

Cwarter Bach Community Council.

Meeting, Ystradowen Community Centre, Wednesday, 6th October 2021

1. Apologies. Cllr Jordan Griffiths.

Present. Cllrs, Andrew Dady, Susan Thomas, Vera Morgan, Tony Strutt, Ruth Heyes, Scott Davies, Bethan Griffiths, Mair Thomas, Sarah Hopkin, Rhian Moses, Glynog Davies (Chair). John Rees, interim proper officer.

2. Declaration of interest. Cllr Andrew Dady, employee of Ystradowen Community Centre, letter from his employer seeking financial support.

3. Approval of Minutes. Moved as a correct record by Cllr Mair Thomas and seconded by Cllr Tony Strutt.

4. Matters arising. None.

5. Appointment of Clerk. It was reported by the IPO there were no applicants by the closing date, which was extended by 2 weeks at the approval of your Chair.

Cllr Tony Strutt then addressed the meeting as he had given thought to this over the preceding days and was prepared to take on the role of being clerk to the council (and PO) up to the May elections next year. In his address he accepted this would require him to resign from his role as a councillor. He further requested for Cllr Susan Thomas to continue to help with financial matters, and that John Rees takes on the role of technical advisor to the council.

In the ensuing discussion and at the Chair's recommendation it was **AGREED** that a special meeting would be called of the Council on Wednesday the 13th October next with this one item on the Agenda.

The meeting would take place at the Black Mountain Centre 7 pm.

6. Notice of Vacancy. Llynfell Ward: It was reported by the IPO that an application made by Mr Thomas Addey had been received through the published procedure in time; and a further request made by Ms Rachel Rees-Jones made indirectly via the Council's group email address. This request was received within the stipulated return period.

After a discussion, it was moved by Cllr Rhian Moses and seconded by Cllr Bethan Griffiths this application be rejected. There was no amendment to this proposal and was **ACCEPTED** with two abstentions.

The application from Mr Thomas Addey was then considered and was moved for acceptance by Cllr Andrew Dady and seconded by Cllr Rhian Moses. **ACCEPTED** with one abstention.

Cllr Bethan Griffiths sought clarification on previous applications which were not in accordance with the published procedure.

Cwarter Bach Ward: the closing date for this application with the County is 8th Oct.

7. Matters from Cwarter Bach Wards.

- a) **Llynfell Ward.** It was reported that some graffiti had been removed from signage in Woodlands Road, several jobs had been undertaken on Ystradowen Park and parts had been purchased for repairs to the Rhosaman playground. After a discussion, it was accepted by the Council further quotes be obtained for the remedial works to the retaining wall and surrounds in Ystradowen Park. The tennis courts in Cefn Bryn Brain were a matter of concern as the landownership issue had dragged on for many years. **RESOLVED** that an approach be made to Celtic Energy for the transfer of land parcels into the ownership of the Council where there were clear community benefits.

Financial support request from Ystradowen Community Centre: further details were received from the Centre regarding the list of items they wished to purchase. In discussing this item, several members felt the additional information was not sufficient to consider the request as both Community Centres are already in receipt of a substantial proportion of its annual budget. It was **AGREED** the request be deferred and to seek from both Centres copies of their bank statements going back to April 2020 together with a business rationale of how any new, or different provisions, would aid their financial recovery from the pandemic.

- b) **Cwarter Bach Ward.** Several repairs had been identified in Maes Elwyn and it was noted that there were no reports available on the condition of the climbing frame and skateboard run. It was **RESOLVED** that CCC be asked for these condition reports as a matter of urgency and the minor repair works be given to Council's contractor without delay (bins and gates). More substantial improvements would be added to the larger improvement scheme for Maes Elwyn in the coming Winter.

Bowls Pavilion Agreement, Maes Elwyn. After a discussion it was **AGREED** that a licence agreement would be given to the 'Kids Club' based largely on a revamped agreement drawn up between the same club and CCC in 2009. The Council after voting to go into confidential discussion, **RESOLVED** to keep the quarterly rent payable at the same level for the first five years at £325 (ex.vat) and to have rent reviews thereafter every 5 years from the date of entering into the agreement.

- c) **Brynaman Ward.** Wayside seats were noted to be in a poor state of repair and unusable in certain areas. IT was **AGREED** that plans would be issued to all members for their respective wards and these 'assets' be suitably recorded in order that a comprehensive refurbishment programme be drawn up. The Council were advised that CCC has it in hand to remove the abandoned bus off Station Road, although its size and state were proving to be 'challenging'. Knotweed infestation was a significant challenge on the same piece of land as the abandoned bus was located, the Chairman reported he was in discussion with CCC to serve notice on the landowner to deal with the problem.

Tennis Court Lights, Maes Elwyn. The RFO was in receipt of a final demand with notice of impending court action by the electricity company to recover outstanding bills. It was **AGREED** the Chairman be allowed for a final time to raise the payment of these arrears with CCC but if all also fails then the RFO be authorised to clear the arrears to avoid court proceedings.

8. **General Matters.** The Council had a general discussion on the availability of defibrillators in its area and it was considered inadequate. It was **AGREED** to pursue the acquisition of an abandoned telephone kiosk in Rhosaman and to locate an additional defibrillator in it at a central location between Brynaman and Cwmllynfell.

- c) Tree Surveys. Cllr Strutt reported the survey work had commenced on Council land in Ystradowen and it was noted the same work in Brynaman was yet to commence.

Benches, Trees and Bins, The Council noted consideration of these matters had been previously covered in earlier discussions.

- e) **Footpaths**. The IPO reported he had finally received information on the practicalities of maintaining PROW's in its area. In addition to the 10 footpaths already identified for which CCC give financial support to the council, there were a large number of other paths in its area that are regularly used. The remaining network of prows fall to be the responsibility of the Brecon Beacons NP it's area and CCC the remainder. CCC had a online reporting process for defects or maintenance requests but there was a large backlog of requests. After a discussion it was **AGREED** that councillors would collate an additional list of paths which were considered well used and integral to the local network and, in the first instance, seek the work to be undertaken either by CCC or financially supported by increasing its financial support to Cwarter Bach.
- f) **Christmas Lights**, It was reported by Cllr Strutt the lights were stored in the Ystradowen changing rooms and discussion with the installer (KD Electrics) had taken place. In order to reduce cost, it was intended this year to use a platform from the tree surgeon to reduce costs. It was suggested to hold a competition for the best Christmas lights per household per ward.
- g) **Sub Committees**. On the recommendation of the Chair, this matter was DEFERRED until the next meeting.
- h) **Training. Noted**. (Ruth H attended meeting on 'Carers', Bethan G attended all-day meeting for Community Councils)

9. Finance. Sheets distributed to show the bank reconciliation as at end of Sept., the costs incurred during the last 6 months, and predicted expenditure for the next 6 months. Discussions took place on the effect on this year's budget. And the need to keep a reasonable surplus for emergencies. Also, that the £50k from Celtic Energy (2016) should be shown separately. (How do we spend this??)

No expenditure on winter flowers this year, extra on summer flowers.

As we have only 2 signatories available for our cheques, a name was needed to be another signatory on a bank mandate – Scott Davies was given.

10. Correspondence.

a) **Letter from Mr Eifion Rogers. NOTED** at this time. Meeting for Carmarthen area of OVW on 27th Oct. at 6:30 on zoom.

b) **bills for payments** – EDF Bryn Av. £34.41; Maes El. £47.74; Ystradowen £51.24; CJ Electricals £299 for Bryn Av report; Acting RFO £110.43 6 mths costs – receipts sent.

11. AOB. Cllr Vera Morgan sought reassurance for legionella testing to be undertaken to all Council Buildings before reopening. **AGREED**.

NOTE: A Special Council Meeting Wednesday the 13th October at the BMC to discuss the Clerk appointment.