

## COEDFFRANC COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### **Minutes of a Meeting of the Council Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at Carnegie Hall.**

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

#### **234: Apologies.**

Cllrs R Didcote, K Whitehead-Ross, B Richards, H R Richards, JAM Davies, D K Davies, P Fellowes.

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

None.

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.

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

##### **a) Council Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2015.**

Approved as a true and accurate record.

##### **b) Project Development Committee held on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2015.**

Approved as a true and accurate record.

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

None.

#### **238: 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 £8,609.71. Account No's 285 and 287 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.

#### **239: To receive an explanation from the Clerk concerning Account No's: 281 and 283.**

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

#### **240: Planning Applications:**

**P2015/0830 – Two storey rear extension and single storey side and rear extension. 14 New Road, Jersey Marine, Neath SA10 6JR. (Applicant – Mr Giovanni Carlo Aprea, 14 School Road, Jersey Marine, Neath SA10 6JJ).**

No Observations.

**P2015/0862 – One Detached split level dwelling with associated off street car parking. Land to the rear of 18 Sidings Terrace, Skewen, Neath SA10 6RE. (Applicant – Ms Lydia Rise, 3 Dundaff Close, Camberley, Surrey GU15 1AF).**

No Observations.

#### **Late Applications:**

**P2015/0871 – External alterations including creation of new access doors to front elevation, ramped access with handrails and external bin storage area.**

**42 Burrows Road, Skewen, Neath SA10 6AB. (Applicant – Mr Jagbir Singh, 4 Mount Crescent, Murrison, Swansea SA6 6AP).**

No Observations.

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

Cllrs H Bebell, P Bebell and M Harvey reported that they attended the Mayoral Civic Service for Mayor Cllr APH Davies at The Orangery and thoroughly enjoyed the day. Cllr I Whitehead-Ross reported that he had attended Crymlyn Primary School's AGM and reported that the Head-Teacher is settling in well to her new role.

**242: To receive a report from the Project Development Committee.**

Cllr Ian Whitehead Ross reported that the first Project Development Committee took place last month and although there was only three Members in attendance, Paul Hinder made a presentation regarding applying for grant funding. Cllr Whitehead-Ross suggested that the next meeting should be called for the last week in October 2015.

**243: To receive a Clerks Report and Guidance documents, and discuss/respond if appropriate, to a Shared Future – Draft Statutory Guidance for the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.**

The Clerk reported on the implications of the Guidance and the Statutory Duties that any Community Council with a Precept of over £200,000 will have to comply with. The Clerk reported that just on the administrative side for the Reporting and Monitoring of the Statutory Duties, significant additional hours would be needed, because she and the Clerical Assistant only work part time, and therefore, this substantial additional workload could not be completed within the existing hours. The Clerk reported that there could also be other staffing costs depending on what type of objectives are put forward by the Local Public Service Board in the Well Being Plan. Running alongside this, there could be a very substantial cost for translation of documents into Welsh. The Clerk also reported that it was impossible to try and set these costs into the budget whilst setting the Precept for the next financial year as recommended by the Guidelines, because with knowing what the objectives are going to be, it is not possible to know what cost implications it will have on the Community Council. Furthermore, the Clerk reported that she felt that it is ridiculous to publish the Guidelines for Consultation after the Well-being Act is already in place. The Members discussed the issue at length. It was reported that it is not acceptable for all the extra Statutory Duties to be imposed onto Community Councils. It was stated that despite the lengthy consultation documents they do not actually give any specific information on what will be expected of Community Council's going forward.

**Resolved:** That the Clerk drafts a response to the Guidance on behalf of the Community Council to outline their grievances.

**244: To receive information from the Welsh Government regarding the Public Service Boards Conference 2015 to be held on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff.**

The Members discussed the issue.

**Resolved:** That the Clerk requests an invitation to the Conference.

**245: To receive the Certified and Approved Annual Return for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 from the External Auditors Mazars.**

The Members discussed the matter.

**Resolved:** That the Members note the Approval of the Annual Return without any comments from the External Auditors. The Clerk was thanked for her work.

**246: To receive a Written Statement by Welsh Government regarding the Responses to the Consultation on Landfill Disposals Tax.**

The information was noted by the Members

**247: To receive and respond if appropriate to a Consultation from the Wales Audit Office on fee scales for the external audit.**

The Members discussed the issue.

**Resolved:** That the charges are noted due to a decrease in the fees to Coedffranc Community Council.

**248: To receive and respond if appropriate to a Consultation from NPTCBC regarding the Active Travel Existing Route Map.**

The information was noted by the Members.

**249: To receive and respond if appropriate to a Consultation from the Welsh Government regarding Revision of Planning Policy Wales Chapter 10 Retail Centre Development.**

The information was noted by the Members.

**250: To consider if Cllr Ron Didcote should receive a Special Dispensation not to attend Council Meetings for a period in excess of six months due to ill health as raised by Cllr APH Davies.**

The Members discussed the issue.

**Resolved:** That Cllr R Didcote should receive a Special Dispensation not to attend Council Meetings for an additional 6 months.

**251: To receive/discuss/approve quotes for the removal/disposal and replacement of the pathway in Skewen Park (Pen-yr-Alley gate to central roadway).**

The Clerk reported that the Formal Tender process had been followed, and that the sealed bids were opened by the Vice Chair of the Finance Committee along with the Clerk on the 16<sup>th</sup> September 2015. The Clerk reported that the specification had been provided by NPTCBC, and that the Contractors chosen to quote were taken of NPTCBC's Approved Contractors list.

The Members discussed the issue.

**Resolved:** That the Members agree to go ahead with the middle priced Tender, which was from Ian Davies Plant.

**252: To discuss if the next stage of the removal/disposal and replacement of paths in Skewen Park should progress.**

The Clerk queried if the next stage of the replacement of pathways in Skewen Park should proceed. The Clerk reported that the path running from below the paddling pool, underneath the crazy golf and bowling greens is in a bad state of repair, and therefore, this should be the next stage to be completed.

The Members discussed the issue.

**Resolved:** That the Council agree that the Path should be replaced. However, the Clerk was asked to conduct research into what type of path would be best in the area because of the trees running alongside the pathway. The Clerk was asked to get a specification to include tree root barriers, or investigate different types of pathways. It was agreed that the Clerk would report back to the Members at a future meeting.

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**253: To receive a request from the Committee of Jersey Marine Community Centre to use the hall as a drop in centre for donations of clothing for the refugees in Europe.**

The Members discussed the issue.

**Resolved:** That Jersey Marine Community Centre should remain closed due to Health and Safety reasons, and that the Clerk should write to the Committee and inform them that permission to re-open the Hall would not be granted, and suggest other drop off points that are already up and running.

**254: To receive an update from the Post Office regarding the Temporary Closure in Cefn Parc Post Office.**

The Members discussed the issue.

**Resolved:** That the Clerk writes to the Post Office to recommend that the Sub Post Office gets relocated to C & C Convenience Stores, 47 Burrows Rd, Skewen.

**255: To receive information from NPTCBC regarding the Review of the Gambling Act 2005 – Draft Statement of Principles – 2016.**

The information was noted by the Members

**256: To receive and approve the Remuneration Report for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015.**

The Members discussed the issue.

**Resolved:** That the Remuneration Report for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 is approved.

**257: To receive a request from the Survivors of Stroke Wales to waive the cost of the Memorial Hall for a Tea Dance.**

The Members discussed the issue.

**Resolved:** That a donation should be given to cover the cost.

**258: Correspondence.**

None.

**259: To receive information from Cllr J Thomas regarding booking for a Christmas Dinner to follow the Council Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> December (Dinner at own expense, and this item is on the Agenda for information only).**

The information was noted by the Members

**260: 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 excluded from the Meeting.

**261: To receive a request from a member of staff for a company loan.**

The Members discussed the issue.

**Resolved:** That the request for a loan is granted.

**262: To receive a request from a member of staff for a company loan.**

The Members discussed the issue.

**Resolved:** That the request for a loan is granted.