

**MINUTES OF TAFF'S WELL & NANTGARW COMMUNITY  
COUNCIL HELD AT:-**

**SAINTS MARY AND JAMES' CHURCH HALL  
Thursday 28 May 2015**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs: L. Thomas (Chairman) Megan Jones, Helen Edmunds, C Dyke, J Bonetto, Mel Timothy and S. Lintern

**APOLOGIES,** Cllrs: - Charlotte E Griffin

**Also present:** Clerk to the Council Derek Allinson

**MINUTE No: 1/5/15 DISCLOSURES OF PERSONAL INTEREST**

Councillor Jill Bonetto declared an interest in all planning applications and took no part in the discussions on these items. In addition, Councillor Bonetto declared an interest in all matter related to the discussion on Coleg Morgannwg Nantgarw

**MINUTE No: 2/5/15 POLICE MATTERS:**

No Police representative in attendance.

**MINUTE NO: 3/5/15 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 April 2015 was confirmed as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman:

**MINUTE No: 4/5/15 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES:**

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes

**MINUTE NO: 5/5/15 CLERK'S REPORT**

**FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS - 2014- 2015**

Members received for information and approval a copy of the Council's income and expenditure accounts for the financial year 2014- 2015.

The Clerk confirmed that the accounts have been checked and verified by the Council's internal auditor, Mrs T Mota and once approved will be sent for external audit to the Welsh Assembly Governments' appointed external auditors Mazars.

This has to be completed by the **30 June 2015**.

**Resolved:-**

1. The Community Council notes and approves the Council's accounts for the year ended 31 March 2015.
2. Approves payment of £35 to Mrs T Mota the Council's internal auditor.

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DEMOCRACY) (WALES) ACT 2013 (COMMENCEMENT NO. 2) ORDER 2015**

The Clerk reported that The Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 (“the 2013 Act”) received Royal Assent on 30 July 2013 and outlined the key components that impacted on the Community Council: namely,

Its primary purpose was to reform the constitution and function of the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales (formerly the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales). The 2013 Act, however, introduced various other provisions connected with local government which the Community Council needs to be aware of and ensure compliance.

The above Order commences sections 55-58, 68 and 69 of the 2013 Act with effect from 1 May 2015.

### **Community and Town Councils – Electronic Publication of Information (EPI)**

Following commencement of sections 55 - 57 of the 2013 Act, Community and Town Councils will be required to publish certain information electronically (i.e. on a website). This includes information about the council’s clerk and members, minutes of council meetings and any audited statement of the council’s accounts.

Community and Town Councils will be required to publish public notices electronically, and to make certain information about their meetings and proceedings available electronically.

The requirement to publish information electronically is in addition to existing publication requirements.

Whilst the statutory guidance to assist Community and Town Councils in fulfilling their duties will come into force on 1 May 2015 the Council is well prepared for EPI and fulfils its statutory obligations.

### **Registers of Members’ Interests**

Currently, section 81 of the Local Government Act 2000 (“the 2000 Act”) requires the monitoring officer of each relevant authority to establish and maintain a register of members’ interests. In the case of a community or town council, this duty rests with the monitoring officer of the county or county borough council for the area in which the community or town council is located.

Section 81 of the 2000 Act also requires each relevant authority, including a community or town council, to make its register available for public inspection at all reasonable hours.

Following commencement of section 58 of the 2013 Act, these requirements are amended in two respects:

1. The duty to establish and maintain the register of members’ interests transfers from the monitoring officer to the ‘proper officer’ of the community or town council, ie the officer designated by the council for this purpose; and
2. In addition to being available for public inspection, the register of interests must also be published electronically, ie on the authority’s website.

Commencement of section 58 will require a number of small consequential amendments to be made to the Model Code of Conduct to clarify interpretation of its provisions. However, the Welsh Government is working to bring forward a number of unrelated amendments to the Model

Code for consultation later in the year. Consequently, to avoid the need for authorities to adopt revised codes of conduct in relatively quick succession, it is intended to make all amendments at the same time.

### **Joint Standards Committees**

Section 68 of the 2013 Act amends the duty on a relevant authority in section 53 of the 2000 Act to establish a standards committee, so that two or more authorities may establish a joint standards committee. The Welsh Government is currently of the view that this provision does not, of itself, require consequential amendments to be made to the Standards Committees (Wales) Regulations 2001, or the Local Government (Functions of Monitoring Officers and Standards Committees) (Wales) Regulations 2001. References in these regulations to a 'standards committee' will take the same meaning as that in the 2000 Act (as amended) and thus will include a joint standards committee where one has been established. However, the Welsh Government intends to make a number of unrelated amendments to these regulations later this year and will review the matter further at that time.

### **Referral of Misconduct Cases / Dispensation Applications**

Sections 73 and 81 of the 2000 Act provide powers for the Welsh Ministers to make regulations for, respectively, the:

- 1 The way in which any matter relating to an alleged breach of the Code of Conduct referred to a monitoring officer by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales is to be dealt with; and
2. The circumstances in which standards committees may grant a dispensation to a member with a prejudicial interest.

Section 69 of the 2013 Act amends these regulation-making powers so that the Welsh Ministers may make provision enabling such matters or applications to be referred to another authority's standards committee. The Welsh Government intends to consult on amended regulations giving effect to these provisions later this year.

#### **Resolved:**

Members noted the above information and the implications for the Community Council and instructed the Clerk to take appropriate action to ensure compliance

### **CHANGES TO COMMUNITY COUNCIL'S BANK ACCOUNTS**

Members' received a copy of a letter from the Council's Bank outlining information in respect of changes to the account.

The main change is that interest will only be made if the account is in credit by £25,000. The changes will be implemented from 25 June 2015. The Council will still receive 'free banking' and all other services currently being provided by the Co-operative bank.

In fiscal terms the changes will have little impact on the Council's finances as in the last financial year the total interest on our 'current account' amounted to £9.76p. Because of the changes, members were legally required to review their banking arrangements.

#### **Resolved:**

Members noted the changes to the Council's Banking arrangements and resolved that no further action is required in respect of these matters.

## **REVISED GUIDELINES ON CODE OF CONDUCT**

Members received, for information, a copy of a letter, from the Public Service Ombudsman, informing members that he has issued revised guidelines on the Code of Conduct for Members.

Members noted that no hard copies of the guidelines will be produced as they can be downloaded from the Ombudsman's website.

As the document is some 38 pages long no hard copies have been printed for Council Members but a full copy of the report had been downloaded to the 'policy documents' page of the Community Council's Website.

It was recognised that not all members have access to IT facilities therefore if any member requires a hard copy they can be obtained from the Clerk to the Council.

One item that might be of interest to members is the flowchart produced to provide members with assistance and clarification on the issue of prejudicial interests consequently this has been replicated and was attached for the attention of all members.

### **Resolved:-**

Members noted the revised guidelines issued by the Public Services Ombudsman.

## **REPORT FROM ALLOTMENT AND COMMUNITY GARDEN ASSOCIATION AGM**

Members received a report from Councillor Lynne Thomas on the proceedings of the recently held AGM of the above association

### **Resolved-**

Members thanked Councillor Thomas for her comprehensive report.

## **MINUTE No: 6/5/15 MEMBERS' REPORTS**

### **Cllr Sandra Lintern**

- Informed Members that she was still receiving complaints about a white dog that keeps on 'trying to bite' passers by and delivery people to the flats in Yr Hendre. The Member was not able to identify the number of the flat where the owner resided and therefore little further action could be taken. The member was however advised that complainants should pursue the matter with the Police/PCSO as it may be possible to take action under the 'Dangerous Dogs Act.
- Noted that 'fly tipping' was still a problem on Bwnsi Lane, Yr Hendre. The Clerk confirmed that he had reported the previously reported incident but would once again contact the County on this matter.
- Expressed concern about the increasing problem of 'pot holes' in Glan-y-Llyn. The County member informed the Council that plans were in progress for resurfacing of the area but was at present unable to give a date when the work would be carried out.

### **Cllr Mel Timothy**

- Once again expressed concern about the speed of cycles leaving the Taff Trail and exiting down through Heol-y-Gors, the speed of some of the cycles made it impossible for children to play outside. The County Members informed the Council that she had raised this issue a number of times. It was clear that a ‘traffic calming speed hump’ might help but with current financial constraints this seemed unlikely in the near future.
- There were an increasing number of potholes throughout the estate, the Clerk informed the member that it was possible to report this ‘on line’ and agreed if the member could identify the exact location he would report the problem.
- Noted that there was an increase in ‘fly tipping’ at the top of Heol- y-Gors / Taff Trail. It was agreed that the Clerk would report this problem via the County’s Website.

### **Cllr Helen Edmunds**

- Expressed concern about large Lorries that were parking on the ‘back road’ by Macro. It appeared that the area was becoming an unofficial truck stop. In addition, there was still a problem with cars parking ‘straight on’ in the lay by in Oxford Street as the cars were ‘sticking out into the road’ and potentially could cause an accident . It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the County Highways Department to make them aware of these problems.
- Noted that there appeared to be an increase in traffic speeding through the industrial estate
- Noted that there was still a problem of litter outside the KFC takeaway and unlike McDonald’s who employed someone to clear the litter no positive action appears to be forthcoming from KFC. It was agreed that the Clerk would raise this issue with the ‘litter enforcement team’
- Informed members of the productive relationship that the Hub was developing with the Railway PCSO’s and outlined developments in this area.

### **Cllr Lynne Thomas**

- Noted that there was a blocked drain in Church Street. It was agreed that the Clerk would report this matter
- Expressed concern over the increasing number of cars that park ‘fully on the pavement’ outside Fagin’s and The Ex Servicemen’s Club. The Cars completely block the pavement forcing pedestrians on to the road. It was agreed that the PCSO be asked if action could be taken in respect of this matter.

### **Cllr C Dyke MBE**

- Informed members that she had received a number of complaints about an individual who regularly exercised their dog on the Tennis Courts and let them run around and foul the park, it was agreed that the Clerk would contact the enforcement team and report this problem
- Expressed concern over ‘scramble bikes’ that were using the play area in Ty Rhiw. It was noticed that the bikes were being loaded into a Ferris van, It was agreed that the Clerk would pass this information on to the PCSO and request that action be taken to stop the bikes using the play area.
- Noted that ‘fly tipping’ was still taking place at the top end of Cemetery Road, this matter to be reported on line.
- Had received a complaint that the ‘disability access gate’ to Taff’s Well Park was still locked at 9 am making it impossible for disability users to enter the park. Members questioned if there was some confusion over which gate was now used for disability

access and the County Member agreed that she would follow up the issue with RCT Officers

**Cllr J Bonetto**

- Gave a comprehensive report on current issues on the County Council activities including recent structural changes to the management team at RCT
- Informed members that RCT had agreed to resurfacing of the roads in Glan-y-Llyn and Moy Road
- Reported that ‘the green man light’ on the traffic lights by the station had now been realigned and repaired
- The “illegal fencing” at a property in Yr Hendre was to be removed and officers, from RCT Homes, will monitor the activities conducted from the property.

**MINUTE No: 7/5/15 FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Clerk presented Members with updated details of balances within the Community Council's current and deposit accounts for May 2015.

**Resolved:**

Members approved payment of the May accounts in the sum of £1744.48

**MINUTE No: 8/5/15 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

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

15/0583/15	Duffryn Ffrwd (Newtown Estates) Ltd Studio Suite Green Hedges Andover, Hampshire SP11 0RQ	Removal of Condition to vary Condition 1 on previous application reference 10/0847/13 (Mixed Use Classes A3 (Food & Drink) & C1 (Hotel) including associated external works), to extend the period in which to submit a reserved matters application for a further three years at:- LAND OFF TYLA GWYN / A468, NANTGARW TAFF'S WELL CARDIFF CF15 7TD	Subject to full consultation with neighbouring properties the Community Council would raise no objection to this application
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15/0388/10	Mr E Davies Highfield House Smithy Lane Bosley Nr Macclesfield SK11 0NZ	Erect three storey extension to side of existing two/three storey end of terrace property currently containing two flats to increase accommodation to form four flats at:- 26 CARDIFF ROAD TAFF'S WELL CARDIFF CF15 7RE	The Community Council is concerned that there are no parking spaces shown on the plans and would therefore oppose the application as there is already a significant problem with car parking in this vicinity
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**MINUTE No: 9/5/15 – PUBLIC SESSION**

Two members of the public, from Oxford Street Nantgarw, attended the meeting and raised a number of issues relating to ‘lower Nantgarw’ namely:-

- Problems with ‘Travellers’ who had occupied land in the vicinity; whilst through the efforts of Assembly Government officials, the Community/County Councils and local residents the ‘Travellers’ had moved on they now appeared to have returned and the process for their removal once again needed to be implemented.
- Problems of alleged anti social behaviour of students from the College and the distress caused by rowdy students playing football on the local ‘play area’. The resident was concerned that the ‘play area’ was not fenced and damage to property, both at the community hall and private residences was evident. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the local College on these matters and seek their support in finding ways to reduce the distress caused to local residents by the students.
- Was concerned about the general state of the area including problems with ‘potholes, and with litter generated by the students’
- Expressed concern that the local member had not attended a Council Meeting since November 2014 and whilst it was recognised that the Member was seriously ill he was worried that the area was not adequately represented. The Clerk and Members informed the resident that Councillor Fred Meech had passed away the previous week and, once the funeral had taken place, steps would be taken to fill the vacancy. However, It was pointed out the despite being terminally ill Councillor Meech often relayed residents concerns and until just a few weeks ago was still ‘active’. Members also outlined the work undertaken by Councillor Jill Bonetto with local residents on traffic matters and other issues in the vicinity of lower Nantgarw.

**MINUTE No; 10/5/15 Dates of future meetings**

The next three meetings of the Community Council will be as follows:

- June meeting – Thursday 25 June Tawelyfryn Community Centre
- July meeting - Tuesday 28 July 2015 Ty Rhiw Community Centre
- September meeting - Monday 28 September 2015 Saints Mary & James' Church Hall

It was agreed that meetings will commence at 7.00 pm.

With no further business to discuss the meeting was closed at 8.32 pm.

SIGNED:..... DATE: .....