

COEDFFRANC COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council Meeting held on 19th February 2014 at Carnegie Hall.

Attendance: Cllrs APH Davies, HR Richards, R Didcote, H Bebell, M Harvey, P Davies, J Thomas, I Whitehead Ross, K Whitehead Ross.

9632: To meet with representatives of Select Buses.

Items 9641 and 9642 were brought forward for discussion at this point and the Clerk read out the letters to the Members and the public.

Cllr APH Davies reported that he and Cllr H Bebell had raised resident's queries with NPTCBC. It was reported that as from 3rd March First would no longer run the 158 bus through Skewen. It was reported that First would be running 4 services for the 158 service during the evenings.

Representatives from Select Buses gave a short presentation and reported that they had received numerous phone calls from concerned residents.

Select Buses reported that had applied to the Commissioner to put on a bus service from Coed Darcy to Neath starting from the 3rd March 2014, to replace the loss of First's 158 service. They reported that they propose to run a bus from Skewen to Swansea on Saturday's. It was reported that the X58 will be running through Jersey Marine but not going through Skewen. Select Buses reported that there would be 12 journeys on the Llandarcy to Neath service running through Skewen every week day. It was noted that First had extended the 159 service. Select confirmed that they would consider running a weekday bus from Skewen to Swansea if they got the full support of the public. Cllr I Whitehead Ross stated that First were only thinking of profits and not of the public that they serve.

It was reported that there would be further meetings between NPTCBC and Select Buses to discuss the issue further.

Resolved: that the Clerk should write to First to invite the Operations Manager to the next Council Meeting.

9633: Apologies: Cllrs DK Davies, J Davies, HC Clarke, A Wingrave, P Bebell, B Richards, P Fellows.

9634: To receive Declarations of Interest.

None.

9635: To approve and sign the Minutes of Previous meetings: -

a) Council Meeting held on 5th February 2014.

Approved as a true and accurate record.

9636: Matters arising from the minutes. (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

None.

9637: To receive and approve the accounts schedule for payments and to select two account numbers for a full explanation at the next meeting.

Accounts were received in the sum of £44,455.35 Account No's 538 and 539 were selected at random for an explanation by the clerk at the next meeting. Copies of the accounts were circulated and the Clerk responded to member's queries.

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9638: To receive an explanation from the Clerk concerning Account No's: 513 and 520.

The Clerk provided explanations, which were accepted by the Council.

9639: Planning Applications: -

None.

9640: To receive a report from any Member concerning meetings at which he or she represented the Council.

None.

9641: To receive information from NPTCBC regarding First Service Revisions.

This information was discussed at the start of the meeting along with the presentation from Select Buses.

9642: To receive a copy of letters regarding the First Service Revisions provided by Rosemary Morris.

This information was discussed at the start of the meeting along with the presentation from Select Buses.

9643: To receive a request from the League of Friends of NPT Hospitals to be allowed to play bingo during their monthly Coffee Morning. Additionally, to receive guidance from the Licencing Department of NPTCBC regarding the request.

The Members discussed the request.

Resolved: That permission is granted.

9644: To receive information from Cllr I Whitehead Ross regarding the Welsh Assembly Government's Community Facilities Programme.

Cllr Whitehead Ross reported that WAG have launched a Community Facilities Programme for capital grants worth up to half a million pounds. He reported that there is no deadline for submission, and that the money could be used for the provision of community services or community facilities. Cllr I Whitehead Ross requested permission to explore this opportunity further. It was noted that the delivery of the project should not create any additional work load for the Clerk.

Resolved: That Cllr I Whitehead Ross liaises with the Clerk to discuss possible projects and reports back at a future Council Meeting.

9645: To receive a report from Cllr I Whitehead Ross regarding the consultation on the changes to the Planning System.

Cllr I Whitehead Ross reported that the Draft Planning Bill Consultation closes next week. He reported that he felt that "Change of Use" Applications are overly bureaucratic and deter small business from emerging. Cllr Whitehead Ross reported that the process needs to be simplified. Cllr APH Davies reported that the Bill is giving more work to Local Authorities, with more of the money going to Central Government. It was agreed that Cllrs H Bebell and I Whitehead Ross would draft the body of a letter and email it to the Clerk for her to send it onto WAG on the council's behalf.

Resolved: That Cllrs H Bebell and I Whitehead Ross will draft the body of a letter and email it to the Clerk for her to send it onto the WAG on the council's behalf.

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9646: To receive a request from One Voice Wales to receive Motions for the 2014 Annual Conference/AGM.

The information was noted by the Members.

9647: To receive information from One Voice Wales regarding a conference discussing conserving and maintaining Welsh war memorials.

The information was noted by the Members.

9648: To receive a copy of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Annual Report.

The information was noted by the Members.

9649: To discuss if Skewen Park should be closed to the public during severe weather conditions.

The Clerk reported that she had taken the decision to close Skewen Park at 2pm on Wednesday 12th February during a severe storm because several large branches had come down in the wind. The Clerk asked for her decision to be ratified, and to give her or the Park Superintendent the authority to close the park in the future, in the event of severe weather conditions.

The Members discussed the issue. It was agreed to give the Clerk or Park Superintendent the authority to close the park in the event of high winds. It was queried if leaving the Park open, but putting signs on all entrances/exits to warn the public about the conditions and to inform them that they will enter the Park at their own risk would be sufficient in the event of heavy frost, ice or snow. The members discussed the issue and requested further information from the Insurance Company regarding closing the Park to the public during heavy frost, ice or snow.

Resolved: That the Clerks decision to close the Park is ratified and that the Clerk/Park Superintendent have the authority to close Skewen Park in the event of severe wind if they feel that there is any risk to the public. Additionally, for the Clerk to report back the information provided by the Insurance Company for a decision to be taken regarding heavy frost, ice or snow.

9650: Correspondence.

a) To receive/respond if appropriate to the Consultation Document Local Government Byelaws (Wales) Act 2012 – Implementation.

The information was noted by the Members.

**Cllr APH Davies
Vice Chair**