

COEDFFRANC COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council Meeting held on 1st October 2014 at Carnegie Hall.

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

9868: Apologies: Cllrs B Richards, H Bebell.

9869: To receive Declarations of Interest.

Cllrs A Wingrave and P Bebell declared an interest in item 9874 as Members of the Planning Committee. They left the room during discussions.

Cllr APH Davies declared an interest in item 9874 – P2014/0922 and left the room during the discussions.

Cllr M Harvey declared an interest in item 9879 and left the room during 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.

9870: To approve and sign the Minutes of Previous meetings: -

a) Council Meeting held on 17th September 2014.

Approved as a true and accurate record.

b) Festival Committee Meeting held on 17th September 2014.

Approved as a true and accurate record.

9871: Matters arising from the minutes. (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

None.

9872: 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 £2,533.77 Account No's 324 and 344 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.

9873: To receive an explanation from the Clerk concerning Account No's: 321 and 322.

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

9874: Planning Applications: -

Late Application P2014/0921 – Application for Hazardous Substances Consent for up to 80 tonnes of natural gas (LNG). Flogas Britain Ltd, Llandarcy SA10 6JY. (Applicant – Flogas Britain Ltd, 81 Rayns Way, Watermeas Business Park, System LE7 1PF)

No Observations.

Late Application P2014/0683 – Retention of dwelling and boundary treatments (Development previously approved under Planning Permission P2006/1484). 2A Oak Hill Park, Skewen, Neath SA10 6TB. (Applicant – Mr Peter Holmes, 2A Oak Hill Park, Skewen, Neath)

No Observations.

Cont...

Late Application P2014/0922 – Removal of Conditions 2, 3 & 4 (Code for Sustainable Homes) from Planning Permission P2013/1010 (Approved on the 3/12/2013) – Glas Y Dorlan, 65 Cardonnel Road, Skewen. (Applicant – Mr Arthur Davies, Glas Y Dorlan, 65 Cardonnel Road, Skewen, Neath SA10 6BS)
No Observations.

9875: To receive a report from any Member concerning meetings at which he or she represented the Council.

The Clerk reported that she and Cllr APH had attended the NPTCBC Liaison Forum.
Budget Briefing

Hywel Jenkins reported that Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council have to find a 4.5% reduction in their budget for the next financial year. It was reported that they operate a 450 million pound budget with a net budget of 270 million. He reported that NPTCBC would need to save 50 million over the next three years inclusive of a 23 million pounds reduction in the next year's budget.

A Partnership Meeting was held to discuss possible savings. As yet they have no information on what grants could become available from the Welsh Assembly Government.

Charter

Rhys George and Wendy Thomas gave an update on the issue. Karen Jones informed the group that the Task and Finish Group would meet again to discuss the issue once all the Town/Community Councils have had a chance to forward their responses to Wendy Thomas.

Web site Grant

It was reported that as yet, 3 of the Community Councils have made no attempt to claim their £500 grant.

Electoral Arrangements Review

Members were reminded that NPTCBC have a duty to periodically review the boundaries. It was reported that the review commenced in March 14 but a few anomalies have been raised by the Boundary Commission. Once work has been completed on the maps the document will be circulated for consultation and comments.

Flood Storm Prevention

Steve Owen from the Environment Agency gave an update on the works being done and reported that they are trying to re-engineer works and work smarter with the help of better weather forecasting technologies.

The information was noted by the members.

9876: To receive a report from the Festival Committee.

Cllr A Wingrave reported on the recommendations. Cllr A Wingrave reported that the proposed date for the Parade of the 12th December 2014 had been changed to the 5th December 2014 because the school had double booked.

The Members discussed the issues and agreed that the Grotto is to be erected on 2nd December. The Parade is to be on 5th December and will leave the Cwrt y Clwydi Gwyn Nursing Home at 5.45pm. The Children's U12's Disco is booked for November 29th in the Memorial Hall and it requested that as many Members turn up to help on the night as possible.

Resolved: That all the recommendations are approved.

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9877: To receive information regarding a Consultation on Withdrawal of Subsidised bus Services from NPTCBC.

The information was noted by the Members.

9878: To receive information about the modernisation of Skewen Post Office.

The information was noted by the Members.

9879: To receive a request to meet with Skewen Rugby Club to discuss drainage issues on the Council's Rugby Field in Tennant Park.

Cllr M Harvey left the room at this point as he declared an interest in this item. The members discussed the issue.

Resolved: That the Clerk should arrange a meeting with the Full Council and Skewen Rugby Club at 5.30pm on 15th October at Tennant Park.

9880: To receive/discuss/approve the Absence Management Policy & Procedure.

The members discussed the issue.

Resolved: That the Absence Management Policy and Procedure is approved.

9881: To receive/discuss/approve the Grievance Policy.

The members discussed the issue.

Resolved: That the Grievance Policy is approved.

9882: To receive/discuss/approve the Disciplinary Procedure.

The members discussed the issue.

Resolved: That the Disciplinary Procedure is approved.

9883: To receive/discuss/approve the Procedure for Appeal Hearings by the Personnel Committee.

The members discussed the issue.

Resolved: That the Procedure for Appeal Hearings is approved.

9884: To receive and comment if appropriate to the Welsh Language Commissioner's Draft Enforcement Policy – Public Consultation.

The members discussed the issue.

Resolved: That the Clerk should write a letter to the Welsh Language Board to stress that the Council does not have the financial resources to translate all its documentation into Welsh.

9885: To receive an update from Andrew Evans the Foreman from Tennant Canal.

The Clerk reported on an Update from Andrew Evans Foreman from Tennant Canal He has had a number of difficulties:

Rail track has placed a palisade fence restricting access, giving the canal's equipment a very limited space to work in.

Barge sprung leak and is due back in the water by Christmas.

Tracks have broken on digger and are awaiting repair.

Only very limited funds available.

Only 3 staff working on the canal system.

Works done to date:

Scraped tow path to create bunded area. When the mud is dredged from the canal it is like liquid and needs to thoroughly dry before being moved as there is no way of putting it into a vehicle for removal as it is just wet slurry.

Although a crust has formed the slurry is still wet underneath.

Ongoing situation:

Still working in the area to try and open up as much of the canal as possible.

I was informed that the area is passable, and that a small path does exist and that Andrew is able to go over that area on a push bike.

The Canal Company are not trying to discourage use of the route and in fact people do walk the route. They are doing their best to open up as much of the canal as possible, keep the canal flowing and encourage environmental diversity.

They hope to have the route fully clear by summer 2015.

The Clerk reported that she has not received a response from Gareth Nutt as yet.

Resolved: This item is deferred until the next meeting in order to await a response from Gareth Nutt.

9886: To discuss if the Community Council should request the Section 106 money being held by NPTCBC for the Crymlyn Park development as raised by Cllr H C Clarke.

Cllr HC Clarke reported that there is £41,666 available in Section 106 money which has not been earmarked to spend on Leisure Facilities.

Resolved: That the Clerk contacts NPTCBC to investigate the matter further, and to find out why the Community Council has not been offered the Section 106 money

9887: To discuss the condition of the pathways in Skewen Park and decide what actions should be taken.

The clerk reported that the pathways are continuing to deteriorate and asked for clarification on if the pathways should just have temporary repairs or if an external contractor should renew the pathways on a rolling programme.

The Members discussed the issue.

Resolved: That the Rolling Programme is to be re-instated.

9888: To receive a copy of the crime figures for August 2014.

The information was noted by the Members.

9889: To receive a response from NPTCBC regarding the Amended Consumer Credit Regulations and decide if the request for a loan for Skewen Cricket Club should be approved.

The Clerk reported that if the Council does not charge the Cricket Club that the Council would not need to register for the amended Customer Consumer Regulations. The Members discussed the issue.

Resolved: That the request for a loan is approved, with no interest charged.

9890: Correspondence.

None.

9891: 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 removed from the meeting.

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9892: To receive information from the Clerk regarding the increase to the minimum wage from 1st October 2014, which reduces the payment that the council currently pays over the minimum wage, and discuss if the Council should consider increasing the pay award to lift the hourly rate.

Resolved: That this item should be discussed by the F&G Committee to check the differences between the Spinal Column Points and the living wage and make a recommendation to the Members.

**Cllr APH Davies
Chair**