



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 YSTRADOWEN
COMMUNITY CENTRE AND ON A REMOTE BASIS VIA ZOOM ON WEDNESDAY
6TH DECEMBER 2023 AT 6.30PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllr. S. Thomas (Chair), Cllr. H. Taylor, Cllr. B. Griffiths, Cllr. T. Addey, Cllr. M. Thomas, Cllr. A. Dady (7.15pm)

Cllr. R. Jones, Cllr. J. Griffiths, Cllr. E. Hopkins, Cllr. A. Campisi &
Cllr. R. Pearce-Higginson (Attended remotely)

ALSO, PRESENT

Mrs. J. Bell (Clerk) and 3 Members of the Public (MoP)

1. **To receive apologies for absence**

Cllr. B. Jones

2. **Non apologies**

None

3. **Declarations of Interest**

As they arose

Cllr. B. Griffiths – Item 10 & 15 - Trustee of the Black Mountain Centre

Cllr. A. Dady – Item 15 – Works for Ystradowen Community Centre.

Cllr. M. Thomas – Item 15 – Trustee of the Black Mountain Centre

4. **Public Participation**

MoP 1 – Introduced herself and stated that she was interested in the Ystradowen Building (Pavilion) and would be listening in.

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

a.) 1st November 2023 Full Council Meeting

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

b.) 15th November 2023 Community Engagement

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

6. **Matters arising from the minutes**

No matters arising.

7. **To accept the resignations of Cllr. S. Davies & Cllr. Z. Llewellyn**

ACCEPTED.

Cllr. R Jones commented how hard they had worked for the community

AGREED: To write to both thanking them for their hard work.

8. **Planning application PL/06794**

Variation of Condition 3 on E/22416 (Construction of two Storey dwelling and Garage at Rear) at 72 Mountain Road, Upper Brynamman,

Ammanford, SA18 1AN

No Observations

The Chair wanted to congratulate members who had voted in favour of the new Christmas Lights which she had previously abstained from, commenting that they were very nice.

9. **Matters arising from the Wards**

a.) **Brynaman**

Bryn Avenue Changing Rooms - Cllr. S. Thomas – CCC had been out to look at the roof of the changing rooms, they had wanted to check the concrete on the roof, however they had been unable to access it. He did comment the roof wasn't in a good condition.

Wall outside cinema – Cllr. R. Jones – this has been repaired after being hit for the 3rd time in a month.

Grit Bins – have now been filled, there are some in Cefn Bryn Brain left to be done., they have been reported.

b.) **Cwarter Bach**

Maes Elwyn Playing Field – Cllr. H. Taylor has been speaking to one of the junior rugby coaches and they have expressed an interest in using the field on Sunday mornings.

Also, there is a piece of land where the old coal yard used to be and the rugby club are interested in obtaining this land for training and possibly putting a 3G pitch there but they are unsure who owns the land.

Cllr. R. Jones has obtained information from the Land Registry that the land is owned by someone currently living in the Isle of Wight.

Cllr. R. Jones has previously brought an idea to the council that they should support Bryn Rovers in trying to take over the land for training purposes.

AGREED: To support Bryn Rovers & Brynaman Rugby Club in the future with any plans they may have to develop the area.

Rhian to send the information regarding ownership on to members.

Holes, due to flooding in Maes Elwyn – Update, the advice given to the clerk following an inspection with a contractor, is to get a camera down the pipes to see where the problem is.

Cllr. S. Thomas - Glynog was going to ask county for help, once we have a cost, we can go back to him.

7pm Cllr. R. Pearce-Higginson joined the meeting via Zoom.

c.) Llynfell

Notice Boards – Cllr T. Addey – asked if there was an update on taking over the notice boards across the wards.

They had been donated by Communities First to the Community.

AGREED: To put money in the **Budget** for new barrels and to clean etc.

Painting work at Ystradowen – Cllr. T. Addey asked if there was an update on the work being done to tidy the building up?

The clerk confirmed that there was still a couple of leaks there, separate from the ones previously repaired and that the roofer we had used was not forthcoming in meeting to have another look.

Parks – Cllr. T. Addey suggested all the councillors to look at their parks and to come up with a list of works by January.

Wall Ystradowen – Cllr. T. Addey, asked if there was an update?

Clerk advised that the contractor had said he was starting a few weeks ago but she had not checked. **To chase up**

Pathway alongside Old School house, Ystradowen. – needs tidying.

Clerk to remind Wrenvale.

Gate in to Ystradowen Field – Cllr. S. Thomas – the gate is locked but the council and Wrenvale don't have keys.

Later observed in the Chat function that MoP 2 had commented that he had spare keys and would give one to Wrenvale and the rest to the council.

Tennis Courts Cefn Bryn Brain – Cllr. R. Jones – Full of dog faeces.

Clerk asked if the council wanted someone to clean, despite not being our land?

Need to arrange a meeting with Glynog and Celtic Energy to discuss a number of issues that they have left the community with.

AGREED: Write to Glynog with all our concerns and see if he is available to attend January's meeting.

7.15pm Cllr. A. Dady attended

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

Cllr. H. Taylor gave an update

Website - Process has started but no update as yet

Post Office questionnaire – to be launched after Christmas

Consulting the Community – Suggested developing a Community Plan

The process would be started with a community meeting, information gathering activity. Could use a Community Fayre possibly with craft stalls, all stakeholders would be invited to have a stall

An opportunity for the community to express what they would like to see, e.g. by using suggestion boxes.

It would be useful to have a budget for the Community Engagement group to cover costs of printing, possibly gazebos and room hire if we are going to run public meetings.

Community Engagement Committee to bring plan to the January meeting.

AGREED: to arrange 2 dates at the end of January to hold Community Fayres in Ystradowen and Brynaman.

Plans for the Twmpyn – can also be addressed in these events.

Participatory Budgeting – the committee would like to allocate a pot of money to the community for them to decide how it is spent

AGREED: To discuss further in January

11. **To discuss the proposals from Cllr. H. Taylor.**

Warm welcome spaces – Both centres will be running warm spaces this year again. It was suggested the community council make a financial contribution towards the both.

AGREED: £500 per centre to be given immediately.

Drink Spiking – Affects mostly 16–20-year-olds, the community council should put information leaflets out on the risks. Community council can supply kits, which included anti-spiking caps, rape alarm with a torch, and these can be handed out to members of the community.

AGREED: To start with 50 packs which will be available at the Community centres, with an online campaign and leaflets in pubs.

Winter Warm Packs – £151.20 for 12 packs as bought the previous year.

AGREED: To purchase another 12 for now

12. **Budget 2024-2025 Update.**

The budget to date was looked at and a discussion was had about adding new anticipated expenses to the budget.

E.g. Cae Criced roof, the garage in Maes Elwyn (rewiring & guttering), to put money aside for warm spaces, warm packs, community engagement.

AGREED: To hold a Finance Meeting at the beginning of January followed by a Full Council Meeting.

13. **Quotes**

The clerk had hoped to have quotes for the exploratory work on Maes Elwyn following the flooding.

Only one of the contractors had come out and he had suggested putting a camera down the drain to see where the problem was.

MoP 2 recommended CH Drainage in the Zoom chat function.

14. **Bills For Payment**

Wrenvale – Grounds Maintenance - £5748

C.C.C – Vertidrainning Maes Elwyn– £241.80

Expenses - Julia Bell - £335.18 (inc. selection boxes which Wrenvale are covering the costs of the chocolates.

Expenses – Cllr. A. Dady – Batteries - £8.50

AGREED: To pay all of the above bills.

Cllr. S. Thomas asked about obtaining plaques for the flower pots that the council own that are in the community, and asked whether the council would like her to look in to costings etc. by a future meeting.

AGREED

15. **Correspondance.**

The Tregib – Gary Thompson – has sent an email informing the council that the pub is reopening this evening. He also offered to get involved in anything he could within the community.

Noted

Carmarthen Federation of Young Farmers – seeking a donation.
To keep until February / March for the councils next donation award.

Member of the public – email for Tom Addey concerning a wooden notice board. There appears to be a problem sending emails to councillors from the links on the website

Cllr. T Addey found the emails in his spam but had previously asked that the gentleman whether he had contacted the Heritage.

Cllr. Addey will contact the gentleman directly.

Member of the Public – an ongoing issue, previously raised regarding monies paid to Ystradowen Community Centre.

Two issues have been raised again in the email, firstly a breach of conduct by a former member of the council when public funds were awarded and declarations of interest should have been made, and secondly the total lack of transparency between the organisation and the members club. The Member of the Public was not satisfied with the previous response from the council and suggested for transparency, asking a district valuer to advise on what is a fair rent. He also suggests again that the council report themselves to Wales Audit.

The Council have already had advice from One Voice Wales and the Monitoring Officer with C.C.C.

Councillors debated a way forward with the complaint, Cllr. R. Jones & Cllr. H. Taylor asked that it be referred to the Audit Office.

Cllr. J. Griffiths asked that we write to Audit Wales and ask whether they would look in to the matter.

AGREED: To write to Audit Wales and ask if they'd be prepared to investigate the matters referred to by the Member of the Public in his emails.

If there is a cost implication, there will have to be another discussion by council at a later date.

8 members in favour, 3 abstained

Ystradowen Communities – regarding the use of the Pavilion in Ystradowen.

AGREED previously to repair slabs, paint the inside and outside.

However, there is a long list of alterations and recommendations in the email.

Cllr. H. Taylor expressed concern about the locality for teaching children and also setting up another form of Community Centre when there is one already nearby.

Cllr. T Addey – we need to do the maintenance (roof, slabs & painting) the group then need to look at additional funding.

Cllr. T Addey proposed we do the maintenance and then we look at the proposal again.

Cllr. R. Jones – Home Education is a massive thing at the moment, we need to do the maintenance and support the group going forward.

Once the work is completed can the group then be allowed to use it?

Cllr H. Taylor would like to make sure it's safe, legal and our insurance supports it.

AGREED: To do the maintenance, get electricity checked and then sit down and have a discussion with Sally. Also, to check the Insurance.

Member of the Public – 53 New Road - emailed again as there is water going into their land from the Twmpyn in Ystradowen.

Cllr. T. Addey – a strong email is needed, this was before Asset transfer, and Glynog needs to support us.

Nothing to do with the Community Council this was before the council took over the asset.

AGREED: Go back to Glynog and seek the advice of a structural surveyor.

16. **NALC Annual Salary Award Agreement 2023-24, to agree the backdated staff pay rise to 1st April 2023.**

The Chair informed the councillors that new pay-scales have been released by NALC

AGREED: Council agreed the new rated and to backdate to April 1st.

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

Cllr. R. Jones – Invitation for the Chair to attend Brynaman' s first Christmas Spectacular on Saturday 16th December in the Public Hall.

The Chair is unable to attend, Cllr. J. Griffiths (Deputy) & Cllr. E. Hopkins will attend if they are able to.

18. **Date of next meeting**

Wednesday 3rd January 2024 Finance Meeting at 6.00pm

Wednesday 10th January 2024 Full Council Meeting at 6.30pm

Meeting finished at 8.58p.m.

Signed**Chair**

Date