverside Aberkenfig CF32 9DA
(Prune beech and sycamore trees by a third to match other surrounding trees)

12. To receive BCBC Members Reports

- (a) Cllr Altaf Hussain
Cllr Hussain has not provided anything to raise.
- (b) Cllr James Radcliffe
Councillor Radcliffe has received an updated list of PCSOs for our wards and has provided these to the Clerk to request they attend in the new year.

13. To receive Reports from Councillors

Cllr Griffiths thanked the new litter picker who now covers our ward for his hard work.

Cllr Bennett informed the Council that we should be looking for hanging basket providers now ready for 2022. Cllr Bennett went on to suggest the Council consider adding extra hanging baskets for Pentre Felin this year and the possibility of employing a handyman to take on activities currently organized and completed by contractors..

The Clerk informed the Council that two quotes have already been received from Boverton Nurseries and B-Leaf.

Councillor Botterill declared an interest regarding B-Leaf due to her husband being a trustee of Awen the parent charity to B-Leaf.

14. Correspondence

1. All Saints Church

Information received stating that a Remembrance Sunday Service will take place in Pen Y Fai.

2. BCBC

The Clerk requested information regarding the number of properties within the Community area, There are 1671 in Aberkenfig and 2050 in Penyfai

3. Blachere Illumination

A conversation with Blachere Illumination to provide Christmas Lighting for Pen Y Fai this year.

4. BCBC

Mr Cottrell of BCBC has stated that he will provide a Christmas tree for Pen Y Fai Common and light the Trees within Aberkenfig and All Saint Church this year.

5. H and M Garden Services

The Clerk Contacted H and M to undertake work in Aberkenfig Square, they provided a quote for £432 Plus VAT but note they were unable to complete work before Remembrance Sunday on the 14th November.

6. BCBC

The Clerk contacted BCBC to request permission to improve the Pheasant Field as requested in Town and Community Council Fund Application. Pippa Noted that the Council already has the improvements agreed which includes

The construction of a tarmacadam path around the field on the Property;

The Installation of security lighting along the tarmacadam path;

The installation of 2 no. bins in suitable locations on the Property;

The installation of a set of football posts (pair);

The installation of notice boards in suitable locations on the Property.

The Council should request an extension if items are not completed by January 31st 2022.

7. St Johns Church Aberkenfig

The Clerk has been informed that the Reverend has fallen ill and the remembrance service may not go ahead this year in Aberkenfig Square, the Clerk has received communication from Mr Baker, former Councillor who suggested contacting Aberkenfig Community Church. The Reverend provisionally accepted to undertake the service, an email and correspondence will be sent to Councillors for once confirmed.

8. Centregreat

Centregreat were asked if they would kindly help with the installation of Christmas lights in Pentre Felin this year.

9. Mr Baz Jenkins

Mr Jenkins has kindly taken up the offer to undertake a clean of Aberkenfig Square. The Clerk and Mr Jenkins are to meet on Sunday 7th November to discuss what is requested.

There being no more business, the meeting closed at 8:30pm. The next meeting would be via video link, on Tuesday 14th December 2021 at 7:30pm.