

COEDFFRANC COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council Meeting held on 2nd December 2015 at Carnegie Hall.

Attendance: Cllrs DK Davies, HR Richards, B Richards, P Bebell, A Wingrave, M Harvey, P Davies, J Thomas, I Whitehead Ross, K Whitehead Ross, P Fellows.

Cllr J Thomas took the Chair in the absence of Cllr H Bebell.

321: To receive information from Wayne John County Librarian regarding the possible closure of Skewen Library (the decision will be taken by NPTCBC in March 2016).

The Clerk read out an email from Mark Fisher as he was unable to attend the meeting due to illness. Mark outlined three possible options for the Council to consider. Wayne John reported in depth on the impact from the reduction in funds from the Welsh Government over the last two years on the Libraries in Neath Port Talbot area. He explained in length various scenarios and the problems that the Libraries are facing. He reported on the different models being used by the Community Libraries in the NPT area. It was reported that at present Skewen Library is open 30 hours a week with one Full Time paid Librarian and two Part Time paid Librarians. Mr John reported that if the Community Council were considering running the Library from its current location, a Lease would need to be negotiated with the Estates Department of NPTCBC. He reported that it would depend upon the negotiations if the maintenance of the building would be a requirement of the lease holder or not. It was reported that it is possible to identify the busy periods in Skewen Library if the operating hours needed to be reduced. Mr John reported that the Welsh Government have issued guidelines which state that Local Authorities should maintain a paid member of staff 50% of the time for a limited number of Libraries, and that Skewen would qualify for this scheme. Mr John reported that NPTCBC will also provide the Library Management System, reserve books, stock books, train volunteers and transfer the computers which are about 1 – 2 years old.

Resolution: That the Clerk writes to show an expression of interest. Additionally that the Clerk invites Mr Aled Evans – Director of Education to the Council Meeting on the 6th January 2016.

Cllrs HR Richards and B Richards left the meeting at this point.

322: Apologies: Cllrs APH Davies, R Didcote, H Bebell, J Davies, HC Clarke.

323: To receive Declarations of Interest.

None.

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.

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

a) Council Meeting held on 18th November 2015.

Approved as a true and accurate record.

b) Festival Committee Meeting held on 18th November 2015.

Approved as a true and accurate record.

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

The Clerk provided an update from South Wales Police regarding the incident with motor bikes in Skewen Park. The Clerk reported that the Police have issued a Section 59 Notice for using a bike in an antisocial manner. It was reported that if the bike is driven in an antisocial manner again it will be confiscated.

326: 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 £4,923.97 Account No's 443 and 445 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.

327: To receive an explanation from the Clerk concerning Account No's: 411 and 419.

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

328: Planning Applications:

Late Planning Applications:

P2015/1054 – Variation of condition 3 and 4 to allow for an extension of time for the submission of reserved matters of planning permission P2012/0957 (Outline development for a detached residential dwelling). Land Adjoining 33 Bethlehem Rd, Skewen, Neath SA10 6AW. (Applicant – Mr Michael O'Brien, The Firs, Main Rd, Minsterworth, Gloucester GL2 8JH).

No Observations.

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

The Clerk attended the NPT Liaison Committee Meeting on 16th November 2016 and reported on the discussions:

Budget Briefing

Hywel Jenkins reported that Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council had submitted its Draft Budget Report to Cabinet. He reported that NPTCBC are still waiting to hear the results of the Budget announcements in November 2015. Mr Jenkins reported that the Welsh Government has not been able to provide Local Authorities with details of what they will receive as yet, but will publish a Report on the 9th December 2015. It was reported that NPTCBC will need to set their budget by the 10th March 2016. It was also reported that 60 million pounds has already been cut from the budget since 2010.

Future of Bus Services

It was reported that NPTCBC no longer provide any subsidies any bus routes, but that the Welsh Government do still give subsidies for a small number of routes.

Grounds Maintenance

It was reported that it was difficult to get the various Agencies who maintain public areas to collaborate, in order to try and reduce the number of different teams cutting grass etc. within any one area.

PACT Meetings

Some Members questioned the effectiveness of PACT Meetings, stating that they are not well attended and do not produce noticeable results. Others reported that the PACT Meetings in their area are effective and worthwhile.

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Trade Waste Costs

Wendy Thomas led this discussion and reported that the costs have already effectively doubled in recent years because the collections have gone from a weekly collection to a fortnightly collection. She reported that as a direct result of the change in the service, additional bins were needed because the one original bin was not able to cope with two weeks waste.

NPTCBC reported that there is a proposed increase in Trade Waste costs of 3%.

330: To receive a report from the Festival Committee.

Cllr A Wingrave reported on the Recommendations.

Resolved: That all the Recommendations are approved.

331: To receive/respond if appropriate to a Consultation being conducted by NPTCBC regarding their CCTV service.

The information was noted by the Members.

332: To receive a request from Cytun to hold their annual Praise in the Park in the Park/Memorial Hall on Sunday 15th May 2016 free of charge again this year.

The Members discussed the issue.

Resolved: That permission is given for Cytun to use the Park or the Memorial hall free of charge again this year.

333: To receive correspondence from Suzy Davies AM/AC regarding publicly accessible defibrillator.

The Members discussed the issue.

Resolved: The Members agreed that Coedffranc Community Council cannot provide a suitable premises at this time.

334: To receive a letter of thanks from Swansea Vale Bowls Club for the use of Coedffranc Community Council's Bowling Greens for the 2015 Bowls Season.

The information was noted by the Members.

335: To consider/approve producing Coedffranc Community Council's Headed Paper in house.

The Clerk provided examples of headed paper for the Members to inspect. The Members discussed the issue.

Resolved: The Members agreed on coloured Headed Paper to be printed in house with a faded gradient (faded at the top).

336: To receive the response from NPTCBC regarding the possible closure of the mobile library service.

The information was noted.

337: To receive a response from Natural Resources Wales regarding access along Tenant Canal.

The information was noted.

338: To receive a Clerks Report regarding the increases to the Staff Salary Budget for 2016/17 due to legislation changes.

The information was noted.

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339: To receive information from NPTCBC regarding revisions to the local bus service network.

The information was noted.

340: To receive/respond if appropriate to the Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill.

The Members discussed the issue.

Resolved: That Cllr Keith Davies and the Clerk will respond individually to the Draft Bill.

341: Correspondence.

None.

Emergency Item:

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 excluded from the Meeting.

To receive a request from a member of staff for an emergency loan.

Resolved: The request has been accepted.

Cllr J Thomas

Vice -Chair