

**MINUTES OF CWARTER BACH COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**HELD ON 9<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2019 AT THE YSTRADOWEN COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**PRESENT:** Cllr M Morgans presided  
**Clerk:** A Pedrick  
Brynamman Ward: Cllrs W Churchill, S Thomas, M Thomas, J G Davies  
Quarter Bach Ward: Cllrs A Hicks, L Baker, A Howells, R Pearce-Higginson  
Llynfell Ward: Cllrs A Dady, V Morgan  
Minute Taker: Karen Lewis

**ITEM 1: APOLOGIES:** Cllrs A Lewis, and D B Belcher.

**ITEM 2: DECLARATION OF INTEREST:**

Declarations by members of personal interests form was circulated.

**ITEM 3: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2018 were accepted as a true record on the proposal of Cllr A Hicks and seconded by Cllr A Dady.

Matters arising – Cllr J G Davies expressed his annoyance at the comment made by Cllr W Churchill at the previous meeting about his non-attendance. He was on official duty attending the school Christmas concert as Chair of Governors to support the staff, pupils and parents. He had sought legal advice on the comment and reported back that no councillor has the right to comment/disapprove of absent councillors in their absence and asked for an apology. Cllr W Churchill apologised if rules had been broken but her comment and opinion still stands. Chair agreed that this wouldn't happen again at meetings.

**ITEMS 4: COUNCIL PRECEPT 2019/2020**

The Clerk circulated a financial summary as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018 and reported on the estimated expenditure to the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 showing a projected balance of £54,800.64. Discussions took place around increasing next year's precept amount from £84,173.61 due to the Community Council's commitments following the asset transfers. Cllr A Hicks said that we need to start looking at income from fees and charges on playing fields. This will be discussed at the next Finance sub-committee meeting. Cllr R Pearce-Higginson said that the increase can be justified as the police are increasing their precept. Cllr W Churchill said that any increase needs to stay in house to be spent within the community. Finance Committee will be looking at the expenditure required for the asset transfer programme. Members again were mindful of the increased cost to the rate payer, however, in order to maintain our playing fields, parks & open spaces, buildings and assets it was agreed on the proposal of Cllr R.P.Higginson seconded by Cllr A.Howells that we seek a precept of £99,173.61 equating to £105.23 for a Band D property. All members agreed.

## **ITEM 5: ASSETS: SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT**

Cllr A Howells updated members on the meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> Dec '18 with Derith Powell and John Morgan from REECH on the People and Places grant funding applications for a Development Officer and works on the Maes Elwyn site.. Following a positive meeting it was suggested that the initial application should be for the Development Officer's post who will then work on the Maes Elwyn grant. Next meeting will be first week February 2019. Next steps will be to draw up a campaign where local support is required and Carmarthenshire County Council need to be involved.. Public meeting to follow where invites will be sent out, the venue will be the Black Mountain Centre. Would be advantageous for someone from the County Council Executive Board to attend and all interested parties within the Cwarter Bach area to give support and points of view. School also needs to be involved.

Cllr L Baker asked if there is a timeframe for the grant applications but this is ongoing. Chair will contact John Morgan to chase up a date.

The Clerk informed members that the water tank at Maes Elwyn is leaking which will cost £948 and the shower unit replacement at Bryn Avenue Park will cost £179.96. These costs have been included in the financial summary. This work was proposed by Cllr A Howells and seconded by Cllr J.G.Davies.

Request received from Cwmtwrch RFC to use Ystradowen shower block for the rest of the rugby season commencing on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2019. Cllr J G Davies asked about tariffs from outside the area. There will be different tariffs set at the finance sub meeting. Cllr A Dady declared an interest and did not participate in the discussions. Charges for the use of the shower rooms to be decided ASAP.

Cllr V Morgan asked for works to be done in the shower block ASAP in order for us to be able to rent them out. Just needs tidying up. An interim rate to be agreed until this has been decided at the finance sub-committee meeting. Chair will contact other organisations for an idea of how much to charge. Cllr V Morgan, the Clerk and the Chairman to meet early next week on site.

## **ITEM 6: PRIDE IN THE COMMUNITY**

Sub-committee still haven't met. Steps leading from Maes y Deri to the cycle path have now been repaired but this needs to be maintained. Who is responsible for the cycle path as very little of this path comes under C.C.C as it is mostly in Neath Port Talbot. It was confirmed that the cycle path running behind the Rose & Crown Rhosamman is Carmarthenshire County Council responsibility.

Sponsorship for seats in memory will be discussed in the next sub-committee meeting. The seat by Nantmelyn Stores in Brynaman hasn't been sited yet as the bins needs moving.

Reports of dog fouling on New Road which is a safe route to school. Signs on posts again to remind people. This route also leads to Maes Elwyn park. Some bins are in place but are too small. Cllr J G Davies has requested a detailed list specifying locations.

Two complaints received about dumping of materials. Near the rugby club where the Chair has rung the County. A health issue affecting the local business. now dealt

with at Station Road, Brynaman. The Monumental Mason is still causing problems with dumping, the County Council are coming back to the chair as it's now a danger to the public. It's an enforcement issue if rubbish is left on the pavement and a public protection issue if it's on private land. Cllr A Hicks also said that the steps at Chapel St /Quarry Rd is a disgrace and also a safe route to school

Cllr L Baker has received a complaint about the gate being locked by the rugby field stopping cyclists getting through. Meeting is being held on Friday regarding this. This is a right of way. Suggested that their funds be postponed until the gate has been opened. All agreed.

#### **ITEM 7: CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk had an email from the Brynaman Lido Group requesting a meeting with members to present their business plan. Proposed for the 6 March meeting.

There were no objections to the following planning applications

1. Outline planning for 2 Residential Dwellings- land adj to 2, Penygraig Rd Y'owen.
2. Three Storey Rear Ext at 7, Mountain Rd, Brynaman.

Vacancy for new Councillor. No request for election. Notice will be placed for interest by 6<sup>th</sup> February 2019 for a co-option by Council.

Letter received from Wrenvale thanking the Community Council for all the work received in 2018/19.

Ystradowen Community Group have received their charitable status but they are still awaiting lease and insurance details.

The following invoices were discussed and will be passed for payment.

1. Quids In – Winter flowers £1404 Proposed by Cllr J G Davies and seconded by Cllr S Thomas
2. Wrenvale December bill - £900. Proposed by Cllr J G Davies and seconded by Cllr S Thomas.

PACT meetings might be withdrawn due to low attendance. It's on the first Thursday of every month at 6pm. Cllr A Hicks and Cllr R Pearce-Higginson agreed to attend.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING 6<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2019 AT  
BLACK MOUNTAIN CENTRE AT 6.30PM  
FOLLOWING FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE AT 5.30PM**