

## COEDFFRANC COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### **Minutes of a Meeting of the Council Meeting held on 16th October 2013 at the Carnegie Hall.**

**Attendance:** Cllrs P Bebell, H Bebell, A Wingrave, M Harvey, P Davies, J Thomas, I Whitehead Ross, K Whitehead Ross, HC Clarke.

#### **9491: To receive a Presentation from Chris Margetts Mid & West Fire & Rescue Service.**

Chris Margetts and Janice Dudley made a presentation to the Members. It was reported that the consultation document is open until the 29<sup>th</sup> December 2013. Areas covered in the Draft Improvement Plan are:

Improved communication internally and externally.

Community Safety

Managing Budgets

Evaluation Processes

The Representatives then answered Members queries.

#### **Cllr K Whitehead Ross arrived at this point.**

**9492: Apologies:** Cllrs DK Davies, APH Davies, J Davies, R Didcote, P Fellows, B Richards, HR Richards.

#### **9493: To receive Declarations of Interest.**

Cllr P Bebell declared an interest in item 9498 as a Member of the Planning Committee. She left the room during discussions.

Cllr K Whitehead Ross declared an interest in item 9510 and left the room during the discussions.

Additionally, it was noted that no Member that had declared an interest in the last meeting took any part in the approval of the minutes for that meeting.

#### **9494: To approve and sign the Minutes of Previous meetings: -**

##### **a) Council Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2013.**

Approved as a true and accurate record with the exception that on Item 9468 it should have said that the barrier had been moved not removed.

##### **b) Personnel Committee Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2013.**

Approved as a true and accurate record.

#### **9495: Matters arising from the minutes. (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)**

Cllr HC Clarke reported that the Historical Society had charged £1.00 for tea and coffee at their Heritage Day despite requesting £30.00 financial assistance to cover the cost from the Community Council. The Members discussed the issue and it was agreed that the money already pledged would be given on this occasion.

Cllr I Whitehead Ross asked that Cllr H Bebell enquire about the Compulsory Purchase Scheme that has been suggested by the Tidal Lagoon Project at the meeting that Cllr Bebell was due to attend on the 17<sup>th</sup> October 2013 as a representative from Coedffranc Community Council.

**Cont...**

**9496: 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 £ 14,873.99. Account No's 359 and 363 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.

**9497: To receive an explanation from the Clerk concerning Account No's: 324 and 325.**

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

**9498: Planning Applications: -**

**P2012/0581 – Variation of Condition 31 to amend the details of the landscape buffer including its size of Planning Application P2008/0514 granted on 30/09/2011 (amended description, revised illustrative layout plan and revised landscaping scheme). Land north of Elba Crescent. (Applicant – Gracelands Investments).**

Concerns about the increase in the number of properties and the impact the site will have on the local area.

**Late Application: P2013/0849 – Construction on a building to enclose an electricity substation. Land adjacent to Plot 68, Coed Darcy. (Applicant – St Modwens).**

No observations.

**Late Application: P2013/0941 – Details pursuant to condition 20 (Landscaping) of Planning Application P2013/0171. Land rear of 102 Crymlyn Road. (Applicant – Hale Homes).**

No observations.

**Late Application: P2013/0942 – Details pursuant to condition 26 (Design stage interim assessment code for sustainable homes) of Planning Application P2013/0171. Land rear of 102 Crymlyn Road. (Applicant – Hale Homes).**

No observations.

**Late Application: P2013/0897 – Variation of condition 9 of planning application P2011/0880 in relation to phased mains sewerage connection. Phase 1A and 1B Coed Darcy. (Applicant – Persimmon Homes).**

Ask NPTCBC to check if the current sewerage system in Llandarcy can cope with the additional volume.

**9499: To receive a report from any Member concerning meetings at which he or she represented the Council.**

The Clerk reported that she and Cllr APH Davies had attended the NPTCBC Liaison Forum. Issues discussed were a budget update from NPTCBC, a presentation on Gully Cleansing, and an update on the Charter Agreement.

The Clerk reported that she and Chris Richards had attended the Local Authority Cemetery Forum and reported that the next meeting due in March 2014 would be hosted by Coedffranc Community Council.

**Cont...**

Cllr P Bebell reported that she and APH Davies had attended the One Voice Wales AGM and conference and that she had found it to be interesting.  
Cllr I Whitehead Ross reported that he had attended a meeting with the Evening Post regarding the Skewen Business Forum Feature in the Evening Post.

**9500: To receive a report from the Personnel Committee.**

The information was noted by the Members.

**9501: To discuss/respond if appropriate to the Proposal on the future of Neath Magistrates' Court.**

The Members discussed the issue.

**Resolved:** That the Clerk should write to put the following concerns forward:

The Members of Coedffranc Community Council feel that it would be more appropriate to merge Swansea Magistrates Court with Neath Magistrates Court rather than the other way around. The Members are concerned about the travel links from the Neath Valley going into Swansea. Accessibility to a bus service to Swansea from the Neath Valley is very limited, and the connections people attending the Magistrates Court would have to make take considerable time (in some cases 2 – 3 hours travel time).

The Members find it quite alarming that the population travel time within 30 minutes goes down to 3% after the closure of Neath Magistrates Court if they do not own a car.

The Members are concerned that a lot of family proceedings take place in the Magistrates Court and query if the family matters could be heard in Neath County Court.

The Members also feel that parking would be more accessible in Neath, as parking is already difficult in the Swansea area.

**9502: To receive a request for financial assistance from Clych Ti a Fi Sgiwen.**

The Members discussed the issue.

**Resolved:** That the Council would provide a grant to cover a 6 month period (£264.60) providing that the group are prepared to take a more active approach to fund raising and raising the profile of the group to become self-sustaining, and that they attend a meeting with Cllr I Whitehead Ross at Neath Port Talbot Council for Voluntary Services to investigate any opportunities for alternative sources of funding, and receive help regarding fundraising and increasing the profile of the group.

**9503: To receive a request for financial assistance from Western Beacons Mountain Search & Rescue Team (copy enclosed).**

The Members discussed the issue.

**Resolved:** That a donation of £100 is made.

**9504: To receive copies of the Neighbourhood News.**

The information was noted by the Members.

**9505: To receive a letter from Chief Inspector Kingdom of South Wales Police.**

The information was noted by the Members.

**9506: To receive a letter of thanks from PCSO Darren Thomas regarding the Macmillan Coffee Morning.**

The information was noted by the Members.

**9507: To receive/respond if appropriate to the Consultation on Draft Guidance for the Public Service Workforce.**

The information was noted by the Members.

**9508: To receive a request from Skewen Short Mat Bowls to cover the cost of new jacks as the present jacks are very worn.**

The Members discussed the issue.

**Resolved:** That the Council would cover the costs of the jacks.

**9509: To receive a request from Nigel Hearn to discuss setting up Youth Club.**

The Members discussed the issue.

**Resolved:** That Cllr A Wingrave should liaise between Youth Services and Mr Hearn to investigate any possibilities.

**9510: To receive correspondence from Unison regarding the closure of Libraries within the Neath Port Talbot area.**

The Members discussed the issue.

**Resolved:** That the Clerk should write a letter of support to Unison.

**9511: To discuss/decide if the Council should purchase 500 Christmas Baubles for re-sale with views of the Coedffranc area depicted on them.**

The Members discussed the issue.

**Resolved:** That this proposal does not go ahead.

**9512: Correspondence.**

**a) Request from Skewen Historical Society to have an additional storage room and to receive thanks for the help they received from our staff for the Heritage Day.**

**Resolved:** That an additional storage room cannot be provided.

**Emergency Items**

**To resolve to exclude the public for the following item pursuant to Regulation 4 (3) and (5) of Statutory Instrument 2001 No. 2290 and Paragraph 15 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.**

**Resolved:** That the press and public are removed from the Meeting.

**To receive a request from Cllr APH Davies for the Clerk to obtain permission from the Council to write to Welsh Water and Leeder Management regarding the drainage issue in the site above the Cemetery.**

The Members discussed the issue.

**Resolved:** That the Council approves the request for the Clerk to write to Welsh Water and Leeder Management regarding the drainage issue in the housing site above the Cemetery.

**Cllr A Wingrave  
Chair**