

COEDFFRANC COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council Meeting held on 16th December 2015 at Carnegie Hall.

Attendance: Cllrs DK Davies, HR Richards, P Bebell, H Bebell, JS Jones, M Harvey, P Davies, J Thomas, I Whitehead Ross, K Whitehead Ross, HC Clarke.

342: Apologies: Cllrs R Didcote, B Richards, J Davies, A Wingrave, APH Davies.

343: To receive Declarations of Interest.

Cllr HR Richards declared an interest in item 354 and left the room during the discussions. Cllr HC Clarke declared an interest in item 351.

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.

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

a) Council Meeting held on 2nd December 2015.

Approved as a true and accurate record.

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

The Clerk reported that she is still chasing for the Section 106 money for Llandarcy to be released and that the Council's Solicitor is checking what is causing the delay.

346: 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 £9,351.53. Account No's 457 and 458 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.

347: To receive an explanation from the Clerk concerning Account No's: 443 and 445.

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

348: Planning Applications:

P2015/1038 – Part single part two storey rear extension, raised decked area and garage. 127 Dynevor Rd, Skewen, Neath SA10 6TH. (Applicant – Mr David Davies, 92 Penydre, Neath).

No observations.

P2015/1076 – Replacement of garage door with window to facilitate garage conversion plus widening of existing drive to accommodate replacement car parking space. 17 Crymlyn Gardens, Skewen, Neath SA10 6EU. (Applicant – Mr Robert Stephens, 17 Crymlyn Gardens, Skewen, Neath)

No observations.

P2015/1086 – Consultation from Marine Licensing Permitting Service for dredging disposal of dredged material from marina basin. Monkstone Marina, Jersey Marine, Neath. (Applicant – Cerys Hodson, Maes Newydd, Britanic Way, Neath SA10 6JQ).

No observations.

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Late Application: P2015/1042 – Engineering works, including gabion basket retaining works to facilitate stabilisation of the rockface. Phase 1B Coed Darcy, Llandarcy, Neath. (Applicant – Mr Neil Williams c/o Agent,,,,).

No observations.

Late Application: P2015/1068 – Lawful development certificate for an existing ground floor rear extension. 1 Park Ave, Lonlas, Neath. (Applicant - Mrs Annette Dowdell, 1 Park Ave, Lonlas, Neath SA10 6RA).

No observations.

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

The Clerk and Cllr John Thomas reported that they had attended the SLCC larger Councils Forum and that the meeting had been very informative. Cllr Thomas reported that Claire Germain from the Welsh Government had provided two presentations, one regarding the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and one on the Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill.

Cllr I Whitehead Ross reported that he had attended the Governors AGM for Crymlyn Primary School and a Christmas Carol Concert held by Crymlyn Primary School.

350: To receive a letter from Skewen & District Industrial Heritage Association asking if the Community council would agree to display a further two items of memorabilia from BP Llandarcy in Carnegie Hall.

The Members discussed the content of the letter.

Resolved: That permission to display two further items of memorabilia from BP Llandarcy is approved.

351: To receive a letter from Peter Black AM regarding the condition of the pitches in Tennant Park.

The Members discussed the content of the letter.

Cllr H Bebell reported that he, the Clerk, and the Park Superintendent had conducted a site visit in Tennant Park and met with the Site Forman of the Hale Development Site to discuss the Council's concerns about the ditch between the sites being partly filled in and partly diverted. The Clerk read out an extract of the Planning Conditions for the development which states "There must be no interference, alteration or diversion of any ditch, watercourse, stream or culvert crossing or bordering the site, without the written agreement of the Local Planning Authority". Cllr H Bebell reported that no such agreement has been given, and that he has asked for the Planning Enforcement Officer to investigate the issue.

The Clerk reported that she has been given an email address to contact the management of the Hale Development.

Resolved: That the Clerk contacts Hale to inform them that the Council would like the drainage ditch re-instated as a matter of urgency, and that she apprises Peter Black AM of the Community Council's actions.

352: To receive a letter from Skewen & District Historical Society regarding Skewen Library.

The Members discussed the content of the letter.

Resolved: That the Clerk should inform the Historical Society that the information in their letter has been noted.

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353: To receive information from Lloyds Bank regarding the closure of the Skewen Branch.

The Clerk read out a letter from Robert Arbourne from Jeffries Stores regarding an offer to install a cash dispensing machine in Jeffries Stores or next door.

The Members discussed the content of the letter from Lloyds Bank.

It was stated that the Skewen Branch is only currently open for 2 days per week, and that the proposed closure would cause hardship for the residents of Coedffranc. It was stated that some elderly and disadvantaged residents may not be able to get into the Neath Branch of Lloyds, and that parking around the vicinity of the Neath Branch of Lloyds is difficult. It was also reported that some people still prefer to do their banking face to face rather than on line.

Resolved: That the Clerks writes a letter of objection regarding the closure of the Skewen Branch of Lloyds.

354: To receive a response from the Post Office regarding the relocation of Cefn Parc Post Office.

The Members felt disappointed by the Post Office's refusal to use C&C Stores as a Post Office. The Councillors disagreed with the view of the Post Office that C&C Stores is too close to Jeffries Stores. In the discussions it was stated that Cefn Parc Post Office used to serve the neighbouring areas of Llandarcy, Jersey Marine and Crymlyn Burrows. It was felt that the people living in these areas would use a Post Office service in C&C Stores, but would not travel in the central Skewen to use Jeffries Stores because of parking difficulties in central Skewen.

Resolved: That the Clerk should write to the Post Office to inform them that the Council disagree with the view that C&C Stores is too close to Jeffries Stores, and request that the Post Office re-consider their decision.

355: To receive and respond if appropriate to the NPTCBC Fabian Way Innovation Corridor Masterplan Framework Consultation document.

The information was noted by the Members.

356: To discuss/decide if Coedffranc Community Council should put forward an objection to NPTCBC regarding the possible closure of Skewen Library before the consultation period ends as raised by Cllr DK Davies.

Cllr DK Davies reported that he had written a letter of objection to NPTCBC regarding the proposed closure of Skewen Library. Cllr DK Davies reported that the assumed 3% reduction in the budget from the Welsh Government is now known to be only 0.5%. Cllr DK Davies reported that the economic case for Baglan is much weaker than that of Skewen because the figures quoted in the Consultation Document state that there are 10,767 less visits and issues in Baglan Library than in Skewen Library. Cllr DK Davies suggested that as the decision to close Skewen Library has not actually been taken yet, the Community Council should write to object to its closure.

The Members discussed the issue.

Resolved: That the Clerk should write to NPTCBC to object to the closure of Skewen Library, but should note that if the closure is announced, that the Community Council's earlier Expression of Interest to keep a library service in the Coedffranc area is still valid.

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357: Correspondence.

a) To receive a response from NPTCBC regarding the car park for the SSSI site and beach on Fabian Way.

The Members discussed the information provided in the response.

Resolved: That the Clerk writes to NPTCBC to request that instead of the car park being pay and display to discourage students and employees from the University using the carpark, that consideration is given to limiting parking to 1 – 2 hours maximum, with no return within 2 hours. The Members felt that this would be a more satisfactory way of restricting parking, because it will not penalise the general public who want to use the SSSI Site or beach.

b) To receive the “Positive Planning Implementation Plan” from the Welsh Government.

The information was noted by the Members.

358: 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.

359: To receive a request from a Member of staff for a loan.

The Members discussed the request.

Resolved: That permission is granted.

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The Members discussed the request.

Resolved: That permission is granted.

**Cllr H Bebell
Chair**