



CYNGOR CYMUNED **CWARTER BACH** COMMUNITY COUNCIL

d/o Swyddfa'r Post, Canolfan Y Mynydd Du, Heol Cwmgarw, Brynaman. SA18 1BU

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**MINUTES OF THE 'FULL COUNCIL MEETING' HELD AT THE BLACK MOUNTAIN
CENTRE AND ON A REMOTE BASIS VIA ZOOM ON WEDNESDAY
1ST NOVEMBER 2023 AT 6.30PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllr. S. Thomas (Chair), Cllr. H. Taylor, Cllr. B. Griffiths, Cllr. R. Jones, Cllr. A. Dady,
Cllr. T. Addey, Cllr. Z. Llewellyn, (Attended remotely)

ALSO, PRESENT

Mrs. J. Bell (Clerk)

1. **To receive apologies for absence**

Cllr. S. Davies, Cllr. R. Pearce-Higginson, Cllr. E. Hopkins, Cllr. B. Jones,
Cllr. M. Thomas, Cllr. A. Campisi.

2. **Non apologies**

Cllr. J. Griffiths

3. **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr. A. Dady – Item 11 - Works for Ystradowen Community Centre.
 Item 14 - Knows one of the Quote providers
Cllr. R. Jones – Item 8 - Recommended one of the quote providers
 Item 14 - Husband quoted for website
Cllr. B. Griffiths – Item 8 & 12 – Trustee of the Black Mountain Centre

4. **Public Participation**

No Public Present.

5. **To approve minutes of the previous meeting.**

a.) 3rd October 2023 Community Engagement

AGREED: The minutes were a true recording of the meeting.

b.) 5th October 2023 Full Council Meeting

A couple of amendments were made

AGREED: The minutes were a true recording of the meeting.

c.) 18th October 2023 Community Engagement Meeting

AGREED: The minutes were a true recording of the meeting.

d.) 25th October 2023 Asstes Committee Meeting.

A couple of amendments were made

AGREED: The minutes were a true recording of the meeting.

6. **Matters arising from the minutes**

No matters arising.

7. **Matters arising from the Wards**

a.) **Brynaman**

- Cllr. R. Jones informed the council of a police issue update. A gentleman whose mother lives on Llandeilo Road and was arrested on the same street for affray, taking a vehicle without permission, while disqualified has been sentenced to 1-year for aggravated car theft and affray.
- **Request to chase for an update of signs at Bryn Avenue for Playing Area.**
- Cllr. H. Taylor- Bridge on the Cycle path on Cwmgarw Road has had no maintenance done on it. **Report to C.C.C. and Sustrans**
- Grass at the top of Coronation Road hasn't been cut. **Report to C.C.C.**
- Cllr. R. Jones – a gentleman has reported water coming in to his garden from the park in Bryn Avenue. Cllr. A. Dady having spoken to their neighbour believes it is coming from C.C.C land next door to the park.
Report to C.C.C. as water is pooling in the area.
Cllr. B. Griffiths suggested getting letters from the residents to submit to C.C.C. as there is potentially a Health and Safety issue.

b.) **Cwarter Bach**

- The Skate Park and Playground inspections show that they are dilapidated and in very bad condition, a decision needs to be made

on whether to invest in the Skate Park, as few children are using it at the moment.

- It was noted that there are no usable notice boards in the ward, there are some which were owned by Communities First, but need repairing. **To ask Glynog if he knows anything about them, can we take them over and are we able to change the locks?**
PROPOSED: if we can take them over, we can get new locks and keys

c.) Llynfell

- Cllr. A. Dady asked if we can do a site visit at 53 New Road, Ystradowen prior to making a decision on the water coming off the twmpyn in to the garden.

Cllr. T. Addy suggested we discuss the matter with Glynog as this was clearly an issue before Asset Transfer.

To notify the resident that we have been liaising with CCC and to make further enquiries as to who's responsibility the work is.

- Cllr. Z. Llewellyn – the tennis courts in Cefn Bryn Brain are in a mess, there is more green than tarmac.

The clerk has spoken to Adam Pearce (Celtic Energy) and he has advised to forward any complainants to him.

There is also a leak under the tarmac that has been reported to Highways.

The blocked culvert has been discussed with Highways, the water comes down to the corner in the road and if it freezes in the winter, will cause an accident.

Clerk to chase with Highways

- Cllr. H. Taylor had a general concern that Ystradowen is looking neglected. The pavement by the bungalows next to the Community Centre has tree branches over hanging and people are having to walk on the road.

Cllr. R. Jones queried whether the trees are on the land of Gwalia or a Housing Association?

To find out who owns the land

- Cllr. H. Taylor – there is no one maintaining the path in Ystradowen Park by the Old School House, it is covered in dog faeces and thick with leaves.
- Traffic on Berrington Hill, speed limit is 40mph, with 20mph either end. **Make representations regarding the island half way up the hill**

Speeding passed the Community Centre – there is equipment available for testing the speed of cars from a couple of organisations.

8. **Update from the Community Engagement Committee.**

Website.

Cllr. H. Taylor updated the council, that 3 quotes had now been obtained for a new website. The one recommended by One Voice Wales was between £3/£4,000 + VAT to build, the yearly hosting was double Netwise (the company they had previously recommended), yearly support was extra and to have the Welsh Language would be an additional £8/£900. Netwise costs are £599 to build the website and £399 per annum for hosting and support.

To have a site built by a website consultant would be £1600 with annual ongoing costs of over £300

PROPOSED: To go with Netwise, the recommendation of the Community Engagement Group.

5 Councillors agreed, 1 against and Cllr. R. Jones abstained (as husband put in a quote)

It was also agreed to start with the new website as soon as possible.

Post Office Questionnaires.

The Post Office refused to give the information on what the breakdown of the usage of the Post Office in Brynaman is, therefore the committee will continue with designing a questionnaire. The committee sees this as important if the council is going to subsidise the service in future.

Parks Questionnaire

Cllr. R. Jones is designing a questionnaire to gain the input of the local children into the play areas.

9. **An update from the Assets Committee.**

Bryn Rovers

The committee suggested that the of placing a new container in Cae Criced, next to the existing one may need planning permission, and this needs investigating.

AGREED

The committee would like to meet with Mr Lyn Brodrick, of Actif C.C.C. to discuss Bryn Rovers and in particular the licence that is held between them and the council.

AGREED

Annual Review of the Assets

Recommended by the committee as a necessity going forward.

AGREED

Ystardowen Pavillion

The committee suggested that the pavilion be cleaned and painted.

PROPOSED: To wait until the roof has been repaired and then revisit.

PAC Testing.

Items like the immersion heater ought to be PAC tested

AGREED

Fire Safety Testing

As landlords the council should be doing this.

AGREED

10. **Update on work needing doing to the assets.**

Play Parks

A copy of the annual inspections had been sent out to councillors prior to the meeting. And a meeting is arranged for the 15th November with Gareth of Adventure Playground Wales for some ideas for the parks.

Maes Elwyn Flood.

Councillors were aware that there has been heavy flooding near the Skate Park in Maes Elwyn which had resulted in water flowing down in to the grounds of the Kids Club and down to the lower car park. Residents were extremely concerned and the clerk had a contractor out who dig a trench and divert the flow of water. A sink hole had appeared which filled with water, shortly after another 2 appeared. Heras fencing had been hired and a local contractor had secured the holes. Contractors believe the drain has become blocked and that the pipes have collapsed under the ground. The clerk had liaised with the Chair throughout and it was agreed that the work which was emergency work had to be carried out.

The council were in agreement to consult contractors and the hiring of fencing to secure the area.

Cllr. B. Griffiths explained that there are clay pipes under the ground.

AGREED: To ask Glynog for advice and ask that he discuss with CCC who have stated that it is the responsibility of the Community Council.

Cllr. Z. Llewellyn asked if a risk-assessment had been done of the area?

And asked if Welsh Water or Natural Resource Wales had been consulted?

PROPOSED: To purchase Heras fencing (due to the costly rental charges) and to cordon off the entire area with signage that it will be 'closed for the foreseeable future due to subsidence'

To ask Owen Phillips if he knows anyone selling fencing?
To have a risk assessment done of the area.

11. **To receive an update from the meeting with Ystradowen Community Centre.**

The council were updated on a meeting that Cllr. S. Thomas, Cllr. H. Taylor, Cllr. A. Campisi and the clerk had attended with Mr David Belcher and Emily Jones, regarding the issues raised in previous correspondence. The meeting had been arranged in order to discuss and look at the agreement in place between the Centre and the Clwb Bach (which hires a room within the centre) and also to ascertain whether the money donated by the community council subsidises the Clwb in any way.

The members that attended were shown the lease between the two and evidence that the Clwb is paying rent and also paying a service charge for the use of the space it hires. All donations/grants made to the Centre are accounted for and were available to view on a spreadsheet.

PROPOSED: The council are satisfied that no money they have donated has been used to subsidise the Clwb Bach and that this be reiterated in a letter to the sender of a previous complaint. It was also decided to treat the centres equally, therefore the council would like to ask the Black Mountain Centre to see the leases they hold with those occupying space in the centre.

At 8.30pm a vote was taken to continue with the meeting.

12. **To discuss the proposal for Ystradowen from Rachel Carter.**

AGREED: To ask the Community Engagement Committee to discuss the proposal and to get feedback from the community.

13. **Prepare for the Budget 2024-2025**

The clerk advised that it would soon be time to set the next budget and that now was the time to think about future plans, projects and spends. Cllr. H. Taylor asked whether money can be put aside for participatory budgets? In order for the community to decide what they want money to be spent on allowing them feel more involved.

AGREED: That the Community Engagement Committee to develop a questionnaire and to come up with a budget for each ward.

14. **Quotes**

1. Due to the Emergency work needing doing to the roof in Ystradowen Pavillion only one quote was obtained.

- AGREED:** To accept the quote from Lloyd Roofing to do the repairs
2. Mathew Sullivan Quoted to repair a door on the shed in Maes Elwynn Car Park and to replace a broken vent in Maes Elwyn Pavillion.
AGREED: To accept the quote.
 3. 3 quotes were received for the repair work on Ystradowen Retaining Wall.
AGREED: The quote from Kerry Bennett was accepted.
 4. A wall at the Kids Club is loose and needs emergency work. Matthew Sullivan has quoted for the work.
AGREED: To accept the quote.
 5. 2 Quotes had been received to put the Christmas lights up this year as KDY Electrics were unable to. The clerk hadn't been able to get a third in time but on comparing to previous years with SFS both were substantially lower.
AGREED: To accept the quote of Centregreat.

15. **Bills For Payment**

Wrenvale – Extra Grass Cuts Cae Criced - £192 (hadn't been added to the total last month.)

Tom Sunley – Put the plaque back on the Wall of the Kids Club - £15

Ystradowen Community Centre – Room Hire x 6 - £180

Black Mountain Centre – Office Hire/Charges - £194.59

SLCC Virtual Conference for the clerk - £60 + VAT

SLCC Book for Clerk - £25

Donation to the British Legion - £100

AGREED: To pay all of the above.

16. **Correspondance.**

Residents in Ystradowen have requested a Christmas Tree this year to be placed outside the Community Centre, they also requested battery operated fairy lights for it.

AGREED: To ask Quids In if they are able to supply a tree, clerk to purchase lights.

Planning Application PL/06035 – Proposed Ground Floor and rear extension -12 Coronation Road. SA18 1BB

The application had come in after the agenda had gone out

AGREED: No observations.

Correspondence received from a member of the public with over 20 FOIs

The clerk had been advised by One Voice Wales that they could not identify any FOIs in the correspondence but rather a list of questions. It was up to the council to decide if they wanted to answer, whether they

wanted to charge for the time or to answer but not in the 20 working days as attributed to FOIs.

AGREED: To answer the questions but over a longer period of time.

17. **A.O.B***

A decision needs to be made on who is to hold keys for the councils' assets.

It was decided to ask the Assets Committee to develop a key policy that would apply across all the assets.

18. **Date of next meeting**

Wednesday 6th December 2023

Meeting finished at 9.03p.m.

SignedChair

Date