

## Cwarter Bach Community Council.

### Minutes of the meeting held at the Ystradowen Community Centre on Wednesday the 8<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 6.30pm.

#### In Attendance.

**Councillors:** Bethan Griffiths, Vera Morgan (Chair for the meeting), Rhian Moses, Scott Davies, Sarah Hopkin, Mair Thomas, Ruth Heyes, Susan Thomas, Tony Strutt.

**Proper Officer:** John Rees

#### 1. Apologies.

**Councillors:** Glynog Davies (Chairman), Jordan Griffiths, Andrew Dady.

Members **noted** that Councillor Dady had been hospitalised in the week and had undergone surgery. Councillor Glynog Davies had to attend to his wife who was unwell. All present wished both a speedy recovery to good health.

#### 2. Declaration of Interest.

Rhian Moses: Payment of an invoice to Nant Melyn Carpentry Ltd

Tony Strutt: Trustee of the Ystradowen Playing Field Association.

#### 3. Approval of Minutes from the 14th July 2021, 22nd July 2021 (EGM) and 4th August 2021.

The minutes from the 3 meetings with minor corrections were proposed by Cllr Susan Thomas and seconded by Cllr Vera Morgan as being a correct record of proceedings.

#### 4. Matters arising. None

#### 5. New Clerk.

The closing date for applications is the 17th September 2021. Members enquired about interest shown by potential applicants which to date has been poor and many other councillors commented of a significant number of councils in the area were without clerks.

To a question raised, members were informed that the advertisement included the option of sharing clerkship in an attempt to make the position more attractive as a full-time post.

**Agreed** to await the outcome after the closing date for applications

#### 6. Notice of Vacancy.

There was one person who declared an interest to be considered as a Councillor for the Llynfell Ward. It was **noted** that a further vacancy for a member to serve the Cwarter Bach Ward had arisen with the resignation of Cllr Liz Baker.

Unanimously **agreed** to approach Carmarthenshire CC to initiate the process of advertising the vacancy.

#### 7. Ward Matters.

##### i Llynfell Ward

Concerns were raised about the standard of work that had been undertaken to park benches and tables by Wrenvale. **Agreed** that the matter be raised with the contractor without delay. In the discussion, members expressed the need to have a list of suitable contractors that were available and could quote for various common types of work the council from time to time required. Notably, ground maintenance, carpentry and general building repair and maintenance work. Overall, the volume of work the Council could generate would be relatively small and it was **agreed** that a list of outstanding works be drawn up in the coming Autumn to maximise value for money and provide worthwhile employment opportunities to contractors.

Contaminated soil Ystradowen Park: Members asked whether there was progress on this serious matter.

They were advised that at this stage it had been reported to the two relevant statutory authorities being Natural Resources Wales and Carmarthenshire County Council. The latter appeared to be the one taking on the alleged contravention and would be visiting the site before the weekend of the 11/9/2021. **Noted.**

Members **agreed** that houses having access and making use of the park land in question should be written to reinforcing the Council's requirements of no dumping and unauthorised use of the land would be tolerated. Further discussion took place on the practicalities of fencing off the land in question even though it had been used as a rear access lane for many years. It was **further agreed** to pursue the option of writing to all householders in the first instance and to erect suitable signage to warn people of not using the parkland for the storage and/or dumping of waste materials.

The option of fencing off would be kept under review if all else failed to stop the problem. Members were updated on progress regarding the Henllys Bridge landslip with the design and tendering of the engineering work nearing completion with the intent to complete the works by financial year end.

**Noted.**

#### **ii Cwarter Bach.**

Cllr. Sarah Hopkin and Cllr. Vera Morgan had completed a review of wayside seating in part of the ward and had pictorially recorded the various state of the seats. **Agreed** that other members would do the same exercise in their areas with a view of drawing up a comprehensive improvement programme throughout every ward.

It was **agreed** that it would be worthwhile to record the seating and their locations on a suitable plan of the entire area.

The Council was reminded of the urgent requirement to remove rusted nails from the surround of the former bowls green. It was **agreed** to raise the works with the current occupier of the land in question

#### **iii. Brynaman** (including Bryn Rovers)

The area and seating at the top of Coronation Road was reported as dangerous and in need of attention.

**Noted.** There is an abandoned bus on privately owned land at the bottom of Station Road. It was **agreed** that the landowner be approached in the first instance to remove.

It was reported that Bryn Rovers had come back to the Council on a number of points regarding the licence agreement. These points had been clarified to the Club but as of today the licence agreement remained unsigned on their part. Further details of the repair works to the changing rooms were provided to the Council, these included the shower flooring and electrical works to ensure the building was in compliance with the relevant regulations. After a discussion the Council **agreed** to give the Club a month to sign the licence agreement with no further electrical works to be done until such time the licence agreement was duly signed by both parties.

*Note: Contact PT in Corporate Property for suitable plans and the Asset Transfer documents (JR)*

At the end of the ward reporting members **agreed** that a programme based on wayside seating and maintaining PRW's which were well used and not solely based on the 10 identified for Carmarthenshire was required.

### **8. General Matters.**

#### **i. Trees**

**Agreed** that two separate survey people would be engaged to assess the state of trees throughout the Council's area during the coming Autumn. Llynfell Ward being one and a combination of the Cwarter Bach and Brynamman Wards being the other. This would allow the Council to assess the effectiveness of these people for future work.

**ii. Celtic Energy.** It was reported that with their imminent departure, questions were raised about the continuation of the grant funding they were making available. This is being administered as a legacy fund by NPT Council and eligible bodies should be encouraged to apply. A further question was raised about areas of land that CE owned in the Council's area. This was **noted** until such time information was available.

#### **iii. One Voice Wales.**

Members noted the schedule of training opportunities that were presented by Cllr Susan Thomas and several had already signed up.

Cllr Scot Davies raised the matter of a dedicated website and **agreed** to research the matter for the next meeting.

### **9. Finance report.**

Cllr Susan Thomas informed us that we had received back the VAT that we had paid for items and services last year - £11486.51.

A remuneration audit was asked for by Welsh Audit – payment of £350 honorarium to Helen Taylor, the chairperson.

Request for clarification by Welsh Audit about why our precept was not increased as our payments were more than the precept. She sent back to inform them that our surplus from preceding years was too much, and that we had received the £50k grant from Celtic Energy, so we needed to spend more.

Online banking was now operational so we could pay our bills online. But everything still had to be ratified by Council. We are down to 2 signatories, so we need to decide on more by next meeting.

ST will get a bank reconciliation done by the next meeting, with a breakdown of all payments and what is to come.

#### **Donation Grants,**

The Council by the closing date had received two applications for financial support of up to £500 in its first half year.

1. Ystradowen Communities Association.

The application was to purchase and install new rugby posts for the field. The association had submitted all the necessary financial information and the Council **agreed** to make the £500 donation.

2. Ystradowen Community Centre.

The application was to provide a number of new items and replacement of older equipment at the centre.

The application was not submitted with the additional financial information the Council had asked. The award of the grant was **deferred** until the next meeting when, hopefully, the information would be available.

**10.b. Payments** Cllr Susan Thomas presented the following schedule of invoices due for payment. All were **approved** by members present.

Wrenvale £3264.00

EDf Maes Elwyn (July) £43.25

EDF Bryn Avenue( July) £39.02

EDF Ystradowen (July) £50.77

EDF Ystradowen (Aug) £51.38

EDF Maes Elwyn Floodlights £1,378.84 In dispute with CCC

SSE Christmas Lights £224.28

KDY Electrics £90 Bryn Avenue Inspection

Nantmelyn Carpentry £260 Bryn Avenue

OVW for August £60 two training sessions

SLCC £234 advertisement

Lleol Cymru £180 advertisement.

**10. a. Correspondance.**

Hywel Dda. Members **noted** the updates.

Lighting. Issues were noted with a footway lighting unit in CBB and assimilated issue in Chapel Street Brynaman.

Bridgend Inn Football Team. An enquiry about the possible hiring of Council facilities had been received.

Members **agreed** to hold the letter 'on file' until such time outstanding matters with Bryn Rovers had been resolved.

Ombudsman's Report. The Proper Officer raised his concerns since the last meeting the complainant has still to receive an apology from the Council and furthermore the complainant had raised further concerns in a letter which warranted a suitable and timely response.

It was **agreed** that in the absence of a Clerk the letter and the response to the further concerns had to be in the name of the Chair. In view of his unavoidable absence, the matter to be brought to his attention at the earliest opportunity.

**11. Any Other Business.**

None

**12. Date and venue of Next Meeting**

Wednesday 6th October 2021 6.30pm Ystradowen Community Centre.

JLR 9/9/2021