

Cwarter Bach Community Council.
Minutes of the Council meeting 10th November 2021
held at the Black Mountain Centre, Brynaman, 6.30pm.

Members present: Cllrs, Glynog Davies (Chair), S Hopkin, V Morgan, R Moses, S Thomas, B Griffiths, M Thomas, A Dady, T Addey and A Strutt.
John Rees Interim Proper Officer.
Cllr Ruth Heyes on zoom

1. Apologies. Councillors Scott Davies, Jordan Griffiths.

2. Declaration of Interest(s). Cllr A Dady (in relation to the Ystradowen Community Centre).

3. Approval of Minutes from the Council meetings.

Council meeting of the 6th October 2021. Moved by Cllr S Thomas and seconded by Cllr V Morgan as a correct record.

Special meeting of the Council of the 13th October 2021. Moved by Cllr R Moses and seconded by Cllr S Hopkin as a correct record.

The Chair reminded all present that members of the public were welcomed to be part of the meeting through 'Zoom'.

4. Matters Arising. None

5. Co-option. The IPO reported two applicants had come forward in accordance to the process adopted by Council for the vacancy in the Cwarter Bach Ward. The two applications had been forwarded to all members for scrutiny. Ballot slips had been prepared in advance of the Council meeting and all Councillors were requested by the Chairman to return their voting slips to the IPO in a sealed envelope, % the BMC, by Friday, 19th November 2021.

6. Appointment of Clerk. The IPO reported there had been no interest shown in the post since the last meetings and in his discussions with organisations and individuals who were active in the same field of local government services there was a view of significant reputational damage to the Council from the recent infighting and spate of resignations. Cllr S Thomas stated she had not proceeded to re advertise until after this meeting. **Noted.**

There followed a general discussion on the way forward with unanimous agreement the Council required to formalise a support structure for the clerk position to cover the increased responsibilities of administrative and technical work as a result of the asset transfers from Carmarthenshire County Council. **Agreed.**

Cllrs Addey and Strutt felt there was now a need to resurrect the formation of Sub committees to assist in the running of the Council. One Voice Wales (OVW) had been used for a degree of 'online' member training to date. The IPO suggested the Council should look into a far greater support structure being discussed with OVW which should include actual presence within the Council itself to act as a 'critical friend'. This level of support inevitably would have a cost. **Both points were Agreed to.**

Cllr B Griffiths suggested there was a possibility the Council could employ in the short term a 'locum' Clerk. In her discussions with OVW she had learned of similar problems in other Councils and they had used the services of a locum, albeit at a significant cost. Moved by Cllr R Moses and seconded by Cllr A Dady this was to be researched by the next Council meeting. **Agreed.**

7. Matters from the Wards.

i Llynfell.

The need to get the tennis courts at CBB cleaned and the nets removed. **Agreed.**

Cllr Strutt raised concern about the difficulty of engaging with suitable local contractors and being compliant with standing orders. Cllr Addey and the IPO were in full agreement. **Agreed** a subcommittee of Chair, TA, AS and the IPO to look into a procurement process with a list of suitable local contractors to cover all the building trades.

An approach to Celtic Energy was needed for the transfer of land with Council assets. Cllrs Addey and Strutt offered to consult other members and coordinate an approach to Celtic Energy. **Agreed.** Cllr S Thomas reported the YCC had provided additional financial information to support their recent request for a grant. **Agreed** to refer to the finance sub-committee.

The Council at this point nominated Cllrs ST, AS, SH, RM and TA for the Finance sub-committee. **Agreed.**

ii. Cwarter Bach.

Reported the floodlights at Maes Elwyn had finally been disconnected.

Cllrs SH and VM raised the dangerous state of the steps and railings forming part of the PROW's around Tircwm Farm needed attention. **Agreed.**

lii Brynaman.

The IPO reported the works to the changing rooms at Bryn Avenue were nearing completion with the electrical contractor due to finish in the next week. Legionella testing of all three locations also completed with reports pending.

Cllr S Thomas raised concerns about the operation of the licence agreement with Bryn Rovers with their refusal to pay for line marking. **Agreed** to seek an urgent meeting with the club with Cllrs ST, TA, AS and the IPO in attendance.

8.General Matters.

Defibrillators. Cllr SH offered to undertake a survey of all existing and potential new locations in the Council's area. **Agreed.**

Wayside seats, Park benches and litter bins. Some Members reported they were well into recording the location and state of these facilities on the recently provided plans. **Noted.**

Christmas Lights. Reported they were due to go up during the last week of November. **Noted.**

Christmas lights competition for residents. Agreed for each ward the prize would include a £50 voucher for Quids In, £30 voucher to be spent at the two Community centres and two tickets for the Brynaman Public Hall venue. **Agreed** judging and nominations by ward members with recommendations to the next Council meeting (8th December). Closing date 10th Dec.

Sub-Committees. the Chair suggested the item had been covered earlier in the meeting. **Agreed.** Training (OVW). **Noted** (discussed earlier)

Police Contact. Cllr R Heyes reported there was a change in police personnel for the local liaison meetings and their presence at the Cenotaph this coming Sunday would not involve any traffic management duties. **Noted.**

9. Accounts for payment.

Welsh Water Ystradowen	£68.17	already paid
Wrenvale Aug'21	£2,628.00	invoices sent out
Wrenvale Sept '21	£1,776.00	invoices sent out
EDF Maes Elwyn	£46.99 +£50.23	

EDF Bryn Ave	£32.97	
EDF Ystradowen	£51.60	
EDF Bowling Green	£40.39 + £34.82	Disconnected 4/11/21
Artisan Flooring (BR Av)	£280.00	
Nantmelyn Carpentry	£210.00	
wreaths x2	£80.00	
Welsh Water Bryn Av	£284.69	
Verismart (legionela) BrAv	£120.00	
Verismart (legionela) Maes El	£120.00	
Verismart (legionela) YstradO	£120.00	
OVW Conference Inovative Practice	£40.00	
park inspections	No invoice	
tree inspections	No invoice	

All passed, but queried last month's bill by CJ Electrical Installations as being too high for just an inspection. OVW had sent bills outstanding for Year 2020-21, these to be checked.

10. Correspondence.

i. Request from Eifion R for access to Council playing facilities. **Agreed** to advise the council is currently not in a position to enter into any arrangement for Maes Elwyn and the Council had entered into a formal licence agreement with Bryn Rovers for the use of Bryn Avenue.

ii Request from Zena LL for Christmas related financial support. After a discussion it was proposed by Cllr AS seconded by Cllr AD the Council make a £100 donation to the event organised by the BMC for Rhosaman and Brynman and a similar donation to the Cwmllynfell organised Christmas event provided they can encompass the villages of Ystradowen and Cefnbrynbrain.

Agreed

iii. NHS care – information requesting that hospital beds be vacated sooner as patients who are well enough to be sent home can't be released as they haven't got reasonable care facilities at home!

Next meeting 8th December. Ystradowen Community Centre.

JLR 12/11/2021.