

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

TAWELFRYN COMMUNITY CENTRE

Wednesday 28th November 2018

PRESENT: Cllrs: A. Fowler (Chairman), L.Thomas, J Bonetto, J. Hutchinson, M. Timothy and M.Jones

APOLOGIES, H.Edmunds,S.Lintern,C.Dyke and J Bishop

Also present: Clerk Mrs Gail Williams (GW), Mr I.Murray and Mrs L.Nuns

MINUTE No: 1/11/18 DISCLOSURES OF PERSONAL INTEREST

Cllr J. Bonetto declared an interest in all planning applications and did not speak or vote on those items.

MINUTE No 2/11/18 PRESENTATION ON THE HUB

Mr I. Murray and Mrs L. Nuns were in attendance at the meeting and gave a short verbal presentation based on the written Report that had been circulated with the papers on the activities of the Hub Community facility at Taffs Well. Mr Murray told members that he had been living in Taffs Well since 2014 having moved from China. He explained that he had used the IT facilities when he first moved to Taffs Well to stay in touch with family and friends and subsequently he became a volunteer. He talked about the fact that the location of the Hub in the middle of the village has meant that the facility has become a valued community facility that is so much more than a just a library. As the Report sets out, Mr Murray explained that in addition to the invaluable library service which includes all types of books, classical novels, fiction non-fiction and children's books, the Hub also serves as the local deposit for food donations for the local food bank, provides a "notice board " service for the many local community activities such as the local Singing Club, provides tourism information and acts as a sign posting service to third sector advisors such as the CAB. The computer access provided enables registered users to access online services such as employment advice and from December advisors from Digital Wales will be available at the Hub to support residents with online Universal Credit applications and to help individuals to develop and improve IT skills. The facility also provides a photocopying service and a recycling bag service. He also mentioned how valuable the facility is for residents to drop in and just have a chat which helps to combat loneliness particularly amongst elderly residents in the area. In relation to funding he explained that the trustees rely on donations to cover the costs of printing and ink. The Printers were supplied by a local business. The trustees are extremely grateful to the Community Council for the continued financial support provided. The volunteers and trustees are always thinking about ways of raising additional funds to refresh the library stock etc. They are thinking of introducing a swap facility in relation to books. He also highlighted that the numbers of users have increased incrementally over the years.

The Chair expressed his thanks on behalf of the Council to Mr Murray for his very informative presentation on the activities at the Hub. Members discussed the importance of the Hub as a very valuable community facility and thanked the volunteers for their hard work in maintaining the facility.

RESOLVED:The Council note the information provided.

MINUTE No: 3/11/18 POLICE MATTERS

No representative was present from the police and no written Report had been received. Members expressed their disappointment about the lack of Report.

MINUTE No: 4/11/18 ENFORCEMENT OFFICER REPORT

Members received a late Report from the Enforcement Officer which included the following information:

Waste Issues -17 warning/advisory letters sent to properties regarding contaminated recycling and excess black bag waste. Two bin removals in South View due to being left on highway after collection (warnings previously given).

Abandoned Vehicles - 4 vehicles reported as abandoned, one not located and three taxed so no further action required as not a danger on the highway.

Fly-Tipping -Various black bags dumped in Yr Hendre but no evidence gathered and bags removed. An armchair dumped in lane rear of Yr Hendre (Heol Y Bwnsi), now removed no evidence gathered.

Dog Fouling - No incidents that required any enforcement action. Patrolled the usual areas around the park, areas near Taffs Well RFC and Taffs Well FC.

Fly-Posting – 2 banners removed from the roundabout near the college that leads to Taffs Well/Nangarw, warning letter sent.

No additional issues reported from Trivallis or any requests for Civil Enforcement. Addition monitoring of Ty Rhiw area as waste issues are starting to need addressing again plus there have been reports of dog fouling, patrols to be carried out.

RESOLVED: The Council note the information

MINUTE No: 5/11/18 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of 31st October 2018 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

MINUTE No: 6/11/18 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Matters arising from previous minutes:

GW confirmed that there has been no date set for the meeting with the local beat manager, GW has sent a reminder prior to the meeting. GW was instructed to send a further reminder.

GW confirmed that she is still waiting for a date for the installation of the defibrillator

MINUTE No: 7/11/18 FINANCIAL MATTERS

**(a) UPDATED LIST OF PAYMENTS AND BANK ACCOUNT BALANCES
OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2018**

GW presented members with updated balances within the Council's Bank Accounts. Members were asked to note that the Bank has still not been in touch with the GW regarding the change of Clerk and therefore the Bank Statements are being received late. The statement for November has not been received. It was moved and seconded that the information be noted and by a show of hands this motion was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: The Council note the payments made in October/November in the sum of £6579.69.

(b) BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

Members received a report from GW in relation to expenditure and planned expenditure and income since the start of the financial year in order to monitor the Council's budgets. Members were informed that it was GW's intention to present quarterly budget monitoring reports to enable members to monitor the financial affairs of the Council.

It was explained to members, by reference to the Report, that the review of the Council's financial affairs had identified a number of issues to bring to the attention of members namely :

- (i) The budget previously approved did not include any budget for election expenses. Members were therefore asked to consider the inclusion of £1000 towards election expenses from working balances/general reserves
- (ii) There is likely to be a slight overspend in the salary budget estimate due to the short handover period between the Clerks. This will be looked at in the next quarterly review.
- (iii) The Council incurred additional expenditure in relation to the utility costs of the Hub as a result of the resolution of Council to meet the security costs in the sum of £576 and IT security costs in the sum of £1080. Members were asked to consider increasing the original budget estimates by £1400 from working balances/general reserves
- (iv) Members were advised that the approved purchase of the Defibrillator and Cabinet was not taken into account when the original budget estimates were prepared and members were therefore asked to consider increasing the original budget estimate by the sum of £1000 to enable future grant aid applications to be considered, the sum to be met from working balances/general reserves.
- (v) Members were also advised that RCT had now invoiced the Council in relation to the costs of the private Enforcement Officer. Members were advised that should the Council resolve to renew the Service Level Agreement with RCT further funds would need to be drawn down from working balances in order to meet the additional costs. Members were advised that the renewal of the SLA was the subject of a later Report.

Members considered the information presented to the Council GW advised members that if the Council was minded to increase the original budget estimates as mentioned in Report the levels of reserves held by the Council are still within the guidance issued by CIPFA. Following consideration of the information provided it was moved and seconded that the original budget estimates be amended to include a budget of £1000 for election expenses and that the budget estimates for The Hub Utilities and Grant Aid be increased by £1400 and £1000 respectively and that the Clerk be instructed to present a regular quarterly budget monitoring Report for consideration by Council. By a show of hands this was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: The Council approve that the original budget estimates be amended to include a budget of £1000 for election expenses and that the budget estimates for The Hub utilities and Grant Aid be increased by £1400 and £1000 respectively and that the Clerk be instructed to present a regular quarterly budget monitoring Report for consideration by Council.

MINUTE No: 8/11/18 CLERK'S REPORT

(a) REVIEW OF PRIVATE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER SLA dated 17th JANUARY 2018

Members received a Report from GW in relation to the above Agreement which expires at the end of December 2018. Members were advised that the Agreement can be terminated by either party giving to the other three months notice in writing. Members were reminded that it was resolved that the costs of the SLA would be met from CIL funding and precept income. They were also advised that the original budget estimate did not anticipate the renewal of the SLA and therefore if the SLA is renewed it would be necessary to draw down additional funds from general balances/reserves to meet the costs. This would reduce balances to circa £13.5k plus the deposit account funds. GW updated members that she had been notified by RCT that if the SLA was renewed there would be a small increase in the cost from the original figure of £7341.01 to £7686. GW also explained that RCT has indicated that there is approximately £3k in CIL funds due the Council but at this time RCT could not confirm whether any further funds would be received. In the circumstances an additional sum of £4686 would need to be allocated from working balance to meet the costs if the SLA is renewed. Members also considered the information provided from RCT regarding the activities undertaken by the Enforcement Officer over the past ten months. This included issuing 6 Fixed Penalty notices regarding contaminated waste, dealing with

abandoned vehicles, the installation of new dog fouling bins and new signage, the investigation of fly tipping issues and fly poster removal. In addition, reference was made to Blitz days undertaken in the area. The Report also suggested some possible future activities such as working with local schools. Members gave consideration to the information presented and discussed that when the SLA was finalised in 2018 it was very much on the basis of a trial arrangement so that the benefit could be considered at the end of the first year. Consideration was also given to the fact that if the SLA is renewed it was possible that a higher proportion of the costs would have to be met from the Council's working balances and this could impact on the ability of the Council to undertake new projects. During the course of the discussions members concluded that that the outcome of the SLA had only provided limited benefits in the area. Members indicated that in future they would like to consider the use of CIL monies to fund projects that could bring long term benefits to the local community. It was proposed and seconded that the Agreement be terminated as soon as possible. By a show of hands this was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: The Council terminate the SLA with RCT as soon as possible and that the Clerk contact RCT to ascertain if they are prepared to waive the notice period and to report back the outcome of the discussions.

(b) CONSULTATION, LEGISLATION AND LOCAL ISSUES UPDATE

Consideration was given to the information provided by GW in relation to ongoing consultation exercises being undertaken by RCT, in particular the ongoing budget consultation and the tourism consultation available on the RCT Council website www.rct.gov.uk. Cllr Bonetto also drew to the attention of members the ongoing consultation in relation to the 21st Century School's Project. Members were urged to remind local residents of this consultation. The Clerk was instructed to highlight the ongoing consultation on the Community Council's website. Members were reminded that Digital Fridays at the Hub will commence on 7th December 2018. The briefing paper from the Police and Crime Commissioner was received by members. Members also received information in relation to several documents released by the Older People's Commissioner.

RESOLVED: The Council note the information received.

(c) GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

Members received letters of thanks from Taff's Well Art Club, Taff's Well Community Singers and Moo Music in relation to recent grant aid. Members also received correspondence from an artist in relation to his plan to hold a local art exhibition. Cllr. L. Thomas was nominated by Council to contact the artist to discuss his plans and to report the outcome of her discussions to the Council.

RESOLVED: The Council note the correspondence received.

(d) TRAINING

Members received information in relation to a training course and members were asked to submit any nominations to the Clerk for consideration by the Chair.

RESOLVED: The Council note the information.

(e) BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2019/20

GW confirmed that RCT had requested that the Council consider its budget requirement for the next financial year 2019/20 and the rate precept. GW confirmed that RCT will be setting the Council Tax Base Rate in December 2018.

Council received a report from GW that confirmed that GW had reviewed the Council's expenditure for the current financial year and the Council's ongoing commitments for the forthcoming financial year. In accordance with the Budget Monitoring Report presented to members there had been a slight increase in the Council's planned expenditure for the remainder of the current financial year. This had resulted in a slight reduction in the amount of Council's

working balances/reserves. Over the last year the Council had continued to support local community associations with the award of grant aid and the waiver of the rental for the Allotment Association. In addition, the Council had agreed a one- off purchase of a Defibrillator and cabinet.

The Report included two draft budget options for consideration by members, Option 1 assumed that the SLA for the Enforcement Officer was to be renewed but in light of the earlier decision made by Council not to renew the Agreement the Option 1 draft budget was no longer relevant.

Members also received a Schedule of Precept increases.GW drew members attention to the levels of additional income that can be achieved. GW confirmed that the draft Budget presented to members had been prepared on the basis of a 2% increase. Members were reminded that if Council were minded to recommend a higher or lower precept then the Council's income would increase or decrease in accordance with the information provided.

GW explained to members that the draft Budget assumed that the Council maintains its commitment to fund the Hub and protects the Council's assistance to services for the local community. It also assumes that the Council will continue to be responsible for the payment of the additional security costs and IT security costs for the Hub. The draft included a budget estimate for election expenses, each budget line was increased to include anticipated inflationary increases. The draft budget estimates in relation to the Council's website included a higher increase in order to facilitate the review of the Council's website and emails for members. The draft budget also assumed that the rental for the Allotment would be collected this year and should the Council opt to waive the rental for the next financial year the Council's income would be reduced accordingly.

Members considered and discussed the information before them. In order to maintain the Council's commitment to the HUB and to protect the Council's assistance to services for the local community it was proposed and seconded that the Community Council's precept be increased by 2% pending the Council Tax base Rate which will be available at the end of December 2018 and that the Council approve draft Budget Option 2 to be updated following completion of the year end accounts in April 2019. By a show of hands this was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: The Council in order to maintain its commitment to the HUB and to protect the Council's assistance given to local services the Community Council's precept be increased by 2% pending the Council Tax base Rate which will be available at the end of December 2018 and that the Council approve draft Budget Option 2 to be updated following completion of the year end accounts in April 2019.

Commented [EP1]:

MINUTE No: 9/11/18 –PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Members were asked to note the following comments provided in relation to the planning applications

8/1194/10 Replacement Dormer 17, Bynnu Road Ty Rhiw

Subject to full consultation with neighbouring properties the Council would raise no objection to this application

18/1220/10 Facia Signs Robert Price Wood Yard

Subject to full consultation with neighbouring properties the Council would raise no objection to this application

18/1198/10 14, West View Ty Rhiw

The Council is concerned that this particular dwelling has no roadside access and is concerned that the development would exacerbate the existing parking problems in the area. Furthermore, it is concerned that this proposal to convert a single dwelling into flats could set a precedent in the area thereby impacting on the numbers of family homes in the area.

Members were also reminded of the pre- application consultation that is ongoing in relation to proposed construction of residential dwellings at Garth House Taffs Well. The Consultation will expire on 22nd November 2018 (Copy Notice previously provided to members)

Members were asked to comment on the copy planning application

18/1274/10 74 Cardiff Road erection of first floor rear extension, and

A late planning application was circulated to Members in relation to

18/1244/19 removal of Prunus Padus Tree

RESOLVED that the information be noted and in relation to applications 18/1274/10 and 18/1244/19 that the following observations be made to the County Council:

Subject to full consultation with neighbouring properties the Council raises no objection to the applications.

MINUTE 10/11/18 MEMBER'S REPORTS

No written Reports were received from members.

Cllr J. Bonetto provided a brief verbal update on the traffic management review that is currently being prepared by RCT in relation to the local area. The proposals include removal of parking restrictions and introduction of new restrictions affecting the local area. She confirmed that the full Report will be going out to consultation in the New Year. She will update members of the date in due course. Cllr Bonetto also confirmed that the works to the footpath adjacent to Cardiff Road have a planned commencement date of 16th January 2019.

MINUTE No. 11/11/18 – PUBLIC SESSION

No member of the public attended.

MINUTE No. 12/11/18 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

With no further business to discuss the meeting was closed at 8.50 pm.

SIGNED: DATE: