

## COEDFFRANC COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### **Minutes of a Meeting of the Council Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at Carnegie Hall.**

**Attendance:** Cllrs DK Davies, H Bebell, A Wingrave, M Harvey, P Davies, J Thomas, I Whitehead Ross, P Fellows, J Davies.

**282: Apologies:** Cllrs HC Clarke, K Whitehead Ross, B Richards, HR Richards, R Didcote, APH Davies, P Bebell, JS Jones.

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

Cllr I Whitehead Ross declared an interest in items 297 & 298 and left the room during discussions. Cllr I Whitehead Ross also declared an interest in item 302 but received a dispensation to give the Members information on this item before leaving the room for the discussions.

Cllrs P Davies and J Thomas declared an interest in item 298 and left the room during the discussions.

Cllr P Fellows declared an interest in item 286 and did not take part in the 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.

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

##### **a) Council Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2015.**

Approved as a true and accurate record.

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

The Clerk reported that she had checked with the Independent Remuneration Panel, and had been told that “Determination 47 of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales states that Community & Town Councils are authorised to provide a civic allowance to the Mayor/Chair of the Council at an amount that they deem appropriate to undertake the functions of office”.

The Clerk reported that she had received a response from the Post Office regarding the closure of Cefn Parc Post Office. She informed the Members that she had been told that she would be contacted to arrange a meeting to discuss the situation with her by the External Relations Team.

The Clerk reported that the Clerk’s to the three larger council’s in the NPTCBC area hope to arrange a meeting in the new year to discuss what is needed for the Well Being Act, which will help in advance Act coming into force. It will also help with the burden of trying to create three separate systems to report to the Public Service Board.

The Clerk reported that she had chased up the Section 106 Agreement money up with our Solicitor again.

#### **286: 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 £6,724.61 Account No’s 344 and 380 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.

**Cont...**

**287: To receive an explanation from the Clerk concerning Account No's: 333 and 341.**

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

**288: Planning Applications:**

**P2015/0158 – 27 Residential dwellings and associated highway, drainage and engineering works (Amended Layout). Land to the rear of 102 Crymlyn Rd, Skewen, Neath, SA10 6DT. (Applicant – Hale Homes Wales, Unit 2 Millands Rd Industrial Estate, Neath SA11 1NU).**

The Clerk was asked to write the Planning Department to request that they check that the ditch between the site and Tennant Park is restored, so that flooding does not occur.

**P2015/0132 – Variation of Condition 1 of Planning Permission P2014/0052 to allow for an extension of time for the commencement of development by an additional 12 months. (Additional info received: Tree Report, Surface Water run-off, Boundary Treatments, Japanese Knotweed, and Construction Method Statement). Land rear of Cefn Lodge Nursing Home, 16 Cefn Parc, Skewen, Neath SA10 6YR. (Applicant – Mr Ben Jenkins, Cefn Lodge Nursing Home, 16 Cefn Parc, Skewen, Neath SA10 6YR).**

That the Clerk informs the Planning Department that all the Community Council's previous objections still stand. Additionally, that the Community Council strongly object to any further extensions being granted.

**P2015/0349 – Installation of a 20MW gas powered standby electricity generation plant and associated works (amended elevations and generator stack heights, amended air quality report). Site at Edward Works, Llandarcy, Neath SA10 6JY. (Applicant – Mr Gareth Woodberry, UK Power Reserve Ltd, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Radcliffe House, Solihull B91 2AA).**

No observations.

**Cllr J Davies left the meeting at this stage.**

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

None.

**290: To receive/respond if appropriate to the Welsh Government's Green Paper which looks at improving the quality of healthcare services in Wales.**

The information was noted by the Members.

**291: To receive/respond if appropriate to the Welsh Government's Consultation on the draft Public Services Ombudsman (Wales) Bill.**

The information was noted by the Members.

**292: To receive a request from Neath Port Talbot Council for Voluntary Services to attend a meeting and give a short presentation to discuss how we could collaborate together.**

The Members discussed the issue.

**Resolved:** That permission is granted to allow the CVS to come to a meeting to discuss how we might be able to collaborate together.

**293: To discuss cuts to the Mobile Library Service as raised by Cllr P Davies.**

Cllr P Davies reported that he is very concerned about the possibility of the Mobile Library Service being withdrawn. Cllr P Davies reported that approximately 200 people use the service, and that it is needed for people with mobility issues and the elderly who can't access the services elsewhere.

The Members discussed the issue. Cllr A Wingrave reported that the decision on whether the service will be cut will not be taken by NPTCBC until March 2016.

**Resolved:** That the Clerk writes to Aled Evans and Peter Rees to express the Community Council's concerns about the possibility of this service being withdrawn. Additionally, the Clerk was asked to enquire about any plans NPTCBC have for the sustainability of the Mobile Library Service, and request data for the usage in the Coedffranc area.

**294: To receive a request from the Church in Jersey Marine for the Council's staff to cut back the trees in their grounds. (It is claimed that the trees were planted by some of our Councillors many years ago).**

The Members discussed the issue. There were concerns that this could start a precedent for other requests, and that if we cut the trees back once, they would permanently become our responsibility. Additionally, there were concerns that if any type of incident regarding the trees were to occur after we had worked on the trees the Council could be held responsible.

**Resolved:** That permission is denied.

**295: To discuss/agree if the staff not currently enrolled on a Pension Scheme should be signed up with the City & County of Swansea Pension Fund when the legislative "automatic enrolment" starts next year.**

The Members discussed the issue.

**Resolved:** That permission is granted to allow the staff not currently in a pension scheme to join the City & County of Swansea Pension Scheme when the automatic enrolment starts.

**296: To discuss/decide if the staff should receive vouchers for Christmas again this year.**

The Members discussed the issue.

**Resolved:** That the staff receive vouchers for Christmas this year at the value of £100 per person.

**297: To receive a request from Goody 4 Paws to put a Banner up on Park Railings to advertise a Christmas Dog Show being held at The Memorial Hall on December 20<sup>th</sup>.**

The Members discussed the issue.

**Resolved:** That permission is granted provided that they take the banner straight down after the event.

**298: To receive a request from Whitehead-Ross Education and Consulting to have exclusive hire of room 4 in Carnegie Hall.**

The Clerk informed the Members that depending on the dates the Council Meeting might need to be moved into Room 1. The Members discussed the issue.

**Resolved:** That permission is granted.

**299: To receive a copy of the Letter drafted by Cllr Keith Davies regarding his response to the Boundary Commission Review.**

The information was noted by the Members.

**300: To discuss the condition of the Towpath from Skewen to Jersey Marine as raised by Cllr Keith Davies.**

Cllr DK Davies reported that he is concerned that the towpath is still blocked by dredging debris.

The Clerk read out information she had received in October 2014 from the Supervisor of Tennant Canal, which stated that the works would be completed by the summer of 2015.

**Resolved:** That the clerk should write to the Supervisor of Tennant Canal and Natural Resources Wales to express the Council's concerns.

**301: To discuss the Public Access/Car Parking to the beach in Jersey Marine as raised by Cllr Keith Davies.**

Cllr DK Davies reported that access to the SSSI site and the beach is still difficult. It was reported that the County Borough Members had been promised that there would be 23 car park spaces for people wishing to visit the SSSI and beach areas. Cllr H Bebell reported that there was a small car park due to open but that it would be a pay and display car park.

**Resolved:** That the Clerk writes to the Planning Department of NPTCBC to find out where the 23 car park spaces that were promised will be located, and if there will be a charge to use the car park.

**302: To receive information from the Rural Development Plan LEADER funded "working for Nature" Project from NPTCBC.**

Cllr I Whitehead Ross presented the Members with some additional information.

Cllr Whitehead Ross reported that there is £2.1 million to spend between 2016 and 2020. He reported that the Local Action Group are inviting proposals but that a 20% contribution would be needed for the schemes to be successful. The Members discussed the issue.

**Resolved:** That at this time, the Community Council are unable to contribute financially towards this project.

However, the Members asked if they could be kept apprised of the works that are proposed, along with costings for the projects.

**303: To remind Members that it is Remembrance Sunday on 8<sup>th</sup> November.**

The information was noted by the Members.

**304: To inform the Members that the Clerk will not be present at the next Council Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2015. Additionally, to remind Members that only the legislative items and informational items will be on the Agenda, and that the Clerical Assistant will be taking the minutes for the meeting.**

The Clerk reported that her husband had passed a Post Graduate Degree, and that the Graduation Ceremony was that evening.

The information was noted by the Members, and the Clerk was asked to pass on their congratulations to her husband.

**305: Correspondence.**

**a) To discuss if anyone has any Agenda items for the next NPTCBC Liaison Forum**

The Clerk was asked to put an item about possible increases of Trade Waste costs on the Agenda.

**b) To receive information from NPT Play about a Play Sufficiency Assessment to be held between 10am – 1pm on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at the Centre Baglan.**

The information was noted by the Members.

**c) To receive a request from Mark Fisher from Unison to attend a full Council Meeting to discuss the proposed closure of Skewen Library.**

The Members discussed the request.

**Resolved:** That Mark Fisher and Wayne John should be invited to attend a Council Meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015.

**Cllr H Bebell  
Chair**