

COEDFFRANC COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council Meeting held on 12th August 2015 at Carnegie Hall.

Attendance: Cllrs A Wingrave, M Harvey, P Davies, J Thomas, K Whitehead Ross, P Fellows.

Part Attendance: Cllrs JS Jones.

179: Apologies: Cllrs I Whitehead Ross, R Didcote, HR Richards, B Richards, APH Davies, HC Clarke.

180: To receive Declarations of Interest.

Cllr K Whitehead Ross declared an interest in item 196 and left the room during discussions. Cllr P Fellows declared in interest in item 183 and did not take part in 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.

Cllr JS Jones arrived at this stage.

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

a) Council Meeting held on 15th July 2015

Approved as a true and accurate record.

b) Personnel Committee Meeting held on 15th July 2015.

Approved as a true and accurate record.

c) Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 22nd July 2015

Approved as a true and accurate record.

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

The Clerk reported that she had received a response from the Community Council's Insurance Provider, and that they are satisfied with the rocks in Jersey Marine Playground.

The Clerk reported that she had not contacted NPTCBC to make enquiries about the future use of the Llandarcy Institute as yet, in case it jeopardised discussions that Cllr A Wingrave has been conducting on this issue. The Members agreed that formal contact from the Community Council should be delayed until Cllr Wingrave has completed her negotiations and informs the Clerk to proceed with formal contact.

183: 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 £11,443.74. Account No's 189 and 234 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.

184: To receive an explanation from the Clerk concerning Account No's: 173 and 188.

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

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185: Planning Applications:

P2015/0515 – ATM Machine and 1 Internally Illuminated ATM Surround. Block C Fabian Way, Crymlyn Burrows. (Applicant – Santander).

No observations.

P2015/0600 – Retention and completion of roads and drainage. West of Heathland, Coed Darcy. (Applicant – St Modwen Development).

No observations.

P2015/0629 – 4 Internally illuminated projected signs. Land off Fabian Way, Crymlyn Burrows. (Applicant – St Modwen Developments).

No observations.

P2015/0658 – Installation of chiller plant and condenser units. Amazon, Crymlyn Burrows. (Applicant – Amazon, Crymlyn Burrows).

No observations.

P2015/0592 – Installation of above ground storage tank and two dispensers. Skewen Service Station, Layby off A465. (Applicant – Malthurst Petroleum Ltd).

No observations.

P2015/0682 – Outdoor sports facilities including 2 multi-use games area with 12 No. 6m high lighting columns, 3m high boundary fencing, half basketball court, sand volleyball court and associated hard and soft landscaping. Bay Campus, Fabian Way, Jersey Marine, Neath SA1 8EN. (Applicant – Swansea University, c/o Agent).

No observations.

P2015/0683 – Construction of 11 dwellings plus associated car parking and pumping station. (Re-plan of Plots 295-302, previously approved under Planning Permission P2011/0880). Phase 1B, Coed Darcy, Llandarcy, Neath. (Applicant – Mrs Sarah Edwards, Permisson Homes West Wales, Dragon House, Parc Y Ddraig, Penllergaer Business Park, Swansea SA4 9HJ).

No observations.

P2015/0668 – Variation of Condition 2 (Specifications of Approved Development) and Condition 20 (Construction and Traffic Management Plan) to allow additional options with regards to access and delivery routes, and to agree details in association with condition 20 of Planning Permission P2010/1148 granted on appeal 27/08/13. Mynydd y Gelli, Near Abergwynfi, Port Talbot. (Applicant – Mr Lee Watt, Games Energy UK Ltd, Braidhurst House, 1 Finch Way, Strathclyde Business Park, Bellshill, ML4 3PE).

No observations.

P2015/0720 – Retention of 40 No. dock enclosures to existing loading bay doors. Amazon, Ffordd Amazon, Crymlyn Burrows, Swansea Sa1 8QX. (Applicant – Mr Chris Gribbin, Amazon, Ffordd Amazon, Crymlyn Burrows, Swansea SA1 8QX).

No observations.

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Late Application: P2015/0322 – change of use from offices (B1) to children’s day nursery with associated external play area. Heritage House, Britannic Way, Llandarcy. (Applicant – Mrs Chapman-O’Kane, 2 Talcennau Road, Port Talbot).

No observations.

P2015/0648 – Construction of a 5 Storey residential block (Building 12) comprising 69 residential student bed spaces, offices, seminar rooms and associated works. Swansea Bay Campus, Fabian Way, Jersey Marine, Neath. (Applicant – St Modwen Developments, c/o Agent..)

No observations.

P2015/0649 - Reserved Matters approval for Buildings 13, 14, 17 & 18 including 469 residential student bed spaces and associated works including public realm works and temporary car parking. (Outline Planning Permission P2010/0222). Swansea Bay Campus, Fabian Way, Jersey Marine, Neath. (Applicant – St. Modwen Developments, c/o Agents)

No observations.

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

The Clerk reported that she had attended the NPTCBC Liaison Forum on the 27th July 2015 and reported on the discussions:

Budget Briefing

Hywel Jenkins reported that Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council had a funding gap of approximately £15,459 million for the next financial year before further Directorate Savings. It was also reported that due the Chancellors Budget on the 8th July 2015 further savings might be needed. It was reported that the Welsh Assembly Government will not carry out their Review until 25th November 2015, which will leave the timelines for NPTCBC to set their budget incredibly tight. It was also noted that going forward the introduction of a National Living Wage would result in an additional £2.8 million in staff costs by 2020. It was reported that there will be a Consultation Event on the 7th September 2015 for everyone to give their views.

Community Transformation Fund

It was reported that NPTCBC do not have plans to introduce the scheme in line with the City & County of Swansea. It was reported that NPTCBC currently offers support using various existing schemes, and that approximately 70 Assets have already been transferred to Community Groups, Sporting Groups and Community Councils. These Assets include Sports Fields, Bowling Greens, Play Areas and Community Buildings. It was reported that NPTCBC has supported the applicant throughout the transfer process of these Assets, and have offered reduced costs initially with regard to the Lease Agreements. It was reported that NPTCBC already work with various types of organisations to support them through the process of Asset Transfers, and do not generally look for a Business Plan led approach. Additionally, it was reported that initiatives such as the Minor Project Grant offer better value than a Community Transformation Fund.

187: To receive a report from the Personnel Committee.

The information was noted by the Members.

188: To receive a report from the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

- 3) **Resolved:** That Qtr1's Accounts are approved.
- 4) The Aged Debtors were noted.
- 5) The Vandalism Report for Qtr. 1 was noted.

189: To discuss/approve Regulations for Coedffranc Cemetery.

The Members discussed the issue. It was suggested that a minimum size for head stones should be added to the Cemetery Regulations, as well as having a maximum size of headstone. It was agreed that the Clerk should discuss the issue with the Park Superintendent and agree a minimum size.

Resolved: That a minimum size of head stone is added to Cemetery Regulations, and that the Cemetery Regulations are approved once the amendment has been made.

190: To discuss/approve the Standing Orders for Coedffranc Community Council.

The Members discussed the issue.

Resolved: That the Standing Orders are approved.

191: To discuss/approve the Financial Regulations for Coedffranc Community Council.

The Clerk reported that all the references to the Accounts and Audit Regulation would need to be updated due to changes in the Legislation. The Members discussed the issue.

Resolved: That the Financial Regulations are approved with the amendments suggested by the Clerk.

192: To receive a letter from the Skewen and District Historical Society regarding the Memorial Gates at Tennant Park.

The Clerk reported that she had been contacted by the Skewen and District Historical Society regarding the condition on the Memorial Gates in Tennant Park. The Clerk explained that the land that the gates are situated on is not owned by Coedffranc Community Council, and that the route from Tennant Park to the main road is a Right of Way, which should be maintained by NPTCBC.

The Members discussed the issue. It was agreed that the Clerk should attempt to try to find out who owns the land before any decisions are taken.

Resolved: That the Clerk should try to find out who owns the land that covers the Right of Way where the gates are located.

193: To discuss if the Clerk should email any Councillors Newsletters to the Members, considering that not all Members are actually providing the Newsletters to the Clerk for circulation as raised by Cllr A Wingrave.

The Members discussed the issue. It was reported that some Community Councillors are really concerned about the inaccuracies in some of the Councillors Newsletters, and that not all the facts of issues are being reported. It was stated that all Community Councillors should be aware that all decisions taken by the Community Council are taken democratically, and therefore, every Member should stand by the decisions taken, and not criticise the Community Council in the public domain.

Resolved: That the Clerk minutes the following statement for the Members information:

“All Community Councillors should be aware that all decisions taken by the Community Council are taken democratically, and therefore, every Member should stand by the decisions taken, and not criticise the Community Council in the public domain”.

194: To receive a request for Financial Assistance from Skewen Bowls Club.

The Members discussed the issue.

Resolved: That a donation of £200 is approved.

195: To receive a letter of complaint about the Community Council’s decision not to allow a tablet headstone in Plot R of the Cemetery, because it contravened the Rules and Regulations.

The Members discussed the issue. The Members reported that they sympathise with the family, but that the decision taken at the last meeting should be upheld. It was stated that if the Community Council agree to the type of head stone requested, it would set a precedent for other families to request a variation from the Rules and Regulations.

Resolved: That the previous decision is upheld. The Clerk was asked to provide the family with another copy of the Rules and Regulations and the Cover Letter that was received with the Exclusive Right of Burial when the grave was purchased, which states that by purchasing a grave you are accepting the Terms and Conditions set out by the Community Council.

196: To receive/respond if appropriate to a Project Consultation from Ian Whitehead-Ross Education & Consultancy.

The Members discussed the issue.

Resolved: That the Community Council provided a letter of support.

197: To receive an invitation to attend the NPTCBC Partnership Event regarding the Council Budget to be held on Monday 7th September 2015 in the Princess Royal Theatre in Port Talbot.

The information was noted by the Members.

198: To receive information from NPTCBC regarding the tree survey for all Community Council sites.

The Clerk reported that NPTCBC are unable to carry out work for the Community Council because they are unable to undertake all their own work and already contract work out. The Clerk reported that she had been given details of the contractor that NPTCBC use, and had already contacted the contractor and received a quote for the work.

The Members discussed the issue.

Resolved: That the company that NPTCBC use for their consultancy work should be appointed to carry out the work.

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199: To discuss if the Community Council should employ an additional Handy Man on a Temporary Fixed Term Contract to catch up on the outstanding workload as raised by Cllr A Wingrave.

Cllr A Wingrave reported that the list of ongoing work for the Handy Man is continuing to increase, and that it would be beneficial to appoint a second Handy Man on a short Fixed Term Contract.

The Members discussed the issue.

Resolved: That a second Handy Man should be appointment on a Fixed Term Contract for six months.

200: Correspondence.

a) Notification of a Planning Aid Wales workshop on 15th September 2015 at Neath Town Hall 5pm -8pm.

The information was noted by the Members.

b) To receive a Statement from the Welsh Government regarding the Care Home Review and Responses from Statutory Bodies.

The information was noted by the Members.

**Cllr H Bebell
Chair**