

CWARTER BACH COMMUNITY COUNCIL 17th SEPTEMBER 2020
CYNGOR CYMUNED CWARTER BACH.

AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING WAS HELD REMOTELY ON 17.09.20
TO DISCUSS THE MAES ELWYN PROJECT.

PRESENT Cllr H.Taylor presided
Brynaman Ward Cllrs W.Churchill,M.Morgans,J.G.Davies,S.Thomas.
Quarter Bach Ward Cllrs A.Hicks,L.Baker.
Llynfell Ward Cllrs V.Morgan,D.B.Belcher,T.Strutt
Apologies Cllrs A.Daddy,M.Thomas.
Observers 7.

This special meeting had been arranged to discuss the Maes Elwyn project but prior to this meeting the Finance Sub Committee had met to discuss the financial budget and to give some thought on the financial implications of the scheme.

The Clerk had prepared a projected financial income & expenditure schedule which was disclosed to members and showed the current balance of £183,852. Allowing for further costs of £50,000 and wishing to retain a reserve of £50,000 we were left with a balance of £83,852 plus the FINAL precept instalment of £34,724. in December showing a projected guesstimated balance of £118,576. Members discussed the situation and whilst it was agreed that capital expenditure was available, some thought must be placed on revenue expenditure.

The Chair then welcomed all members into the meeting plus seven observers and asked for Apologise: Cllrs M.Thomas(Extended Period) and A.Daddy.

Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interest – Cllrs J.G.Davies & M.Morgans. Both left the meeting as they were both C.C.C appointed school governors and Cllr J.G.Davies also held the Education portfolio on the Executive Board of C.C.C.

This project had been mooted in June 2018 when the Asset Sub Committee met “Reech Sports Cymru” and it was decided after a site inspection that a full size 3G pitch was not a feasible option but were very optimistic about installing a multi sports surface at an extended floodlit area, in the meantime the idea of appointing a Development Officer was discussed to develop Maes Elwyn. During this time Mr Jon Morgan had also been meeting the Sub Committee to discuss ways of funding this project, be it the Sports Council for Wales or the Football Association. Mrs Derith Powell was then requested to help complete an application form for the Lottery People and Places grant for a Development Officer. A Public meeting was called at the Black Mountain Centre whereby both Mrs Powell and Mr Morgan joined forces to highlight their vision of these projects i.e. Dev Officer & Maes Elwyn Development. Unfortunately the Lottery Application was refused but Mr Jon Morgan continued looking for grants for this project and an offer of £50 -£55k was eventually made by the Cruyff Foundation following a site visit and inclusion of the school. (Full details of the scheme has been forwarded to members). Following on from this an approach was made to the County Council who made an offer of £70k provided we submit design and business plan.

During the debate all members had an opportunity to speak and whilst some favour the scheme, others had doubts. Indeed the actual pitch surface design was questioned on many occasions i.e. was it a 2G pitch or a 3G pitch and what was the difference. Our Standing Orders were relaxed in order for Mr Gareth Smith (Bryn Rovers) to explain that 3G is like playing on grass whilst the 2G is a very slippery surface, however, a 3G surface is much more expensive with advance technology for inclement weather. The maintenance schedule of a 2G surface was then highlighted over the 10years life span and the cost would have to be managed. It was imperative that scrutiny of the development continues and that at the end of its life span the Council do not face a hefty bill to remove. It was also noted that this was the first Cruyff foundation project in Wales having secured this grant ahead of major opposition. A Sports Wales Grant was now available should the need arise. Being mindful of the time scale involved members were hopeful that the Grant awarding authorities would not push (the time scale) for a quick answer because of Covid19.

Following a lengthy discussion and being aware of the lack of facilities and bearing in mind the massive task of running this project it was proposed by Cllr W.Churchill to get an external consultant to prepare a Business Plan this was seconded by Cllr T.Strutt. It was further proposed that we ask Mr Jordan Griffiths to complete this plan and seek further advise from Mrs Derith Powell on resubmitting the Lottery grant application for a Development Officer.