

**Minutes of Taff's Well & Nantgarw Community Council held at:-
Saints Mary and James Church Tuesday 27 September 2011**

PRESENT: Cllrs: - J Bonetto (Chairman) L Thomas, C Dyke, S Lintern, , Pat Prothero, Megan Jones and C E Griffin

APOLOGIES, Cllrs: - Fred Meech, Tracy Williams, A Evans

Also present: Clerk to the Council Derek Allinson

MINUTE No: 1/9/11: DISCLOSURES OF PERSONAL INTEREST

Cllr J Bonetto declared an interest in the funding application for Taff's Well Bowls Club and took no part in the deliberations on this item.

MINUTE No: 2/9/11: POLICE MATTERS:

No representative of the Police Authority was present at the meeting.

MINUTE NO: 3/9/11: MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

The minutes of the meetings held on 26 July & 11 August 2011 were confirmed as true records and signed by the Chairman:

MINUTE No: 4/9/11: MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

There were no matters arising from the minutes

MINUTE NO: 5/9/11 CLERK'S REPORT

ITEMS AGREED UNDER SUMMER RECESS PLENARY POWERS

1 TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

Applications for Planning Approval dealt with during August using the agreed plenary powers regulations

11/0936/09	Mr & Mrs Puresevic Ty Nant Cwm Bedw Graig Fach Farm Caerphilly CF83 1NF	Application for a certificate of lawful existing use or development for a permanent dwelling at: TY NANT CWM BEDW GRAIG FACH FARM, CAERPHILLY CF83 1NF	Subject to full consultation with neighbouring properties the Community Council would raise no objection to this application
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11/0916/10	Robert Price (Distribution) Ltd The Wood Yard Forest Road Taff's Well CF15 7YE	Replace structurally unsound. partly demolished warehouse on same footprint, but raised to match height of adjacent building at:- THE WOOD YARD FOREST ROAD TAFF'S WELL CF15 7YE	Subject to full consultation with neighbouring properties the Community Council would raise no objection to this application
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EMERGENCY GRANT APPLICATION

1) Taff's Well Music and Arts Festival

Following consultation with the Chairman and Members it was agreed to award a grant of £250 to the Taff's Well Music and Arts festival event.

Resolved:

That the use of the Council's plenary powers to approve action on the above planning and grant applications be noted.

REMEMBRANCE DAY – PURCHASE OF WREATHS

Members were requested to confirm that they would wish to purchase two wreaths from the British Legion for Remembrance Sunday.

Resolved:

The Clerk be authorised to purchase two wreaths from the British Legion.

TY RHIW COMMUNITY CENTRE - GRANT

At its July meeting the Community Council resolved: "That an annual grant of £500 per annum will be awarded to the Ty Rhiw Community Centre to offset the costs of providing accommodation for the local Police Community Support Officers" minute 5/7/11.

It was further agreed that this sum would be paid from September 2011

Resolved:

Members noted that this payment is included within this month's financial report

APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Members gave consideration to the following applications

- 1) **TAFF'S WELL BOWLS CLUB**
- 2) **NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO CHILDREN**
- 3) **VICTIM SUPPORT**

Resolved

That a sum of £250 be awarded to each of the above applications

RENEWAL OF INTERNET SECURITY

Members were requested to note that the Council's internet protection system had been renewed with Kaspersky Internet security at a cost of £78.74

Resolved:

Members noted and approved the above expenditure

PARK BENCH TAWELFYFN

At a previous meeting the Community Council has agreed, in principle, to purchase two "park benches" for the Tawelfryn area. As the benches were to be purchased via the internet it was agreed that, in the first instance, one bench be purchased and subject to the Council being satisfied with the quality another be purchased at a later date.

The Clerk reported that the first bench had been delivered and installed, next to the bus stop, the total cost, for purchase and installation being £745.55 (cost of bench £435.55 + installation costs £310.00).

The Council Member requested that the additional bench be now ordered.

Resolved:

That the Clerk be authorised to make arrangements for the purchase and installation of the additional bench.

TAFF'S WELL ALLOTMENTS

The Clerk reported that over the summer recess a number of issues have arisen in respect of the allotments:

1) The Council has received a number of complaints that requests for information about the allocation and availability of allotment pitches were not being responded to. At present the Clerk acted as the "Website Manager" for the Allotment/Community Garden Website and, in this capacity, would forward the information on to the management committee for action. In the past this has worked well but unfortunately the system appeared to have broken down with the present secretary requesting that her email details be removed from the website. The Clerk explained that his concern was, that when no responses to enquiries were received, the Community Council could be blamed and the Council brought in to disrepute. It is therefore his intention to discontinue acting as the "Website Manager" for the allotments association.

Resolved:

That the action of the Clerk in discontinuing to act as "website manager" for the allotments association be noted.

2) At its June meeting the Clerk reminded Members that the Community Council had previously resolved under minute 5/3/10 that it would discontinue to pay the water rates on the allotments and that responsibility for these costs would pass to the allotments association. In recognition of this the Council agreed that it would provide an annual grant of £250 towards the water rates.

This payment was sent to the allotment association secretary in June 2011 but secretary had reported that it had not been received. The Clerk has therefore cancelled the previous cheque and issued, as per the "memorandum of understanding" a new cheque, which was included for payment in this month's statement of accounts.

Resolved:

That the actions of the Clerk be noted.

3) The Council still has not received payment for the use of the site. There have also been problems in establishing the address details of the current allotment users. The latter had now been resolved and a list of allotment users and Community Garden Volunteers has now been received.

Resolved:

The Clerk continues to pursue the matter of non payment with the management committee of the allotment association.

4) The Clerk reported that during the recent high winds a falling tree branch had caused damage to perimeter fencing and blocked the north east entrance gate. Whilst the tree is not located within the allotment site the Allotments Association were informed, by County Council Officials, that the tree was the responsibility of the Community Council and that there were a number of Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) on the allotment site.

As this information appears to be at variance with the information shown on the land registry map the Clerk requested a site meeting with Kevin Oates, Head Parks & Countryside Ranger / Overgrowth Teams Manager to establish who was responsible for the trees that are outside of the allotment fence and in particular, to establish if there were any Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) on the Council's land.

At the meeting it transpired that the information, given to the Allotments Association was incorrect. The trees are not in the ownership of the Community Council and there are no TPOs on the Allotment site.

We were informed that whilst the road is in the ownership of RCT (as an adopted highway) the verges either side of the road are not. They are owned by the person who owns lands on the north side of Parish Road and the TPOs are located on this land. Unfortunately, the County Council does not have a record of this ownership of this land but they will try to establish who owns it.

Now this issue had been clarified it was agreed that the Clerk would make arrangements for the tree branch to be removed and the fence repaired. The Clerk would also contact the Council's insurers to establish if a claim can be made to reimburse these costs.

Resolved:

1. That the actions taken by the Clerk be noted.
2. Approval be given to make arrangements for the removal of the tree branch and repairs to the link fencing.

MINUTE No: 6/9/11 MEMBERS' REPORTS

Cllr. C Dyke MBE

- Reported that following her intervention the pipe on the brook had been cleaned.
- Asked that the Clerk contact the County Council to pursue residents' complaints about the overgrown trees on the Hillside estate.
- Requested that the Parks Department be asked to clean up the park at Ty Rhiw

- Informed members that owing to increased bookings the Ty Rhiw Community Centre would no longer be available for Council meetings on a Tuesday. It was agreed that future meeting at Ty Rhiw will take place on a Thursday.

Sandra Lintern

- Expressed concern that there was still a large accumulation of rubbish/debris on the public path south side old Nantgarw Road (footpath 80 Caerphilly) and that the 'right of way sign' had still not been replaced. The Clerk confirmed that he had been informed, by the rights of way officer, that a pathway had been cleared allowing access but most of the rubbish was still present on site. Unfortunately, as long as access was available the County Council had limited powers to take further action as the pathway was on private land. The Clerk would seek further information in respect of the signage.
- Asked if the County Council's "tree officer" could be asked to once again look at the large oak tree on the corner of the Old Nantgarw Road- Heol Edwards (opposite Tawelfryn Community Centre), as in the past year a number of large branches have fallen into the road. It was agreed that the Clerk would pursue this matter.
- Noted that a number of trees, in Queen's way, were blocking the light from the street lamps making the area very dark at night. It was agreed that the Clerk would pursue the matter with the County Council.
- Expressed concern over, what she considered to be, the poor quality of the newly erected bus shelters along the Cardiff Road. The Member was of the opinion that the shelters should be enclosed thereby giving users some protection from the elements. Members noted the comments but deferred any further action until the scheme was completed.
- Informed Members of the action taken with G.E. Aircraft Engine Services (G.E.) to improve traffic measures in Tawelfreyn and provide improvements to facilities on the estate.
- Requested that a further cut be undertaken to trim the hedges on Yr Hendre.

Jill Bonetto

- Reported that Veola Waste management had agreed to reroute their vehicles to avoid passing through residential areas
- Informed Members of the meetings held between GE Aircraft Engine Services Ltd (G.E.), local residents and County Council officials to discuss issues related to traffic problems caused by employees of G.E. The meeting had been very productive and the G.E. management team had been very sympathetic to the concerns of residents. The County Council had agreed to place 'traffic measures' in place and would monitor the situation. G.E. had also undertaken to provide support to local community ventures i.e. refurbishment of the community centre, and improvements to the local park. The member had been co-opted on to the residents group and would act as the Community Council's representative on the group. Members gave further consideration as to how it could support local initiatives in the area. It was agreed that the Community Council would commit £3000 towards local community improvement measures in this area.
- Reported back on the progress made, by the library working group, to establish a 'library/ internet hub' in Taff's Well Village. Discussions were taking place, with the Police Authority and the County Council, about using the disused police station for this purpose. The group, supported by the Community Council had suggested a partnership arrangement with the County Council to provide the required funding. As part of its contribution the Community council agreed that it would provide £5000 per annum towards the cost of the proposed partnership.
- Outlined her discussions, with County Council Cabinet Members and officers of the County Council, to provide parking restrictions in the vicinity of Taff's Well Park. It had been agreed that this would be a priority action in next year's work programme.

Cllr C E Griffin

Expressed concern that the promised work to repair the broken chain link fence between the children's' play area and Tennis Court has still not been repaired. It was agreed that the Clerk would once again pursue this matter.

Cllr Pat Protheroe

Asked if any further progress had been made in getting the garages repainted in the Views. The Clerk confirmed that he had contacted RCT Homes on this matter but had not received a reply. He would continue to pursue the matter.

MINUTE No; 7/9/11 FINANCIAL REPORT:

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

Resolved:

1. Members approved payment of the August accounts in the sum of £2058.09
2. Members approved payment of the September accounts in the sum of £2714.42 this included grant payments of £250 to each of the following voluntary organisations. Taff's Well Bowls Club, National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children and Victim Support Wales

MINUTE No: 8/9/11 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

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

11/1039/10	Mr Darren Sage 6 Parc-y-Nant Nantgarw Cardiff CF15 7TJ	Construction of a two storey side extension and the formation of a single storey extension on the front elevation at: ARDWYN HEOL-Y-COED NANTGARW CARDIFF CF15 7UE	Subject to full consultation with neighbouring properties the Community Council would raise no objection to this application
1/1096/01	Mr J Darlington Biocatalysts Ltd Unit 1, Cefn Coed Parc Nantgarw Caerphilly CF15 7QQ	Erection of road blocker warning sign on lamp post at: CEFNOED PARC NANTGARW CAERPHILLY	Subject to full consultation with neighbouring properties the Community Council would raise no objection to this application

11/1018/10	Mr K Richardson S A Simon & Martin Colsten 62 Cyncoed Road Cyncoed Cardiff CF23 5SH	Construction of 6 no. dwellings comprising of 1 no. detached dwelling, 1 no. pair of semi detached and 3 no. terraced dwellings at:- LAND TO THE REAR OF 58 - 61 , RHIW'R DDAR TAFFS WELL CF15 7PB	The County Council's Planning department be informed that the Community Council is concerned that the proposal would remove the only open space left in Rhiw'r Ddar and are of the view that this section of land should be retained as public open space. .
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MINUTE No: 9/9/11 PUBLIC SESSION:

A Member of the public raised the following issues:-

The difficulty caused to local residents and businesses by indiscriminate parking in the area around the Sandwich shop, Newsagents and Celtic Flooring on Cardiff Road. The problem is exasperated by users of the College who are looking for new places to park following the restrictions at Tyla Gwyn. Cars were often double parked on the corner making visibility difficult for other users.

Whilst this was a matter for the County Council it was agreed that the Clerk would write to both the Highways Authority and the Police to see if action could be taken to reduce this problem. The 'complainant' was also advised that she should contact the local Community Councillor about this matter and agreed to email her his contact details.

MINUTE No; 10/9/11 Date of Next Meeting

The next Community Council meeting will be held on Thursday 27 October 2011 at Tawelfryn Community Centre. The meeting will commence at 7pm

With no further business to discuss the meeting was closed at 8.35 pm.

SIGNED:.....

DATE:.....