



Cyngor Cymuned CWARTER BACH Community Council

General meeting held virtually on 12th January 2022

Present: Glynog Davies (chairperson),

Ward Llynfell: Vera Morgan (vice-chairperson), Tony Strutt, Tom Addey

Ward Cwarter Bach: Scott Davies, Sarah Hopkin, Rhian Moses, Bethan Griffiths, Lisa Thomas

Ward Brynaman: Mair Thomas, Jordan Griffiths, Ruth Heyes,

Apologies: Lisa Thomas

Temporary clerk: Susan Thomas

Member of public: 1

1. **Apologies:** Lisa Thomas
2. **Declaration of interest:** Jordan for Bryn Rovers.

Opening remarks by the Chairperson: He wished a Happy New Year to all councillors and residents of Cwarter Bach. There was concern about the fatalities incurred during this pandemic, and our condolences are given to all families and friends of any who have suffered losses. Also, we wish well to the number of people who have suffered the effects of the illness. We, also, extend our sympathy to the family of Joseph Yeandle who has recently lost his fight against cancer. A memorial event was held at the fairground, and it was announced that there will be a yearly fair held in Brynaman – known as Joseph's Winter Fair. Thank you to the proprietor of the fairground for all her hard work. Susan will once again be the acting clerk.

3. Approve minutes: EGM on 15th December – proposed correct Tony Strutt, seconded Sarah Hopkin; all agreed.

General meeting on 21st December – proposed correct Tom Addey, seconded Rhian Moses; all passed.

4. **Matters arising:** none
5. Move to the end, so that it can be in camera
6. Matters from wards:
 - a. **Llynfell:** Christmas lights to be stored in the container not in Ystradowen pavilion. Need prices for sign (even though not installed by us), the wall behind the pavilion, relaying slabs outside pavilion, taking down part of fencing for mobility scooters (?). Nigel to start placing benches. Handrail needed from Ystradowen school to Felinfach (County?). Spare wicket gate is for Ystradowen square.
The landslide in Ystradowen has been given a job number and will be fixed this financial year.
 - b. Cwarter Bach: Clwb Plant – builders Mathew and Cerith are to give prices for replacing roof tile, and fix wall to the right of the club. Also, an electrical box needs looking at. The glass panel that was to be replaced in the kitchen - the process of finding the right time for the team to be in the building is being assessed. It was good to know that the numbers attending the Club has increased. Tony stated that the rising damp inside was because of a leaking pipe, this would also be looked at. Tom stated that the running of the Club was exemplary, in that Angharad was keeping everything running smoothly, it is a pity that not all the clubs using our area could follow her example. The replacement of the other 20 panes would be costed by various local firms, while making sure that the panes were

guaranteed. These builders will also look at erecting the ball stop nets between the goals and the houses at Maes Elwyn. All was passed to be fixed.

Sarah stated that there had been a few concerns about the path from Mountain Road down to the car park, the area at the top was rough. Also, the skate park area and the car park itself needs looking at. It was asked for prices to be sought for each area separately. Could we ask the County / get a grant / use Celtic Energy money for the car park area, as various groups use this area regularly? (parents of school pupils, Clwb Plant parents, players and supporters at the playing fields, ...). These suggestions were passed.

- c. Brynaman: Meeting with Bryn Rovers (report to be circulated) -Gareth Smith, Bethan, Tony, Susan. £500 for use of field had been paid, the £500 for use of the changing rooms will be paid once all repairs are effected asap – trip hazard from shower to changing area in visitors part; stuck window to be fixed; manhole cover to be replaced outside; an issue with door lock; concrete in the nets between goals and houses. All agreed. Also discussed frequency of marking and grass cutting, we to pay for twice a month at the moment until they have their own equipment. We need to meet with Nigel to discuss actual frequency of maintenance of our various assets and the maintained paths.

We had requested the shed in Maes Elwyn to be vacated, and the area around this, but would they/we be able to fence off an area next to the changing rooms to store their various goal posts that are at the moment stored in and around the shed.

They had also asked permission for them to erect a permanent fence behind the west area of Bryn Avenue to stop balls being lost in the ditch beyond.

Tom asked that they put together a business plan for future proposals for both playing areas.

7. a) **Defibrilators:** Bryn Rovers are installing one in Maes Elwyn; The Rugby Club are hoping to have one installed near the rugby field; the one outside the BMC was damaged when someone tried to access it in an emergency, it is also an old one and wasn't working properly, so as its loss is an emergency we will get a new one here. £433; passed. It was also noted that other places had been suggested.
- b) **Benches:** 3 for Llynfell ward to be put up asap, 3 for Cwarter Bach/Brynaman ward to be placed soon – Sarah to make enquiries.
- c) **Trees:** 150 trees from Woodlands Trust planted around field area with Ystradowen Communities. Report for our Ystradowen trees ready, needs to be explained to Tony during walkabout. Then acted upon. Any Ash dieback needs to be reported to the County Council. Maes Elwyn trees to be checked by Liz and cut back by Owain Humphreys.
- d) **Christmas Lights:** Were successful on the whole apart from the tree opposite the Bridge in Brynaman, it needs a longer run, and the base tree is dead (need to tell the County). Can we plant a tree in its place? The recent storms weren't a help. The old garlands about the posts in Brynaman are disintegrating, we need new ones. Now is the time to buy new ones (Turnock?, ask Scott, ask other councils). Thank you to the people who donated a tree at Cefnbrynbrain this year and last year. This should be on the Christmas lights budget.
- e) **OVW training:** dates sent out, these are important, the take-up has been disappointing with new councillors.
- f) **Surgery concerns:** Ruth has received a number of complaints about the Amman Tawe Practice, we need these in writing if we are to present them to the Practice. We must be aware that the ATP is a private concern.
- Mair, as a councillor, has a bundle of leaflets delivered to her every month from the NHS. She can hand these to Ruth.
- Ruth is working with Cerys Preston of the Carmarthenshire Carers Forum to try and identify any unpaid carers who might be unidentified. They are hoping to get a coffee morning organised for

these. Could we inform Ruth of anyone that we know, who doesn't mind their name being given, and are in this situation.

- 8. Finance report:** Report from meeting on 6th December on Ystradowen Community Centre's request for more financial help had been circulated. Tony proposed an increase on our contributions to the Community Centres be increased by 20%, as these haven't been increased in 4 years, seconded by Tom. (members on committee of the BMC declared an interest). This was passed.

The 5th January meeting was on setting the budget and deciding the precept for the next financial year. The wish list from all was listed, but needs to be sorted into what can be spent before the end of March, what is to be spent during the year 2022/23, and what can be put off until the year after; all this in order to give a responsible precept to the County. This should be done before the end of January, but was only received on the 12th January. Therefore, a meeting of the finance committee was called for the 26th January to finalise this.

- 9. Accounts for payment:** Wrenvale: invoices 259-269 sent out £7536 – to be paid, but we need to know when the footpaths are cut, and which ones. Could we use the probation service to help with these? Discussed the possibility of adopting other sites/paths to cut back growth. Our maintained footpaths to be displayed on a map at each centre. Also, to finalise the regularity of cuts and marking at each playing field. EDF Ystradowen £77.16, actual reading; EDF Maes Elwyn £86.33, estimate – even though reading has been submitted. All passed. Smart meters needed for Maes Elwyn and Bryn Avenue, an AMR already in place at Ystradowen. We need to seek a new supplier as we are classed as a 'large business'!

Also, since December we are charged £5 a month for our current account, and 40p per cheque written.

Would we as a Council pay all standing charges at the pavilions and Clwb Plant, and the users pay for the units. Tony proposed, Tom seconded, passed. Notify Angharad.

- 10. Correspondence - Planning:** **PL/03163** retrospective. If anyone has a concern about planning, they can notify the council directly.

- 11. AOB:** Hannah Jones, a Brynaman girl, one of 12 given a contract with WRU, letter of congratulations to be sent from us.

No issues from police, any issues from us – notify Ruth.

- 5. New Clerk:** Appointments panel met virtually on 11th January and after looking at all 7 applicants, 6 were not suitable because of lack of knowledge of Welsh, none sold themselves well on their cv, and only one professed any knowledge of the Welsh language. The panel suggested interviewing JB with an open mind about her suitability. Glynog to find out if being a town councillor at one council precluded her from being a clerk at another (it does not). Glynog proposed that we accept this and Beth seconded, all agreed. It was decided to interview face-to-face as we would only be 6 in the room.

Was Susan willing to stay as clerk into Feb? Yes.

Tony thanked Susan, Bethan, Rhian for the work they were doing in personal time.

We need to be aware of the need to keep the villages clean and tidy.

Meeting finished at 8:40