

Minutes of a Meeting of the Newcastle Higher Community Council held by telephone conference via Zoom on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 7.00 p.m.

Cllr Altaf Hussain: Presided

Present (10)

Councillors Marged Griffiths, Altaf Hussain, Mal John, Ann John, Phillip Lathey, Alex Marshall, Meryl Wilkins, Dave Fowler, Byron Jones and Heidi Bennett. Mr Guy Smith BCBC Community Asset Transfer Officer.

Clerk, John Richfield, Clerk appointed from October 2020, Adam Davies

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Derrick Baker and Cllr James Radcliffe.

2. Written Declaration of Interest in Agenda items

Before the start of the meeting Council members made declarations of interest in agenda items on the form provided, as follows:

Cllr Meryl Wilkins made a declaration relating to her personal interest in the following subject; the Pheasant Field. Cllr Meryl Wilkins' full list of declarations of interests can be found on the Councils website.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 12th January 2021 were confirmed and signed.

4. Matters Arising on the Minutes

14B. Cllr Mal John reported that the issue raised has been rectified.

5. Report on Community Asset Transfer / Site Meeting at Cavendish Park

Cllr Hussain reported to Mr Phillip Beaman at BCBC that substantial rain has caused the Cavendish Park to be littered with multiple pools of water, one of which was covering an entrance into the park. Cllr Hussain has received a response noting "It would not be cost effective to rectify this wet weather occurrence".

Guy Smith outlined to the Council that he had a meeting with Claire the deputy head of the Parks Department and noted that Persimmons Homes, the property developer originally constructed the park. BCBC are looking into any liability that can be attributed to them. Mr Smith suggested that a small site meeting can be arranged observing strict Covid 19 restrictions. The head of the Parks Department Mr Phil Thomas is happy to meet the Council and consider any action that can be taken such as a drainage survey, this could be potentially funded by the CAT business support contract but is unlikely that any

further work necessary for the park will be funded by entirely BCBC. If the Council provided a financial contribution then this may assist with the work being progressed.

## 6. Reports from BCBC Members

### a. Cllr Altaf Hussain

#### 1. Hillside Pen Y Fai

It was reported to Cllr Hussain that properties at Hillside in Pen Y Fai have had drainage issues, mostly consisting of property number 4. The planning department are aware of this issue and the Council is awaiting a report from the enforcement officer involved.

#### 2. Safe Route scheme

Concerns raised by the residents to Cllr John. A response from BCBC notes that “for a number of years BCBC had been attempting to engage with Pen Y Fai to create a plan but no interest has been shown”. Cllr Altaf Hussain notes that over the last 5 years nobody from Council discussed this issue with him.. Cllr Hussain noted that the response received was unsatisfactory, this had been raised with the leader and forwarded to the Chief executive and cabinet members for further action. Cllr Altaf Hussain is awaiting a further response.

#### 3. Active Travel Network

The Active Travel scheme part of the Welsh Government Map consultation. This information had been circulated to fellow Councillors and residence. BCBC has received funding and hopes to encourage communities to walk and cycle. Pen Y Fai is one of the local villages that does not currently connect to any of these networks. Cllr Altaf Hussain had written to BCBC and had a response noting that his comments are helpful and will be considered for future routes network for walking and cycling. A new active travel map will be constructed after the first stage of the online consultation which closes on the 1st February. The Scheme will invite all internal stakeholders, elected members, town and community councillors to an online webinar where they will present a new draft network before they present it to the public.

#### 4. Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation assessment.

Residents have raised their concerns that on the 15th December, BCBC approved the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation assessment findings and final report. It was approved to be submitted to the Welsh Minister to enable BCBC to fulfil its duty to meet assessment needs. Cllr Hussain has read through the documentation and there is one site noted for Aberkenfig.

#### 5. One Voice Wales Councillor Programme

The Clerk forwarded an email regarding a bursary for upto £100 for any Council that has an annual precept under £100,000. Any training received with this grant must be completed by the 28th February 2021. The Clerk will fill in the funding application and it will be available for the upcoming month.

### b. Cllr James Radcliffe

Cllr James Radcliffe was unable to attend.

## 7. Report from Maintenance Committee

The Maintenance Committee reported on the following matters:

The Council was provided with documentation from the Maintenance Committee via email stating the estimated costs for the 2021 / 2022 financial year. This information included projected cost of the maintenance at the Pheasant Field which the Council is expected to take over on the 1st April 2021. The Council will consider this information and will discuss this within our next meeting.

a. Consideration of provision of a bench

The Council via Social Media received a suggestion that the Council might like to place a bench at a site near Ty'n-y-garn, Pen Y Fai Common. The Council discussed this issue and noted its concerns regarding potential vandalism that has occurred within the area in the past. It was reported that the cost to situate this bench is £670 plus VAT and the cost of £600 to have it installed. The Council has sought advice from BCBC planning department and a seat only needs the Landowners permission to install. Two potential siting areas have been identified, the Council agreed to conduct a survey within the local area once Covid 19 restrictions allow.

8. To consider Christmas Lighting company for 2021

- a. The Chair proposed that the Council considered a new lighting company for 2021, as he considered the level of support from Centregreat who currently store, maintain and install the lights for the Pen Y Fai ward was not adequate. The Council requested the Clerk to look into further companies and request quotes for their services.
- b. It was discussed that a number of Councillors recommended that the Council hold a Christmas Lighting Competition. It was agreed by Council that the prize for 1st will be £100, 2nd £75 and 3rd £50.

9. To consider the Hanging baskets provider for 2021

The Council discussed its options for the 2021 Hanging baskets contract. It was decided that the Council will look into further quotes from providers such as B-Leaf that are local to our area.

10. To discuss the Gypsy Traveller and Accommodation Assessment

The Council accepted this recommendation and requested that the Clerk ask Cllr James Radcliffe for his opinion as the BCBC ward member for Aberkenfig.

11. The Rocks Pen Y Fai Common

The Clerk has received an email from Mr Philip Beaman of BCBC notifying the Council that "Before BCBC comment further or take any action, BCBC is arranging to clarify whether the issue is one of regulation or the land owner's responsibility". It was proposed that the Clerk send Mr Beaman a copy of the information Cllr Mal John holds regarding the Common regulations.

12. To approve the date of the Clerks appraisal

It was proposed and agreed by the Council that Cllr Marged Griffiths would have a formal discussion with the Clerk within the coming month to discuss issues and improvements to be made.

13. Finance

a. Accounts for payment

	£	
Bridgend Town Council (empty bins) 01/08/20 30/11/20	1,360	(201771)
BCBC Bus Shelter Cleaning	59.63	(201772)

b. Possible members assistance to the RFO (Responsible Finance Officer)

Cllr Heidi Bennett, Cllr Marged Griffiths, Cllr Alex Marshall and Cllr David Fowler volunteered to become a part of this assistance group. It was suggested that the Group meet twice per year.

14. Correspondence

1. Cllr Heidi Bennett

Information received from Cllr Heidi Bennett regarding Christmas lights on that stretch of road by Parkfields are not working.

2. Dog Fouling at Pen Y Fai School

Correspondence received from Cleaner Streets Monitoring Officer arranging a cleaner streets team to visit Pen Y Fai School

3. One Voice Wales

Notification regarding the One Voice Wales - Bridgend/Cardiff/Vale Area Committee - 25th January 2021 at 7pm.

4. Audit Wales

Details about NHCC's next full audit due for financial year 2022 - 2023.

5. Doggy bins

Email from Cllr Mal John notifying the Clerk that dog bins at the post box near Plas Ty Maws were overflowing. The Clerk was notified that the Bridgend Town Council Team was isolating due to Covid 19 but the bins were collected by BCBC the same day.

6. Centregreat

Email referring to the Emergency Call Out Numbers from Centregreat.

7. Cllr Altaf Hussain

Information about the NHCC Chain of Office – it needs to be sent away to Fabb for inscription of recent names of past Chairs.

8. St Brides Minor Community Council

Information sent to St Brides Minor regarding Fly tipping under the motorway bridge reported by Cllr Meryl Wilkins.

9. Wales Air Ambulance

Donation requested from the Wales Air Ambulance Charity Emergency Appeal.

10. Bridgend Town Council

Invoice received for emptying dog waste bins for the period ( 1 st August 2020 to 30th November 2020 – 17 weeks)

11. Cllr Altaf Hussain

Information regarding the plan for Parc Cavendish new path to the playing field.

12. Welsh Government

Forwarded email from One Voice Wales on secondment opportunities at the Welsh Government.

13. John Richfeild (Clerk)

An email was sent to Aberkenfig Allotment Association notifying them of the new clerks appointment and Proposed Water Supply.

14. Cllr Altaf Hussain

Email from Cllr Altaf Hussain regarding the current level of drainage within Parc Cavendish.

15. One Voice Wales

Details of online training courses

16. Cllr Mal John

Notification that NHCC banners for the NHS will continue to be displayed.

17. BCBC

Mr Guy Smith confirms his attendance for the Council's next meeting. To discuss the concerns raised by Council regarding the drainage and to discuss the possibility of further funding available. Suggestion that in the new year once restrictions are lifted that the Council arranges a site meeting with himself and someone from the parks department.

18. Cllr Altaf Hussain

Report from BCBC regarding Gypsy Traveller and Accommodation Assessment.

19. Cllr Mal John

A request from a member of the public suggesting a new bench placement.

20. Laleston Community Council

Correspondence from Gail Jewell on christmas lighting and that they are also looking to tender a new company themselves.

21. One Voice Wales

Information on the Postponement of local government by-elections from the 1 st March 2021 to the 6 the May 2021.

22. TCC Precepts

Acknowledgement of the Councils Precept for 2021/2022 at £53,637.

23. Llanharan Community Council.

Correspondence from Catherine Kennedy on christmas lighting that they currently use Festive Lighting Ltd and are happy with their services.

24. Rock Cottages

An email from Philip Beaman BCBC are arranging to clarify whether the issue is one of regulation or the land owner's responsibility.

25. One Voice Wales

Audit Wales is now undertaking a review on the future of Welsh towns.

26. BCBC

Application form for the Town & Community Council fund 2021/22.

15. Planning Applications

The Council noted the following applications made, with no comments.

P/20/731/FUL Bridgend Minature Railway Society Fountain Road Aberkenfig CF32 0EH  
(Demolish existing building & construct new single storey pitched roofed building)

P/20/922/FUL 103 Bridgend Road Aberkenfig Bridgend CF32 9AP  
(Erection of single slope roof above the yard within curtilage of existing building to create an enclosed Service area.)

P/20/939/FUL West Barn Penyfai Bridgend CF31 4LL  
(Construction of a 3 vehicle car port (Revision to P/20/95/FUL).

P/20/753/FUL 1 Protheroe Avenue Penyfai CF31 4LU  
(Erection of single storey front porch for toilet and storage area.)

P/20/905/RLX 6 Coronation Street Aberkenfig Bridgend CF32 9PS  
(Vary Condition 1 of P/19/815/FUL to retain garage as built.)

P/20/976/FUL 68A Bridgend Road Aberkenfig CF32 9AP  
(Change of use to a veterinary practice (Use Class D1) with ancillary retail sales (Use Class A1)

P/20/991/FUL 15 Parkfields Penyfai Bridgend CF31 4NQ  
(Amendment to P/19/439/FUL - Remove canopy to front elevation and first floor extended over garage; windows reduced in height and obscure glazed window to be fitted in attic space)

## 16. Reports from Councillors

- a. Cllr Heidi Bennett pointed out that via social media local residents complained regarding the Valleys to Coast garages at Protheroe Avenue which are very dilapidated. With a number of Valleys to Coast board members within the area this has been brought to their attention for them to consider.

The Chair Cllr Altaf Husain was disconnected from the Meeting and unable to rejoin.

Deputy Chair Cllr Meryl Wilkins presided.

- b. Cllr Phillip Lathey reported to the Council that recently there has been a number of incidents along Church Road by Pen Y Fai Church in Wales Primary. Cars have been parked along this stretch of road causing multiple backlogs. It was suggested that double yellow lines be placed along this stretch of road but the Council decided that this area has had multiple attempts to change its layout and none have been agreeable by all parties so no such action is taken.
- c. Cllr David Fowler discussed his suggestion that an allocation of a post box at Pentre Felin would be beneficial to the Community. The Clerk to look into this proposal.

- d. Cllr Anne John notified the Council of a road traffic collision on the A4063, Cllr Anne John suggested that a an extra lane be built and suggested that Cllr Altaf Hussain look into this matter.
- e. Cllr Phillip Lathey reported a buildup of waste under the motorway bridge along the Pen Y Fai Road. It was suggested that the Clerk contact BCBC Cleaner streets team to remove.

17. Reports from Community Associations

Cllr Hiedi Bennett reported at Pen Y Fai Community Association are possibly undertaking its own survey and suggests that The Council may want to collaborate if any such questions are needed to be answered.

18. Any Other Business

Cllr Hiedi Bennett notified the Council that the Nursery at Pen Y Fai Scout Hall is no longer operating. The Council asked the Clerk to contact the management committee and reiterate that the Council would be saddened to see the hall not used by the wider community.

Cllr Mal John reports that the dog bin at Plas Tymawr is emptied twice a week although it frequently overflows. It was suggested that a bigger bin be placed there and the existing bin be moved into the Pheasant Field once the Council takes responsibility for that area.

There being no more business, the meeting closed at 21:10 p.m. The next meeting would be via video link, on Tuesday 9th February 2021.