

COEDFFRANC COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council Meeting held on 5th February 2014 at Carnegie Hall.

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

9609: To receive a presentation from representatives from the Swansea Bay Campus Development.

Ali Parker, Ceri Jones and Robin Benson represented Swansea Bay Campus Development. The Members were told that local suppliers are being encouraged to tender for works and services, and suppliers training events were taking place. They reported that liaison meetings are taking place with the Local Authority Councillors and local schools regarding the construction phase of the project.

It was reported that the project would create 10,000 direct and indirect jobs.

Robin Benson reported that he undertaking community liaison and is working with students, police, social services and the general public amongst others to try and resolve issues and complaints. He reported that since he started in post in September 2013 he has only had to deal with 100 complaints which considering he oversees 32,000 students is a low number. He reported that 80% of the complaints had been resolved satisfactorily and said that public perception tended to be more negative than reality.

The representatives were asked if information on complaints had been collated historically and asked if any research had taken place into non-reported complaints. The Members were informed that the information had not been collated historically but were now being collated following Robins appointment last September and that there are not statistics on non-reported complaints.

The representatives were asked how many new students would be expected and the Members were informed that a 20% increase was expected, and that 917 new students' residencies would be created.

It was reported that there had only been 4 complaints about the construction of the University. The Members were informed that the name of the development would be Bay Campus.

9610: Apologies: Cllrs I Whitehead Ross, B Richards, HR Richards, J Davies, M Harvey.

The Chair reminded Members that apologies should be made by the individual Member directly to the Clerk whenever possible, and not through the Chair of the Council or other Members attending the Council Meeting.

9611: To receive Declarations of Interest.

Cllrs APH Davies and P Bebell declared an interest in item 9616 as Members of the Planning Committee. They left the room during discussions.

Cllr APH Davies declared an interest in item 9620.

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.

9612: To approve and sign the Minutes of Previous meetings: -

a) Council Meeting held on 22nd January 2014.

Approved as a true and accurate record.

b) Festival Committee Meeting held on 22nd January 2014.

Approved as a true and accurate record.

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9613: Matters arising from the minutes. (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

None.

9614: 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 £3,498.01. Account No's 513 and 520 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.

9615: To receive an explanation from the Clerk concerning Account No's: 510 and 511.

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

9616: Planning Applications: -

P2014/0064 – Single Storey extension to garage. 1 Brookville Drive, Skewen (Applicant – Mr Paul Jutsum – 1 Brookville Drive, Skewen)

No observations.

P2012/0581 – Variation of Condition 31 to amend the details of the landscape buffer including its size, of Planning Permission P2008/0514 granted on the 30/09/2011 (amended description, revised illustrative layout plan and revised landscaping scheme.) Land North of Elba Crescent, Crymlyn Burrows. (Applicant - Gracelands Investments, Castleton Baptist Church, Newport Road, Castleton, Newport CF3 2UR)

Objections made because the Members feel that the buffer zone should remain the same size because by reducing the buffer, it could lead to a potential diminishing appeal to prospective purchasers.

9617: To receive a report from any Member concerning meetings at which he or she represented the Council.

None.

9618: To receive a report from the Festival Committee.

Cllr A Wingrave reported on the meeting. It was noted that the Mayor of NPTCBC should have been on the attendance list for the Official Opening of the Skate Park. It was also noted that the children originally involved with the project could not be located to be invited to the Official Opening.

Resolved: That all the recommendations are approved.

9619: To receive information from NPTCBC regarding the Alternative Sites Statutory Public Consultation for the Local Development Plan running from 28th January 2014 – 10th March 2014.

The information was noted by the Members.

9620: To receive a request from the Skewen Historical Society regarding their Storage Cupboard arrangements.

Cllr A Wingrave informed the Members that she and the Clerk had met with the Historical Society regarding the disputed payment for an outstanding invoice for storage for 2013/14. Cllr Wingrave reported that the group were under the impression that the storage charge would be waived following a meeting with her and Cllr HR Richards in August 2012. The representatives who attended the meeting were informed that this was not the case because individual Members cannot act or make decisions on the Council's behalf.

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Cllr Wingrave reported that the group had requested an additional storage cupboard because they were victims of their own success and were desperately short on storage space.

The Historical Society asked if the Council would consider providing one cupboard free of charge and paying for the second cupboard.

It was reported that discussions had taken place on which cupboards would be the most beneficial. It was suggested that if the Council were prepared to change cupboards with the Skewen Historical Society that they would only need the one cupboard because it is almost as large as the two cupboards that were originally being requested.

Cllr Wingrave reported that the cupboards in the Council's room would have to be taken upstairs or disposed of with the contents going into the Council's Storage/Archive Room upstairs.

The Members discussed the request

Resolved: That the Council would swap Storage Rooms with the Historical Society if the outstanding invoice was paid in full, and the group agreed to a revised hire charge of £4.50 per week for the larger Storage Room.

9621: To receive a request from Skewen Park Players to have a storage cupboard.

The Members discussed the request.

Resolved: That permission is granted at the charge of £3.25 per week.

9622: To discuss and decide if the Community Council should continue to keep part of their investment portfolio with Neath Port Talbot Credit Union.

The Clerk reported that NPTCBC do not currently hold any of their investment portfolio with NPT Credit Union.

The Members discussed the information.

Resolved: That the Clerk should investigate the current interest rates when the Bond held with Nat West expires in March/April of this year and report back to a future meeting. It was agreed that the Council would consider if the investment should remain in NPT Credit Union or be moved at that time.

9623: To discuss/agree how to deal with information provided by the Clerk or Members for informational purposes in the future.

It was reported that as Community Council Members are not paid, it is not possible to be wasting the tax payer's money by discussing informational items on the Agenda.

The Clerk reminded the Members that the only reason she had put this item on the Agenda was to ensure that every single Member was aware of the trip. It was clarified once again that the trip is at no expense to the Council.

The Members discussed the issue.

Resolved: That this type of item should remain on the Agenda and would be put as the last public item on the Agenda, and it would be noted that the item was for information only. It was also agreed that the trip should be opened up to the staff.

9624: To decide upon suitable play equipment for Skewen Park using the remaining Capital Budget.

The Members discussed the issue.

Resolved: That the quote from Sutcliff Play was approved.

9625: To receive information from Cllr I Whitehead Ross regarding the Welsh Assembly Government's Community Facilities Programme.

Deferred to the next meeting.

9626: To receive a report from Cllr I Whitehead Ross regarding the consultation on the changes to the Planning System.

Deferred to the next meeting.

9627: To receive information and request from Select Bus Company.

The Members discussed the issue.

Resolved: That permission is granted for them to discuss their concerns at the next Council Meeting on the 19th February 2014.

9628: To receive information from TATA steel.

The information was noted by the Members.

9629: Correspondence.

a) To receive a Consultation Document regarding "The Statement of Public Participation for the Welsh National Marine Plan" and respond if appropriate.

The information was noted by the Members.

b) To receive a Consultation Document regarding "Local Government Audit and Inspection fee scales 2014/15" and respond if appropriate.

The information was noted by the Members.

9630: 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 the public are removed.

9631: To receive a request from a Member of staff for a loan.

The Members discussed the request.

Resolved: That the request is approved.

It was noted that Cllr A Wingrave had been invited to Buckingham Palace for a Garden Party on the 21st May 2014.

**Cllr A Wingrave
Chair**