



**GELLIGAER COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
CYNGOR CYMUNED GELLIGAER**

**Minutes of Full Council Meeting of Gelligaer Community Council  
held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2016, 7.30pm, at  
Gelligaer Community Council, Llwyn Onn, Penpedairheol**

**PRESENT**

**Councillors:** D Bolter, D Cushing (Vice Chairman), H David, W David, G Hughes, J A Pritchard, N Quarry and G Roberts

**Clerk:** C Mortimer

**In Attendance:** Mr Paul Cooke, Caerphilly County Borough Council's Team Leader.

In the Chair's absence, Cllr Donna Cushing chaired the meeting and warmly welcomed Mr Paul Cooke.

**159 School Solar Project Update – Mr Paul Cooke Team Leader, CCBC**

Campbell and Kennedy won the contract to undertake the solar installation.  
Following discussions:

- (i) It was RESOLVED that all primary schools in the Gelligaer Community Council area would be gifted with asbestos/structural surveys in 2015/16 and solar panels installed in 5 primary in 2015/16 and installation in the remaining 2 schools in 2016/17.  
Solar & Wind Turbine Community Benefit Grants and monies allocated for projects will finance the project in 2015/16 and 2016/17.
- (ii) It was RESOLVED that due to display panel costs, that all primary schools have access to a web site that would produce relevant information in relation to their energy performance etc.

**ADDENDUM:** Five primary schools: YGG Bro Allta, Glyngaer Primary, Ystrad Mynach Primary, Hengoed Primary and YGG Penalltau would be gifted with solar panels, in 2015/16 and the remaining schools, Tiryberth (TYB) and Derwendeg Primary Schools in 2016/17. Listed Building Consent is required for the roof of TYB Primary School, also the Head Teacher would like to contribute additional funding to the project to increase the system from a 6Kw to a 10Kw. Due to the delays this was likely to cause, it was agreed that installation at TYB take place in 2016/17 and agreed that Ystrad Mynach Primary be moved up the list to the 5<sup>th</sup> school for installation in 2015/16.

**160 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr A Angel due to work commitments, Cllr M James & Cllr T Matthews due to illness and Cllr T Parry (Chairman) due to family commitments.

**161 Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Wynne David declared an interest in minute no166 (iii) (Ystrad Mynach OAP's) and minute no.176 (Planning)  
Cllr Dennis Bolter declared an interest in minute no.176 (Planning)

**162 Chairman's Announcements**

Vice Chairman, Cllr Donna Cushing announced Gelligaer Local Historical Appreciation Society's AGM on the 1<sup>st</sup> March at Neuadd St Catwg Community Hall at 1.30pm followed with a talk by Mrs Eirlys Ashton on Saint David.

- 163 Minutes**  
Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on **13/01/2016** were received, approved and signed by the chairman as an accurate record.
- 164 Matters Arising**  
There were no matters arising
- 165 Current Financial Situation as at 16/03/2016**
- (i) Balance of Funds**  
Balance of Funds were received, approved and signed as an accurate record which included a list of authorised cheques. Chairman of the meeting, Cllr D Cushing & Cllr D Bolter signed.
- (ii) Cheques & Debit Card Payments**  
Chairman of the meeting Cllr D Cushing received, approved and signed copied cheques and debit card receipts.
- (iii) Reconciliation**  
Reconciled cheque list was received, approved by Council and signed by non-signatory member.
- (iv) Bank Statements**  
Bank statement no's 15, 76, 84 & 29 were received, approved by Council and signed by non-signatory member.
- 166 Financial Assistance**
- (i) Thee Solitaires Jazz Band Application No.29  
It was RESOLVED that £300 be granted to Thee Solitaires Jazz Band
- (ii) CCBC Mayor's Charity Appeal Application No.30  
It was RESOLVED that £500 be granted to the Mayor's Charity Appeal  
The cheque will be presented to the Mayor Cllr Leon Gardiner at our next full council meeting in March. The Mayor's charity is Ty Hafan Children's Hospice and Macmillan Cancer Support.
- Cllr Wynne David declared an interest in the next item and played no part in the ensuing discussions*
- (iii) Ystrad Mynach OAP's Application No, 31  
It was RESOLVED that £250 be granted to Ystrad Mynach OAP's
- Cllr Wynne David returned to discussions*
- 167 Welsh Government Section 137 Expenditure: Limit for 2016-17**  
It was noted that the appropriate sum for the purposes of section 137(4) (a) of the LGA 1972 (the 1972 Act) for community and town councils in Wales for 2016-17 is £7.42 per elector. We currently have 13,027 electors (Feb 2016) x £7.42 = £96,660.34
- 168 One Voice Wales Membership for 2016/17**  
It was RESOLVED that membership continue for 2016/17 at a cost of £2,257
- 169 One Voice Wales Larger Local Councils Committee**  
It was noted that that OVW Local Council's committee is on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at Royal Welsh Showground Builth Wells. The Clerk expressed an interest in attending.

**170 Welsh Government Consultation – Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill and Explanatory Memorandum – Responses by 15<sup>th</sup> February 2016 (this item was deferred from January’s meeting)**

(i) & (ii) Part 2 (page 20-21), Part 3 (page 22- 26) & Part 6 (pages 42-46), specific to community council reform were received & discussed and questions posed by One Voice Wales were noted.

(iii) Members supported the Clerk’s report /notes to be submitted to the Welsh Government:

***‘2.1 Community Councils with Competence***

*We strongly believe that to become a “competent council”, councils must demonstrate that they have the following in place, to set themselves apart from other councils:*

*(i) 2/3 of the council are elected members, including unopposed elected members.*

*(ii) a CiLCA qualified clerk*

*(iii) two years unqualified accounts*

*However we would recommend that a council tests its competency annually and resolve their eligibility for “competence” status at their annual meeting and not automatically remain competent for 5 years. If they have previously undertaken a project using the General Power of Competence in one year, then fail to qualify as a competent council in the second year, they should be permitted to continue with that project until completion, under the terms of the General Power of Competence.*

***3.1 Community Area Committees***

*We strongly disagree to the initiative of introducing another layer of local government sandwiched between principal authorities (PA’s) and Community Councils in the form of Community Area Committees due cost and also creating another layer of bureaucracy would be even more confusing for local people. In their place, we strongly recommend the strengthening of charters between community councils and PA’s. Having one overarching charter to fit all.*

***3.6 Improvement Requests***

*We do not think that community councils should serve improvement requests on PA’s as it could potentially damage an excellent working relationship between the two.*

***3.7 Access to Community Council Meetings***

*We support recommendations that provide community councils with the option of issuing electronic summons’ to members to attend meetings, similar to the proposals allowing principal authorities to do so.*

*We do not support the provision of the LGA 1972 being repealed to allow meetings to be convened in premises where alcohol is being served.*

*We support the view that members of the public attending a community council meeting are given a reasonable opportunity to make representations about any items of business due to be discussed at the meeting, unless the person chairing the meeting considers that doing so would prejudice the effective conduct of the meeting.*

*We generally have no objections to WG making regulations allowing the filming, photography or sound recording of community council meetings at the discretion of the chair.*

***6.1 Review of Community Council Arrangements***

*We strongly recommend that principal authorities have no input in relation to implementing the Boundary Commission’s recommendations. It could become very political if this were allowed to happen and not necessarily in the best interest of the community councils and local people. The Boundary Commission should have complete control over implementing the recommendations.*

***6.2 No, the Boundary Commission should not be required to submit their draft reports to Shadow Authorities from May 2019***

***6.3 It should be the Boundary Commission’s responsibility to implement recommendations***

#### **6.4 Mandatory Training Delivery**

*Training should not be mandatory. Members should be encouraged to undertake training.*

*We think that mandatory training could potentially put people off from standing for election.*

*Many members “learn on the job” whilst others are mentored by their more experienced and sometimes “twin hatted” members, that serve on county and community councils. We strongly believe that a mentoring process be encouraged.*

*Whether councillors are trained or not they are considered as invaluable members of the community council.*

*Community Councillors are unpaid and therefore the majority of which work full time, with families, and merely cannot afford the time.*

*We do however agree that PA’s should not be involved in delivering any training, but it be delivered through one overarching body like One Voice Wales to ensure that all members receive the same high standard of training.*

#### **6.5 Community Council Election Dates**

*We agree to extend the term of office to six years in 2017 with a five year term to follow in 2023, to coincide with the PA’s elections.*

#### **6.6 Training**

*Councillor training should not be compulsory. There should be mandatory training for clerks in obtaining a CiLCA qualification so that the council can exercise the General Power of Competence, if other criterion has been met. Councillors should be encouraged to receive training. Each community council should manage and plan their own training needs.*

#### **6.7 Performance Management**

*We believe that all community council clerks, whether serving large or small councils, should be set objectives by their council and their performance managed. Training would be required by the appraiser to undertake this role. Objectives must be realistic and achievable.*

#### **6.8 Community Polls**

*Due to community polls being costly with poor turnout we support that consideration be given to principal authorities implementing a system of e-petitions.*

#### **Other matters:**

#### **Capping the Community Council Precept**

*Non-competent councils should not necessarily have their precept capped.*

#### **Annual Reports**

*We support the view of all community councils producing and publishing annual reports, to demonstrate the services and activities of the community council over the previous year.*

#### **Transitional Arrangements**

*We support that an unbiased and independent community council commission be created to oversee: Recruitment & selection processes; assimilation of staff to new common councils and negotiating staff contract variations; the processing of potential redundancies; the transfer of assets; the delegation of services from principal authorities; the freezing of balances/reserves to prevent inappropriate spending decisions being made in the run up.’*

#### **171 Royal Voluntary Service - Celebrating 75 years**

*Information in relation to a new service available in the borough for people 50+ who live alone and need support was noted and supported.*

## 172 Projects

- (i) Pantomime details for December 2016 and proceeds collected for Ty Hafan were noted
- (ii) Christmas tree lighting at Ystrad Mynach – this item was deferred
- (iii) Day trip dates to Porthcawl were confirmed.
- (iv) Newsletter had been delivered to the office and would be distributed over the next few weeks. Members liked the newsletter and thanked the Clerk.
- (v) Presentation - Financial Assistance, Young Citizens & Chairman's Event – Date confirmed as Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2016. Members noted the date.
- (vi) Youth Engagement – Social media i.e. Council to set up a Twitter account – Clerk to make enquiries with other community councils.
- (vii) Mattress – it was RESOLVED that due to exceptional circumstances, and on this occasion only, that one of the surplus mattresses be donated to a person in need. (seven voted in favour, one against)

### (viii) Project Summary:

#### **Project No. 363 Bus Shelter o/s Derwendeg Primary School**

Work: Supply & install bus shelter

Cost: £5,000

#### **Project No. 362 Community Benefit – Solar Schools**

Work: Supply & Install solar panels as gift to 3 schools – Glyngaer primary, Hengoed primary & YGG Bro Allta plus asbestos & structural surveys to all 8 primary schools.

Cost: £33,000

#### **Project No. 361 Community Benefit – write & publish children's book**

Work: Community 1<sup>st</sup> to work with families to write local book for children (bilingual)

Cost: £5,000

#### **Project No. 360 Community Benefit – Compost toilet**

Work: Install disabled toilet at Parc Penallta suitable for all to use

Cost: £8,000

#### **Project No. 359 Cefn Hengoed Youth Centre**

Work: Install showers for footballers

Cost: £2,000 (plus area forum monies £9,000)

#### **Project No. 358 Glanynant**

Work: Supply & Install green loop fencing remaining stretch near Glanynant Memorial Hall.

Cost: £9,272 (plus area forum monies £4228)

#### **Project No. 357 Siloh Christian Centre Ystrad Mynach**

Work: Develop small garden to the rear (phase 1)

Cost: £545

#### **Project No. 356 Cascade Methodist Church**

Work: Install external doors and new signage

Cost: £2,181

#### **Project No. 355 Christmas Lighting throughout area**

Work: Install 63 figurines, dress 7 trees, curtain of lights.

Cost: £4,286 plus £1166 for supply & lighting tree at Derwendeg primary

#### **Project No. 354 Heath Messages in Local Surgeries**

Work: Install TV monitors to display health messages in Gelligaer & Oakfield surgeries

Cost: £777

#### **Project No.353 Ystrad Mynach Christmas Market**

Work: Contribution towards the Christmas market to ensure its continuity.

Cost: £1,500

**Project No. 352 Bethel Evangelical Church, Gelligaer**

Work: To improve disabled access and DDA W/C

Cost: £2,500

**Project No. 351 Roman Fort Welsh Guide Books**

Work: Design and print 200 books in readiness for the Eisteddfod

Cost: £835

**Project No. 350 – Community Notice Board**

Work: Supply & install notice board o/s Magnum Stores, Cefn Hengoed for the community to use and for the community Council to display items of interest.

Cost: £927

**Project No. 348 – Youth Club, Cefn Hengoed**

Work: Rebuild/refurbishment centre.

Cost: £ 3,520 (fee for technical services)

**Project No. 345 - Women's refuge**

Work: to improve the interior to make more homely & welcoming for women & children.

Inventory of items/works has been drawn up

Cost of printing: £330 for Welcome Packs for Gilfach & £330 on mattresses for Ystrad Mynach

**Project No. 343 Ystrad Mynach Primary School Centenary Mosaic**

Work: Artists to work with children in designing and installing a mosaic in the grounds

Cost: £2,000

**Project No. 342 Hanging Baskets at Ystrad Mynach**

Work: Supply & fit 12 summer hanging baskets throughout the town plus planter on railings to the front of Pier Head building & daily watering

Cost: £3,406

**Project No.335 Day trip to the beach for families**

Work: 2 coaches from each community 1<sup>st</sup> ward (i) Gelligaer (ii) Tiryberth (iii) Hengoed & Cefn Hengoed, to transport families for a day out to Porthcawl

Cost: £1,950

**Project No. 330 Bands in the Park/Town**

Work: Bands in the Park 2015 at Tiryberth Park and Ystrad Mynach Park. Cost: £692

**Project No. 228 Pantomimes 2015**

Work: Arrange 7 pantomimes at 6 venues (1) Tiryberth Primary

(2) Gelligaer Community Centre (3) Lindsay Club (4) Hengoed Community Centre (5) Ystrad

Mynach x 2 (Lewis Girls) & Penybryn Cost: £4,000

**Project No. 222: Tiryberth Memorial**

Work: Hard standing & pathway completed. Names of fallen are required for inscriptions on the granite. Member has made enquiries and awaiting information from Mike Headington. CCBC's Bereavement Officer.

**Project No. 218: Wild Flower Sowing**

Work: sowing/planting at: (1) Tiryberth park banking

(2) by The Cross P/H (3) on triangular section of grass near Derwendeg Primary

(4) in the verge past the entrance and R/A to Brynsiriol estate Cost: £1,250

**Project No. 212: Bi-annual Gelligaer Young Citizens Award**

Work: Presentation for good deeds within the community - 3 nominees accepted for Nov 2016

Cost: £205 Next event: tbc

**Project No. 167: Gelligaer Community Newsletter**

Work: Newsletter 2015/16 – clerk has started the newsletter

Cost: £1150 & distribution costs

**New Project: Cefn Hengoed Memorial**

Work: Install a memorial in Cefn Hengoed.

Cost: Ward member to make enquiries as to location

**173 The Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Beacons – 21<sup>st</sup> April 2016**

This item was noted

**174 Deposit LDP Consultation**

Details of the LDP Consultation from Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2016 for 12 weeks were noted. At the Deposit Stage, members of the public can participate by indicating if they wish to appear at the Examination in public, and outline their representations directly to the Independent Inspector.

Elected members can make representations in respect of specific issues during the 6 week statutory consultation, as any other stakeholder can. The clerk will display details of all exhibitions on the website and notice boards.

The exhibition at Ystrad Mynach is at:

<b>Non-Political Social Club, 23 Bedwlwyn Road, Ystrad Mynach, CF82 7AA</b>	<b>Monday 15 February to Friday 19 February 2016</b>	<b>9.30am to 5pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, and 9.30 to 7pm on Wednesday</b>
---	--	---

**175 Emergency Closure Footpath 18, Oaks End Close Footbridge**

It was noted that CCBC have closed the footpath (FP18 Gelligaer) at Oak's End Footbridge between Oak's End Close and Paxton Close.

The footbridge has suffered damage and is no longer safe to use. CCBC are progressing with design for either repairs or replacement but this may take a period of months. In the meantime the footpath has been temporarily closed.

Notices have been placed on our noticeboards and website.

*Cllr Dennis Bolter and Cllr Wynne David declared an interest in the next item and left the chamber, thus playing no part in the ensuing discussions.*

**176 Planning Applications**

There were no objections to the following applications:

Case Ref. 15/0795/FULL Site Area: 464m<sup>2</sup>

Location: 1 St David's Close Penpedairheol Hengoed CF82 8BL

Proposal: Erect a single-storey ground floor extension Tredomen House Tredomen Park Tredomen Ystrad Mynach Hengoed CF82 7WF

Applicant: Mrs W Edwards 1 St David's Close Penpedairheol Hengoed CF82 8BL

Case Officer: Mr A Pyne \_ 01495 235197 \_ pynea@caerphilly.gov.uk

Ward: St Cattwg Map Ref: 314152 (E) 197180 (N) Target Date: 09.03.2016

Community Council: Gelligaer Community Council Expected Decision Level: Delegated

Case Ref. 16/0052/FULL Site Area: 489m<sup>2</sup>

Location: Rushmere 28 Heol Brynteg Ystrad Mynach Hengoed CF82 7EY

Proposal: Convert integrated garage into kitchen with pitched roof

Applicant: Mr G Davies Rushmere 28 Heol Brynteg Ystrad Mynach Hengoed CF82 7EY

Case Officer: Mr A Pyne \_ 01495 235197 \_ pynea@caerphilly.gov.uk

Ward: Ystrad Mynach Map Ref: 314070 (E) 193729 (N) Target Date: 18.03.2016

Community Council: Gelligaer Community Council Expected Decision Level: Delegated

**The meeting closed at 9.00 pm**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman of the Meeting

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2016