

GELLIGAER COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the ORDINARY Full Council Meeting held on Wednesday 25th January 2023 7.30pm at Gelligaer Community Council Office in a MULTI-LOCATIONAL format in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

PRESENT

Councillors: A Angel *, R Bevan, G Bruford, M James (Chair), C Moss, T Parry (Vice), W Matthews, H Pritchard and J Pritchard.

Clerk: C Mortimer

In Attendance: PCSO McKean, PCSO Collier and PSCO Bateman of Gwent Police.

* Denotes remote attendance

Chair Cllr Martyn James welcomed everyone to the meeting

125. Police Updates for Ystrad Mynach Hengoed & St Cattwg's wards were received and discussed

Police Update for St Cattwg's January 2023

Crimes logged between-01/01/23 & 20/01/23

70 calls

Incidents include:

Violence against the person- 13

Highway disruption- 4

Road related offences- 5

Missing persons- 1

Concern for safety- 7

ASB- 2

Theft and handling- 3

Domestic incidents- 4

Criminal damage- 2

Sexual offences- 0

Other/ police generated incidents- 29

ASB

Nothing of note.

HIGHWAY DISRUPTION

Nothing of note.

OFF ROAD BIKES

Off road bike operation was conducted on Gelligaer common on 18/01/23 along with Gelligaer common ranger, x1 vehicle was issued a warning under section 59 for driving in a careless manner and driving on common land, another vehicle was seized under section 165 for driving with no insurance.

INCIDENTS OF NOTE

There is a neighbourhood policing week of action commencing 23/01/23- 27/01/23, a multi-agency off road bike operation is planned for 27/01/23 on Gelligaer common and covering the st Cattwg ward area also.

Police Report for Ystrad Mynach and Hengoed wards 01/12/22 - 31/12/22

Crime & ASB Overview

Crimes recorded for all Ystrad Mynach Wards

Ystrad Mynach	38 (42 with Custody related crimes)
Hengoed	39
Nelson	32
Maesycwmmmer	31

Ystrad Mynach incidents include –

All Other Theft	8	19%
Commercial Burglary	1	2%
Criminal Damage & Arson	5	12%
Drug Offences	2	5%
Public Order Offences	6	14%
Shoplifting	2	5%
Violence With Injury	1	2%
Violence Without Injury	15	36%

Malicious Communications

Tesco took a bit of a hit in December with
5 drive offs without paying for fuel, (all other theft)
1 shoplifter in main store,
Break into petrol station – nothing stolen but damage caused.

Criminal damage is quite high but not trend related and happened in different areas of the ward.

Also reported & crimed was a dog bite but it was not quite as it seemed. The male was walking through the woodland from Ystrad park towards train station and has seen a Doberman off lead but under control with his owner, the male has become nervous of the dog as he has come near and caused a fuss the dog has thought he was playing and grabbed hold of his coat sleeve, no damage caused to the sleeve, no bite or contact with skin.

The dog showed no aggression, no barking, and the owner took control of the dog with no issues straight away.

Henqoed incidents include –

All Other Theft	1	3%
Criminal Damage & Arson	2	5%
Drug Offences	1	3%
Misc Crimes Against Society	2	5%
Public Order Offences	6	15%
Residential Burglary	4	10%
Vehicle Crime	1	3%
Violence With Injury	8	21%
Violence Without Injury	14	36%

The violence without injury relate to –
Protection from harassment order
Common assault
Malicious Communications

There was a rise in attempted burglaries, but no pattern and offenders known to the victims. 3 people have been arrested in relation to these and are released under investigation.

There was a residential burglary reported but the victim is not interacting with Police for the investigation to continue.

Theft of motorbike from Bryn Awel – CCTV was available but offender unable to be identified from it.

Anti-Social Behaviour calls received for all Ystrad Mynach Wards

Ystrad Mynach	2
Hengoed	1
Nelson	1
Maesycwmmmer	2

Ystrad Mynach incidents include –

- 1 call for youths walking in the road
- 1 Adult related ASB

Hengoed incidents include –

- 1 call for a house party – adult related ASB

Members raised the following matters for the police to report back:

- Issues with youths congregating and making a nuisance at Hengoed Station
- Whether Police Surgeries could be extended to an hour
- Posters advertising public events such as Register your Bike to be forwarded to the Clerk to share on social media.
- To share contact details with the Police regarding who to contact for camera footage on Gelligaer Common
- Members requested that monthly reports for Ystrad Mynach & Hengoed and St Cattwg's contain data for full calendar months as opposed to part of the month as was currently being received for St Cattwg's.

Chair Cllr Martyn James thanked the PCSO's for their attendance and comprehensive updates and they subsequently left the meeting.

126. Apologies - were received from Cllr Donna Cushing due to family commitments and Cllr A McCarthy due to being unwell.

127. Declarations of Interest

Councillors were reminded of their personal responsibility to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interest(s) in respect of any item of business on this agenda in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's Constitution, and the Code of Conduct for both Councillors and Clerk.

Clerk declared an interest in minute no. 139

128. Chair's Announcements

Chair Cllr Martyn James announced the following:

- A letter of thanks had been received from The Rhymney Valley Music Club for their grant of £350
- A letter of thanks had been received from Mr Ian Elliott, Headteacher of Trinity Fields for the session with Santa at Christmas and for gifting a book to each pupil at the school.

129. Minutes

Minutes of the ORDINARY COUNCIL meeting held on 14/12/2022 was received , approved and signed as an accurate record.

130. Matters Arising

Finance

(i) Balance of Funds to 19th January 2023

'Balance of Funds' document was received, approved and signed as an accurate record.

(ii) Reconciliation

Reconciliation document was received, approved and signed as an accurate record.

(iii) Bank Statements

Bank statement no.84 was received, approved and signed as an accurate record.

(iv) The Melody Makers

RESOLVED: Council ratified the decision of contributing the sum of £125 to Melody Makers to cover expenses of those who performed on Siloh Square last year to help raise cancer awareness during the Paint your Town Pink campaign.

Council ratification is required.

Due to technical issues Cllr Alan Angel left the meeting

131. Precept for 2023/23

(i) Council Tax Base Notification from Caerphilly County Borough Council (CCBC) was received and noted.

(ii) Clerk's Precept Report was received and noted.

(iii) Appendix A which outlines:

a) Actual spend to date as at 19/01/2023 was received and approved.

b) Projected spend to 31st March 2023 was received and approved.

c) Proposed Budget for 2023/24 was received and discussed

RESOLVED: Council agreed not to increase the precept for 2023/24 due to the cost of living crisis.

Training budget was reduced to £3.5k and monies vired from the Projects subject heading to Community Benefits subject heading.

Furthermore, earmarked reserves were discussed with the removal earmarked sum of £20k for the climate shop. Instead, Members agreed £9k be earmarked for School Environmental Projects, £6k increase for Orchards/Environmental Projects/ Tree Planting and £5k for Gelligaer Square improvements to include planters and mural etc.

Clerk will present the agreed revised budget and earmarked reserves at our next meeting in February.

132. Have your Say Consultation - Caerphilly County Borough Council's Draft Budget 2023/24 - Closing date for responses: 8th February 2023.

Following CCBC's Cabinet meeting on Wednesday 18th January 2023, CCBC have launched a consultation on the council's draft budget proposals for 2023/24.

Members received and discussed the following documents.

(i) CCBC Overview – hard copy

(ii) The proposed draft savings - hard copy or view here:

[draft-savings-proposals-2023-2024.aspx \(caerphilly.gov.uk\)](https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/draft-savings-proposals-2023-2024.aspx)

(iii) Impact Assessments – can be viewed here:

<https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/involved/consultations/join-the-caerphilly-conversation/budget-impact-assessments-2023-2024>

(iv) The online survey can be found here:

www.caerphilly.gov.uk/caerphillyconversation

Hard copies are available from all libraries for those without access to a computer.

A series of face-to-face engagement sessions are also planned for residents and a number of online sessions.

Online drop-in sessions:

Date:	Time:
Wednesday 25 th January	2:00pm – 3:00pm
Tuesday 31 st January	5:30pm – 6:30pm
Monday 6 th February	10:00am – 11:00am

Residents wishing to attend one of the online sessions are asked to e-mail publicengagement@caerphilly.gov.uk with the preferred date, and a link to attend the online session will be provided.

Face to face drop-in sessions:

Date:	Location:	Time:
Thursday 26 th January	Blackwood Library	10:00am – 12 midday
Friday 27 th January	Nelson Library	10:00am – 12 midday
Monday 30 th January	Caerphilly Library	11:00am – 1:00pm
Thursday 2 nd February	Newbridge Library	10:00am – 12 midday
Thursday 2nd February	Ystrad Mynach Library	10:00am – 12 midday
Tuesday 7 th February	Bargoed Library	5:00pm – 7:00pm

The results of the consultation will be reported to meetings of CCBC Cabinet and Full Council at the end of February when the final budget will be considered.

RESOLVED: In response to CCBC’s draft budget proposal, Gelligaer Community Council do not agree to the 7.9% increase in Council Tax in view of the fact that you have a considerable amount in reserves, some of which is earmarked, and an underspend from last year.

We would like CCBC to reconsider the following:

CS10 - We would like to see the Empowerment Fund continue it was extremely useful to community groups, making worthwhile projects possible at grass root level. It was such a good initiative (very much like the Area Forum Funding) but needs time to bed in and establish itself properly.

CS14 - We object to the cuts to voluntary organisations such as GAVO, Groundwork and CAB. These services are needed more than ever during this cost of living crisis and should be supported.

EE4 – we oppose the withdrawal of subsidy for the Blackwood to Ystrad Mynach Rail Link bus service. Other solutions should be explored like opening up the service to non rail users.

EE6 - We oppose the increase in charges of sport pitches as it flies in the face of the Welsh Government’s Well-being of Future Generations Act which requires public bodies to consider carefully the long term impact of their decisions and to work better with communities in preventing health inequalities.

EE15 We object to the cuts to Community Centres just when we have emerged from the pandemic and people are finding the confidence to re-engage with others through activities held at our community centres and halls.

ELL13 We object to the loss of an Educational Psychologist a crucial role in supporting our children and we feel should be filled immediately.

**133. Appropriate Sum under Section 137(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972
Section 137 Expenditure Limit for 2023-24**

Members noted that the appropriate sum for the purposes of section 137(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 (the 1972 Act) for Community and Town Councils in Wales for the financial year 2023-24 is £9.93.

Section 137(1) of the 1972 Act permits each Community or Town Council to incur expenditure for purposes for which it has no other specific powers if the Council considers that the expenditure is in the interests of, and will bring direct benefit to, the area or any part of it, or all or some of its inhabitants, providing that the benefit is commensurate with the expenditure incurred.

Community and Town Councils are also permitted under section 137(3) to incur expenditure for certain charitable and other purposes. The maximum expenditure that can be incurred under both section 137(1) and (3) for the financial year 2023-24 will be £9.93 per elector.

13,767 electors x £9.93 = £136,706.31 which is the maximum expenditure for s137(1) and s137(3)

134. Financial Assistance/Grants 2022/23

Gelligaer Local History Appreciation Society App No. 25

RESOLVED: Council agreed to grant the sum of £200 to Gelligaer Local History Appreciation Society

135. Co-option Vacancy in Hengoed – deferred until Feb/March 2023

136. Notice of Election for Gelligaer Community Council – Tiryberth Ward.

Members received and noted the Notice of Election which is to be displayed and published from 26th January 2023.

137. Projects

To discuss:

- (i) Defibrillator outside The Harp Gelligaer – it was noted that the cabinet will be installed within a fortnight.
- (ii) Improvements to Gelligaer Square – members noted that earmarked reserves of £5k had been agreed
- (iii) Spring Fayre, Ystrad Mynach Sat 25th March 2023 – members noted the date
- (iv) Presentation at Llancaiach Fawr Sat 15th April 2023 11am -1.30pm – noted
- (v) Christmas lighting – noted for further discussion.
- (vi) Green/Eco Officer – date of next meeting tbc
- (vii) Project Summary 2022/23 was received and noted.

138. Training for 2023

- (i) Members noted the OVW training for 2023

The Clerk declared an interest in the next item and left the chamber thus playing no part in the ensuing discussion.

139. Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) Membership Renewal 2023/24

RESOLVED: Council agreed to renew the Clerk's SLCC Membership from March 2023. SLCC membership is beneficial to the clerk and council as a reliable and accurate source of information, for the provision of advice and support. Annual membership is costed at £279 based on the Clerk's joint gross salaries.

In line with last year's arrangement, members agreed to contributing 2/3 of the cost and Llanbradach & Pwllypant CC will be asked to contribute the remaining 1/3 of the membership.

The Clerk returned to the meeting.

140. PRE-PLANNING APPLICATION CONSULTATION FOR A PROPOSED MOBILE PHONE BASE STATION UPGRADE AT GELLIGAER 123264 04872 PENALTA INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, YSTRAD MYNACH, MID GLAMORGAN, CF82 7ST (E313998, N196133)

There were no issues noted.

Due to technical difficulties Cllr Alan Angel was no longer present at the meeting.

141. Planning Applications

Planning applications were received and discussed.

Comments or enquiries must be emailed to planadmin@caerphilly.gov.uk within 21 days of receipt of the email date.

Case Ref. 22/1056/FULL Site Area: 888m² Location: Brynhyfryd 6 Old Parish Road Hengoed CF82 7HU (UPRN 000043030372) Proposal: Create new vehicle access point for use with annex building Case Officer: Joshua Burrows (07874 641749 : burroj1@caerphilly.gov.uk Ward: Hengoed Map Ref: 315074 (E) 195230 (N) Community Council: Gelligaer Community Council Expected Decision Level: Delegate
RESOLVED: No objection

Case Ref. 23/0011/NOTR Site Area: 141m² Location: Hengoed Station King's Hill Hengoed (UPRN 000043168790) Proposal: Request prior approval for alteration of bridge Case Officer: Elizabeth Rowley (07850 916862 : rowlee@caerphilly.gov.uk Ward: Hengoed Map Ref: 315306 (E) 194964 (N) Community Council: Gelligaer Community Council Expected Decision Level: Delegated
RESOLVED: Await to hear from Cllr T Parry

Case Ref. 23/0023/TPO Site Area: 133m² Location: British Telecom Telephone Exchange Central Street Ystrad Mynach (UPRN 000043019815) Proposal: Carry out various tree works (Tree Preservation Order 53/83/RVDC) Case Officer: Chantalle Lamnea (07874 641747 : lamnec@caerphilly.gov.uk Ward: Ystrad Mynach Map Ref: 314458 (E) 194204 (N) Community Council: Gelligaer Community Council Expected Decision Level: Delegated
RESOLVED: No objection

142. Next meeting Date: ORDINARY Meeting on Wednesday 22nd February 2023, 7.00pm Gelligaer Community Council office.

Meeting closed:10.00pm

Signed: _____ CHAIR

DATE: 22nd February 2023