

COEDFFRANC COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council Meeting held on 22nd January 2014 at Carnegie Hall.

Attendance: Cllrs APH Davies, J Davies, B Richards, R Didcote, P Bebell, H Bebell, A Wingrave, JS Jones, M Harvey, P Davies, J Thomas, I Whitehead Ross, K Whitehead Ross, P Fellows, HC Clarke.

Mr Viv Griffiths presented two photos to Cllr A Wingrave for the Council's collection of Historical photos.

9594: Apologies: Cllrs DK Davies, HR Richards.

9595: To receive Declarations of Interest.

Cllrs APH Davies and P Bebell declared an interest in item 9600 as Members of the Planning Committee. They left the room during discussions.

Cllrs I Whitehead Ross and K Whitehead Ross declared an interest in item 9602 item 5 Carnegie Hall.

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.

9596: To approve and sign the Minutes of Previous meetings: -

a) Council Meeting held on 8th January 2014.

Approved as a true and accurate record.

b) Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 15th January 2014.

Approved as a true and accurate record.

9597: Matters arising from the minutes. (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

Cllr A Wingrave reported that she had received a complaint from one of the Members about the topic of the Councillors trip to Croyde Bay being on the last Agenda. The Clerk confirmed that the proposed trip is not being funded by the Council, and is being run by Councillors for any Councillors and their partners who might be interested. The Clerk confirmed that it is not illegal to put issues on the Agenda for informational purposes. The Clerk reported that the reason the topic was put onto the Agenda, was so that all Members were aware that the trip was being organised. The Clerk added that if the topic was just mentioned at the start or finish of a meeting, Members who were not present at that particular meeting would be unaware that the trip was being organised.

Cllr H Bebell reminded the Members that Community Councillors are not paid, and therefore, the time given up by the Members to attend Council Meetings is not at the public's expense, and that discussing informational items such as this at Council Meetings is not costing the tax payer anything.

Cllr A Wingrave suggested that an item should be put onto the next Agenda to discuss how to deal with this type of issue in the future.

9598: 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 £7,172.66. Account No's 510 and 511 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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9599: To receive an explanation from the Clerk concerning Account No's: 470 and 481.

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

9600: Planning Applications: -

Late Application: P2014/0028 – Ground Floor rear extension with void basement area beneath. Café 81 New Road, Skewen. (Applicant – Mr Cresi, 81 New Road, Skewen).

No observations.

Late Application: P2014/0025- proposed two storey extension to rear of dwelling. 38 Wern Road, Skewen. (Applicant – Mr Baily).

No observations.

Late Application: P2014/0003 – Two storey side extension, and single storey rear extension. 11 Parc Bryn, Skewen. (Applicant – Mr Beynon, 11 Parc Bryn, Skewen).

No observations.

Late Application: P2014/0052 - Variation of condition 1 of planning application P2012/1033 (Approved on the 22nd Jan 2013) to extend the date for commencement of development by 12 months. Cefn Lodge Nursing Home, Cefn Parc, Skewen. (Applicant – Mr Jenkins Cefn Lodge Nursing Home, Cefn Parc, Skewen).

The Members reported that the original application for this site was placed in 1996/97. The Members queried how long an application can be extended for.

9601: To receive a report from any Member concerning meetings at which he or she represented the Council.

Cllr APH Davies reported that he had attended the NPTCBC Liaison Forum where budgetary issues had been discussed.

9602: To receive a report from the Finance Committee.

Cllr APH Davies reported on the Meeting.

2) To approve Qtr 3's Accounts.

Resolved: That Qtr 3's Accounts are approved.

3) To receive details of the Aged Debtors

The information was noted by the Members.

4) To receive details of the Vandalism for Qtr 3.

The information was noted by the Members.

5) To set the fees and charges for 2014/15.

Resolved: That the following should apply:

Memorial Hall: No increase in the fees, but the VAT charge that the Council has paid for the last year will be passed onto the public for the new financial year.

Carnegie Hall: No increase in the fees.

Access Licence: No increase in the fees.

Sports Permits: No increase in the fees.

Cemetery: A 5% increase in charges plus the out of area surcharge will be increased from £50.00 to £100.00 for the new financial year.

6) See Below.

9603: To set the Precept for 2014/15.

It was reported that a nil % increase to each household would result in £8,803 more precept from NPTCBC, and that if there was a nil % increase to the tax payer, it would give the Council an overall Precept from NPTCBC of £322,078.

It was noted that efforts had been made to cut the revenue budget where ever possible and in fact budget savings of £13,472 had been made to the net revenue running costs.

A nil % increase to each household would give the Council a Capital Budget of £61,260 which is an increase in the Capital Budget of £18,563 compared to last year.

It was also noted that the Net Wages, PAYE and Insurance Budgets had been calculated on expectations.

Capital Budget

Cost of purchasing new parks machinery equipment

£5,000.00

Playground Safety Tiles

£1,000.00

It was recommended that the remaining Capital Budget of £55,260 should not be allocated to any specific project until further discussion had taken place.

Ear marked reserves carried forward:

Flooring in Caewathan Community Centre £3,275

Parks Equipment £1,945

The Members discussed the issue.

Resolved: That there is a nil % increase to the tax payer

9604: To receive a copy of the TASC Update from NPTCBC.

The information was noted by the Members.

9605: To receive information regarding the Post Office Advisory Council

The information was noted by the Members.

9606: To receive information about a possible source of funding as raised by Cllr

Cllr I Whitehead Ross reported that there is a new source of funding available. The Members agreed that he should investigate when the information becomes available and report back at a future meeting.

The Clerk gave an update on the People and Places bid, and reported that the Council had been asked to submit their Application on a revised form. The Clerk informed the Members that unfortunately the deadline had been missed, and that the Application will now be re-summitted for the next round of Applications.

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9607: To discuss purchasing playground equipment for Skewen Park out of the remaining Capital Budget as raised by Cllr A Wingrave.

Cllr A Wingrave reported that she would like to use the remaining Capital Budget for Playground equipment for Skewen Park. The Clerk reported that the remaining Capital Budget stands at £12,000.

The Members discussed the issue. It was suggested that the equipment should be for the under 5 age group, and that the possibility of having equipment that could be used by disabled children should be investigated.

Resolved: That Cllr A Wingrave and the Clerk should investigate what could be obtained for £12,000 and report back to the next meeting with three suggestions.

9608: Correspondence.

a) To receive notification from WAG that you can have your say on changes to the Planning System by commenting on A draft Planning Bill and a broader consultation Document called 'Positive Planning' which aims to change the culture of planning.

Cllr I Whitehead Ross reported that he would like to comment on the documents.

**Cllr A Wingrave
Chair**