

Minutes of Taff's Well & Nantgarw Community Council held at:- Ty Rhiw Community Centre on Thursday 28 May 2009

PRESENT: Cllrs: - C Dyke (Chairperson) S Lintern, L. Thomas, Megan Jones, A. Evans, Tracy Williams, Bonetto, C E Griffin and Pat Prothro

APOLOGIES, Cllrs: Fred Meech.

Also present: Clerk to the Council Derek Allinson. Police representatives Pc 141 Andrew Townsend and PCSOs Rachel Price

MINUTE No: 1/05/09 DISCLOSURES OF PERSONAL INTEREST:

Cllr Dyke declared an interest in all matters associated with the Ty Rhiw Community Centre.

MINUTE No: 2/5/09 POLICE MATTERS:

Pc 141 Andrew Townsend and PSCOs Robert Lewis and Rachel Price attended on behalf of the police authority and presented the following report:

- Pc Townsend confirmed that the next PACT meeting would take place on Monday 29 June at Taff's Well Park, the previous PACT meeting had identified the lack of youth provision as one of its priority areas and the police were organising activities and trips for local youngsters. Members, whilst fully supporting the increase in youth provision, expressed some concern that the activities were not fully inclusive and gave priority to 'offenders'.

The police confirmed that the activities were being undertaken in association with the 'youth offending team' but did not exclude individuals who were not part of the youth offending teams list.

Members expressed the view that many parents considered that these activities were a 'reward' for misbehaviour and requested that consideration also be given to the vast majority of young people who 'behaved themselves'

- The officers confirmed that there had been increases in vehicle crime where the target was 'valuables left within the vehicle'.
- The police and community support officers were carrying out local programmes to try to deal with speeding vehicles. However, the hand held speed camera was 'on loan' to another division consequently there had been less activity in this particular area over the past month. Once the camera was returned this would once again become a priority.
- An individual had been arrested for trespass on the railway lines. Officers expressed concern that some youngsters were using the railway lines as a short cut and seemed oblivious to the dangers.
- Following complainants about parking on double yellow lines a number of fixed penalty notices had been issued. Whilst recognising the problems caused by inadequate parking facilities in Taff's Well village and the need for a certain amount of discursion some offenders were causing a potential hazard and therefore needed to be dealt with.
- Two burglaries had taken place at Taff's well Park, police were pursuing inquiries into these matters.
- There had been an increase in 'suspicious vehicles' within the area. Police were using the DVLA number recognition network to identify suspicious vehicles and, where applicable, were stopping the vehicles.
- A Member raised concerns about the continuing problem of scrambler bikes causing a nuisance in the area. The police reported that they had recently issued two section 59 warnings and if the culprits were caught again the bikes would be confiscated.

There being no other business the officers were thanked for their attendance

MINUTE No: 3/5/09 PUBLIC SESSION:

Members of the public were present and raised issues relating to the Community Council's Planning application in respect of Ty Chapel, the lack of children's play facilities at Tawelfryn and the lack of Christmas lights in Taff's Well.

Planning application

The Clerk responded to the questions raised in respect of the Planning application and confirmed that it was the intention of the Community Council to lodge a formal appeal in respect of the County Council's refusal of planning permission. The Clerk informed those present that the planning authority had determined that the application would fall under the provisions contained within Class D1 & D2 use: Which are as follows:

Class D1. Non-residential institutions

Any use not including a residential use —

- (a) for the provision of any medical or health services except the use of premises attached to the residence of the consultant or practitioner,
- (b) as a crèche, day nursery or day centre,
- (c) for the provision of education,
- (d) for the display of works of art (otherwise than for sale or hire),
- (e) as a museum,
- (f) as a public library or public reading room,
- (g) as a public hall or exhibition hall, for, or in connection with, public worship or religious instruction.

Class D2. Assembly and leisure

Use as —

- (a) a cinema,
- (b) a concert hall,
- (c) a bingo hall or casino,
- (d) a dance hall,
- (e) a swimming bath, skating rink, gymnasium or area for other indoor or outdoor sports or recreations, not involving motorised vehicles or firearms.
- (f) a public meeting hall not associated with public worship or religious instruction

The Planning officer had determined that the Chapel already had planning permission for all of the items contained in the D1 use. The Clerk explained that the Community Council and its partnership organisations clearly would not wish to avail itself of all of these uses contained within the D1 list and that the prime use of the Centre, if granted permission, would be to once again be able to use the Chapel for Funeral Services and Weddings. In respect of the D2 list the only activity that was being considered by the Community council was (f) a public meeting hall not associated with public worship or religious instruction

The Clerk confirmed that during the application stage the Council had written to the planning officer suggesting a condition be attached to disallow any youth club facilities but this was not possible as it 'infringed the human rights of this group'. It was suggested, that this matter would more appropriately be dealt with as a condition of the lease and the Community Council together with its partner organisations were more than willing to accept this as a condition of the lease.

The Clerk answered questions relating to the 'music licence' requirements and outlined the legal requirements associated with the playing of music in any public establishment.

The Clerk confirmed that if the Planning Inspectorate were to overturn the County Council's decision the Community Council would establish a committee of local interest groups and local residents who would act as the 'management committee' there by insuring that no 'unsuitable activities' took place.

The Clerk, on behalf of the Council, invited those individuals, who still had concerns, to join the committee and by doing so ensure that 'no unsuitable activities' took place.

Play facilities at Tawelfryn

A local resident presented a petition and portfolios outlining the lack of children's play facilities at Tawelfryn and requesting that urgent action be taken to address this issue.

The Clerk confirmed that whilst the Community Council had committed a budget of £3000 per year for improvements within this area (at present £6000 was available towards a jointly financed scheme). However, the Community Council was unable to proceed without agreement from the County Council who were the owners of the land and the authority responsible for play provision.

The Clerk confirmed that the Community Council had written to the County Council Member on this matter but he had refused to attend a meeting of the Community Council to discuss these issues.

The Clerk agreed that he would PDF the information presented and forward it to both the County Member and the County Council's play officer reaffirming that the Community Council was willing to contribute £6000 to improvements at Tawelfryn, a copy of the email would also be sent to the petitioner and the original documentation returned so that a 'hard copy' could be sent to the County member and officer.

It was further agreed that The Clerk would supply the petitioner with the contact details of these individuals so that the matter could be pursued directly by the local Community. It was agreed to revisit this matter when a response was received from the County Council.

Christmas lights

A member of the public expressed concern about the lack of decorations/Christmas lights in the Village during last year's festivities.

The Clerk confirmed that the Community Council had considered this matter but because of the cost, primarily associated with additional insurance, health and safety regulations and 'new' highway conditions it was cost prohibitive. The Community Council had therefore agreed that additional grant aid would be given to OAP groups so that they could celebrate Christmas in a manner of their own choosing.

MINUTE NO: 4/5/09 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Members noted that Councillor J Bonetto was present at the meeting held on the 23 April but her name had not been recorded, with this omission, the minutes of the meeting held on 23 April 2009 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman:

MINUTE No: 5/5/09 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

There were no matters arising which were not included on the agenda or covered within the Clerk's report.

MINUTE NO; 6/5/09 CORRESPONDENCE - CLERK'S REPORT

RENTAL OF LAND AT PARISH ROAD

At its last meeting it was agreed that the Clerk should again write to the tenant of the field at Parish Rd regarding her non payment of rental on the site and if no response was forthcoming institute County Court proceedings.

The Clerk confirmed that the required letters were sent and a copy posted on the stable door. No response had been received and a further notice was then issued requiring the removal of all equipment and livestock within 14 days. The notice confirmed that any property left on the site after this period would be deemed to be abandoned and disposed of by the Community Council.

A site visit has been made and no horses/ponies are now on the site however some equipment still present.

It had been established that the tenant no longer resided at the address contained within the 'memorandum of understanding' and no forwarding address was available making it difficult to pursue a County Court order. Members agreed that given the new information and the fact that the site was now vacant the council would not pursue County Court proceedings and any previous minutes in respect of this matter be rescinded.

MEETING WITH COUNTY PLAY OFFICER

As agreed at the previous meeting, the Clerk had met with the County Council's Play Officer to discuss improvements to local facilities. Councillors Dyke and Bontetto were also in attendance at the meeting.

The Play officer confirmed that a small budget of £5,000 had been allocated for improvements within the Ty Rhiw area. However, this sum was insufficient to do the work requested by the Community Council and improvements could only be made if joint funding was in place.

The Play officer presented proposals for a small BMX Track at Ty Rhiw Park, a copy of which had been circulated to members of the Council. The scheme provided a basic track, which could be extended when additional monies became available, at a cost of approximately £8,000.

A scheme to make improvements to the Ty Rhiw Playground was also discussed, the proposal was to 'landscape' the rear of the park and provide two small pieces of equipment with benches. There was a possibility that the area would be grassed thereby improving the visual aspect of the "derelict area". Again these proposals could only be commissioned if joint funding was in place.

Following further discussion it was agreed that the Clerk would recommend that £5,000 be allocated by the Community Council as a match funding contribution to these improvements.

In addition, the meeting discussed the need for improvements at the Oxford Street play area and at Tawelfryn.

In respect of the Oxford Street facility, the County play Officer suggested that the Playground be decommissioned, the area grassed over and a football pitch provide. It was agreed that this matter be discussed with the local member before any action was taken (*again these proposals would need to be match funded*)

In respect of the Tawelfryn area, the County Play Officer was informed that a residents group had been established and were seeking improvements to local facilities. The group had the support of the Community Council who was prepared to provide some funding if an agreed scheme could established. It was agreed that the local members be asked to establish exactly what was being proposed and a further meeting be arranged to discuss the matter further.

The Community Council appreciated the funding difficulties and whilst it may not be possible to fund everything, in this financial year plans should be drawn up and agreed, the Community Council could then plan its resources to ensure that 'match funding monies were available'.

Following discussion it was agreed that; whilst the community council would provide, up to £4000 for the installation of the BMX Track. However, it could not support the decommissioning of the Ty Rhiw children's play area but, as an interim measure, would be happy to provide a further £1000 for 'landscaping works' to take place. The Clerk was also requested to inform the County Council of its concern that the rear wall of the play area was, in the opinion of the council, in a dangerous condition and request that immediate action be taken to eliminate this danger.

PROPOSAL FOR FURTHER ALLOTMENTS AND COMMUNITY CARDENS

Members considered a proposal submitted by the Taff's Well Allotments Association to provide additional allotments and community facilities on the 'horse field' at Parish Road.

The Clerk reported that, having examined the proposals in detail, it is clear that they are well thought out and involve a number of community groups in a way that befits the role that Community Council's were set up for. However, if members are agreeable to the proposal it would need to be made clear that OUR contribution would be the use of the land and ALL other costs would need be met from external sources.

The Clerk informed members that he informed the allotment committee chairman that, if the Community Council were in favour he could only recommend it if it was cost natural i.e. at no cost to the community

council and that any change of use costs, in planning terms, must be met either by the allotment's committee or the County Council who are the allotments authority.

Following discussion and debate it was agreed that: With the above provisos the Community Council fully supports the proposal for the development of further allotments and community garden.

In order to expedite these matters it was agreed that a small joint working group be established the Council's representatives be: The Chairman of the Community Council together with Councillors L. Thomas and J Bonetto.

COMPUTER FACILITIES AT TY RHIW COMMUNITY CENTRE

At its previous meeting it was agreed that the Clerk would obtain quotations to enable Computer facilities to be available at the Ty Rhiw Community Centre. Members were informed that the five Computers, donated by the County Council, needed 'programmes and adaptations' before they could be brought into beneficial use.

An analysis of the computers show that the following would be required:-

- A Microsoft Works system is installed. However, this is a very outdated package as it was replaced by Microsoft office in 2000. Current Systems operate on Microsoft Office 2003 or 2007.
- The machines will need wireless cards to allow Internet access and reduce cabling.
- All machines will need Microsoft patches installing and other programs such as Adobe Reader
- Courses usually try and cover photo editing, so some photo editing software would be required.
- When the PC's are connected to the Internet they will require protection Kaspersky is the best for the job. This will slow the machines, hence the requirement to purchase extra memory.

The basic requirements would therefore be

4 x Kaspersky Internet Security
8 x 512MB PC3200 memory
4 x DVD Writers
4 x Wireless cards
Software programmes.

The Clerk reported that he had obtained competitive quotes and the cheapest quote, for the above specification was £1415.00. However, whilst the printers are functional they would require new print cartridges to be installed and this was not included within the estimate

The Clerk reported that; as the Computers are not in the ownership of the Community Council no direct payment could be made and recommended that a grant of £1,500 be made to the Ty Rhiw Community Centre to facilitate these matters. Following discussion it was resolved that: That a grant of £1500 be made to the Ty Rhiw Community Centre,

MINUTE No; 7/5/2009 MEMBERS' REPORTS

Cllr Audrey Evans

Informed members that 'Cars for Sale' were still being parked on the Road, at the south end of the village. Given the lack of parking within this area it was requested the police be requested to take action in this matter.

Cllr Megan Jones

Supported the concerns expressed Councillor Evans and asked that the police take action on the indiscriminate parking around the garage.

There was still a problem of large potholes in the road leading to the Library and the Member had passed her concerns on to the County Council in the hope that something could be done to address this issue

Cllr S Lintern

The residents of the Ty Wern Flats had requested that a Bench be installed inside the boundary fence. It was noted that two benches were still in Councillor Meech's possession and agreed, that subject to the approval of the landlords, one of the benches be used for this purpose.

Requested that the County Council/landlords of the Ty Wern and Ty Hendra flats be asked to repair the shed doors. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the appropriate department on this matter.

Requested that the Clerk contact the County Council and request that the footpaths between 29-38 and 55-64 Yr Hendra be cleared. It was apparent that this had not been done for some years and access to these properties was being hindered by the level of the overgrowth.

Reported the residents' displeasure of the inadequate bus service being provided to the Yr Hendra estate, the Clerk reported that he had, on behalf of the Community Council, responded to the recent consultations on local bus services but had been informed that no other complaints/communications had been received from local residents. The Clerk emphasised the importance of local residents themselves reporting these matters as it gave 'more weight' the argument that the service was inadequate.

Councillor Lintern informed Members that a number of residents had approached her to request that St Mary's Church return the Nantgarw War Memorial Plaque to Nantgarw. Whilst sympathetic to request it was agreed that, in the first instance, this request should be dealt with by the residents contacting St Mary's Church and request a meeting with the local Vicar to see if these problems could be amicably resolved.

Cllr L Thomas

Informed Members that the Japanese Knotweed had not been cleared from the Railway line or the property at 12 Yew Street Taff's Well. The Clerk confirmed that he had contacted both Network Rail and the County Council over this matter and if no action had been taken by the next meeting he would once again pursue this matter.

Reported that Zen Hairdressing was experiencing difficulty in getting a 'Refuse Bin' located at its new premises, it was agreed that the Clerk would pursue this matter with the local authority.

Cllr Tracy Williams

Asked if the Community Council would consider providing some grant aid to Taff's Well Mini Rugby Club. Members agreed that once an application was received it would give the matter sympathetic consideration.

Cllr C Dyke

Reported that she had received a number of complaints about dog faeces at the cemetery end of the Nantgarw Trail, and requested that the Community Council write to the County requesting that 'poop scope' facilities be placed at either end of the trail,

It was also requested that the County Council highways department be contacted about weeds and overgrowth outside of the Cross Keys Inn.

Pat Prothro

Requested that the County Council Highways Department be informed of the large potholes on the Cemetery Road, just past the entrance to the Cemetery, and ask that urgent action be taken as they posed a hazard to cyclists and other road users.

MINUTE No; 8/5/09 FINANCIAL REPORT:

The Clerk presented Members with details of current balances within the Community Council's Current and Deposit accounts.

Members approved payment of the accounts presented in the sum of £2939.35 including a grant of £1,500 to the Ty Rhiw Community Centre

MINUTE No: 9/5/2009 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

Members' received the following planning application and **resolved** that the following observations be made known to the County Council.

09/0508/10	Logicalls UK Ltd Buckingham Avenue Slough Berkshire SL1 4PF	Installation of brick built compound with timber roof to match existing compounds on the same estate. Compound to house air-conditioning condenser units at UNIT 3 CEFN COED, NANTGARW, CF15 7QQ	The Community Council would raise no objection to this application
09/0544/10	Mr R Luff 46 Cwrt Ty Mawr Caerphilly CF83 3RQ	The construction of 1 no. two storey house with detached garage and 1 no. Bungalow with detached garage together with associated infrastructure at LAND OFF NANTGARW ROAD (ADJACENT TO 20 PINE RIDGE), NANTGARW	Subject to the Public right of Way being protected the Community Council would raise no objection to this application

MINUTE No; 10/5/09 A.O.B.

The following dates and venues were confirmed for the next two meeting;

Thursday 25 June 2009 at the Tawelfryn Community Centre

Thursday 30 July 2009 at the Ty Rhiw Community Centre

Both meetings to commence at 7 pm

With no further business to discuss the meeting was closed at 8.40 pm.

SIGNED:.....

DATE:.....