

CYNGOR CYMUNED GELLIGAER ~ GELLIGAER COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the ORDINARY Council Meeting held on Wednesday 24th January 2024 7.00pm 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, R Callison*, D Cushing*, M James, C Moss, T Parry (Chair), H Pritchard, J Pritchard and A Wood* (Vice Chair).

Clerk: C Mortimer

In Attendance: Residents of Gelligaer - Mr Mark Roberts and Mrs. Valda Muxworthy.

* denotes remote attendance.

Chair Cllr T Parry welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited Members to observe a minute's silence in memory of the late retired Councillor Tommy Matthews.

149. Apologies – apologies were received from Cllr Wyndham Matthews due to bereavement, Cllr Mandy McCarthy due to illness and Mrs. Sherry Spencer.

150. Declarations of Interest

Councillors and Officers 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.

Cllr Donna Cushing declared a personal interest in minute no 151. – she is a relative of Mr Mark Roberts and played no part in item no. 151.

Chair Cllr Teresa Parry welcomed Mr. Mark Roberts and Mrs. Valda Maxworthy to speak on the next item.

151. Dust Monitor

In summary, back in March 2021, Gelligaer Community Council agreed a contribution of £4k towards the purchase of a dust monitor from TSI Instruments Ltd (minute no.81)

The monitor, which measures particle matter (pm) 2.5 micrometers (μm), was erected and in situ for a year before being removed for the purpose of calibration.

Unfortunately, the group have been unable to interpret the calibration readings, due to lack of expertise and for a year the monitor has been lying idle.

It was noted that Caerphilly County Borough Council have dust monitors in place that measure particle matter (pm) 10 micrometer (μm) and the readings were considered safe. Bryn Group also has a dust monitor that measures pm1, 2.5 and 10 μm .

The World Health Organisation (WHO) states that "*Exposure to PM2.5 can cause diseases both to our cardiovascular and respiratory system, provoking stroke, lung cancer and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)*".

It was noted Dr Nick Hacking of Cardiff University is researching a project entitled "Experts, Expertise and Citizens Science" which is a case study involving people in Barry digitally monitoring air quality as part of a long running planning dispute.

Following much discussion the members agreed to the following course of action.

Mark and Valda will forward the data to the Community Council and a member will contact the Barry Citizen Science Group to see if they can assist.

Mark will contact TSI Ltd for further information in relation to services and costs.

Another member will make contact with Welsh Government member, Peredur Owen Griffiths MS and a local retired GP.

Mr Roberts and Mrs Muxworthy will be invited back to another meeting to discuss further.

Chair Cllr Teresa Parry thanked Mr Mark Roberts and Mrs Valda Maxworthy for their attendance, they both subsequently left the meeting.

Cllr Donna Cushing returned to the meeting.

- 152. Police Update for St Cattwg, Hengoed and Ystrad Mynach Wards** – there were no reports received in time nor police attendance.
- 153. Public Participation** – there were no members of the public present.
- 154. Chair’s Announcements**
Chair Cllr Teresa Parry announced the following:
- An invitation was extended to members to the Food Cooperative at Trinity Church Hall on Tuesday 30th January, 8.45am, whereby the Lord Lieutenant will be thanking and presenting awards to Cassie and Matt Hooper for their hard work and dedication to the Food Cooperative.
 - A contribution of £250 from the Chair’s allowance will be donated, for the purchase of a medical grade powered bike, to assist a local resident with her rehabilitation
- 155. Minutes**
Minutes of the ORDINARY COUNCIL meeting held on 13/12/2023 were received, approved and signed as an accurate record following correction to minute no.146
- 156. Matters Arising**
Members ratified the following applications, which due to the 21 day statutory deadline for comments closing prior to our monthly meeting, the Clerk exercised her delegated powers to respond:
- (i) Case Ref: 23/0873/HH
Erect single storey side extension with 2no. dormer windows 38 Cheriton Avenue Cefn Hengoed Hengoed CF82 7JA
RESOLVED: No objections
- (ii) Case Ref: 23/0878/OUT
Demolish dilapidated existing dwelling and erect 2 No 4 bedroom dwellings 4 Greenmeadow Bungalows Glan-y-nant Blackwood NP12 3XR GRID REFERENCE - 315208(E) 197154(N)
The above application has been received under the provisions of the ab
RESOLVED: No objections
- 157. Finance to 16th January 2024**
- (i) Balance of Funds**
‘Balance of Funds’ document was received, approved and signed as an accurate record.
- (ii) Reconciliation** – there were no reconciliations.
- (iii) Bank Statements**
Bank statement no. 55,56, 71,72 & 100 were received, approved and signed as an accurate record.
- 158. Precept 2024/25**
- (i) Members received and noted Council Tax Base Notification from Caerphilly County Borough Council (CCBC)
- (ii) Members received and noted Clerk’s Precept Report
- (iii) Members received and approved Appendix A which outlines:
- a) Actual spend to date as at 16/01/2024 – approved.
 - b) Projected spend to 31st March 2024 – approved.
 - c) Proposed Budget for 2024/25 – approved.
- (iv) RESOLVED:** Council agreed to a 2% increase in precept for 2024/25 which means an increase of 42p, from £21.13 to £21.55 per annum per Band D equivalent dwelling, giving a total precept of £136,221.86. The estimated reserves were earmarked for potential green initiatives and other projects.
- 159. Financial Assistance/Grants 2023/24**
- (i) Marie Curie Financial Assistance Application no. 30**
RESOLVED: Council agreed to grant the sum of £350 to Marie Curie Cymru

(ii) Gelligaer Local History Appreciation Society Financial Assistance Application no. 31
RESOLVED: Council agreed to grant the sum of £250 to Gelligaer Local History Appreciation Society

(iii) King's Hill Allotments Association Financial Assistance Application no.32
RESOLVED: Council agreed to pledge the sum of £350 to King's Hill Allotments Association.

160. Biodiversity/Eco Officer Update

(i) Monthly report - Members received and noted report

(ii) Green Project Proposals:

(a) Ystrad Mynach Wild Patch (opposite Portofino's)

RESOLVED: Council agreed to the bug hotel at a cost of £549 but requested that local youth groups be involved

(b) Land near Cefn Hengoed Community Centre

RESOLVED: Council agreed to the installation of an orchard near Cefn Hengoed Community Centre and requested that Derwendeg Primary School be involved (including parents) and that a water butt with a secured lid, be fitted to the downpipes of the Community Centre, to access water during dry spells.

161. Projects

(i) Project Summary 2023/24 was received and discussed.

(ii) RBL Silhouettes

(a) Glyngae Primary - Email was received and noted.

RESOLVED: Council agreed to purchase an RBL silent soldier for their memorial garden,

(iii) Ystrad Mynach Spring Fayre 2024 23rd March 2024

RESOLVED: Council agreed to an outside stall on Bedwlwyn Road as opposed to Oakfield Street, the pantomime will start later, with members selling tickets in the lead up to the panto and not just on the day. Promotional items were discussed such as packet of seeds and pots and a sunflower competition.

(iv) Eco projects

Members agreed that CCBC's Paul Rossiter be invited to our next meeting to discuss the potential of solar panel software installed at our primary schools and additional solar panels on schools and our public toilet in Ystrad Mynach and Community Council Office.

(V) Kings Hill Allotment Association Project

RESOLVED: Council agreed to partially fund Quote no. 2 to the total sum of £3687.00 for the supply & erect 14 metres x 1.8m high galvanized steel palisade fencing (£1,622) Garage roof replacement (£1,765) and delivery charges from manufacturer to site (£300).

162. Audit Briefing Note – Ystrad Mynach

(i) Members received and noted briefing note.

(ii) In relation to the footfall counter, members felt that it was unlikely to warrant being moved and that pupils from the school were potential customers frequenting the bakery and fast food outlets for lunch and after school.

163. Vacancies exist - Minor Authority Representative on the Board of Governors at

- **Ysgol Bro Allta** (deferred)

164. Training for 2023/24

(i) OVW training for 2024/25 (Jan – March) was received and noted.

(ii) Updated training plan was noted.

165. CCBC's Draft Budget Proposals 2024/25 Consultation – The Caerphilly Conversation

Members received CCBC's Draft Budget Proposals for 2024/25 and objected on the following proposals:

Economy & Environment

EE22 – Community & Leisure Services

The proposal to implement further changes to the wages of Community Centre Caretakers should be deferred until each individual Community Centre has been

assessed and a more targeted approach to cost savings be undertaken following detailed discussions with the Management Committees.

EE24 – Community & Leisure Services

Increasing fees on outdoor sports pitches (rugby, football and cricket) by 20% will be far in excess of inflation and will disadvantage the poorest in our community which will probably result in lower levels of participation and ultimately detrimental to the health and well-being of the community. It does not support the aims of the Well-being of the Future Generations Act.

Education and Lifelong Learning

All the proposals to cut funding under this directorate will have a detrimental and negative impact on children and other members of the community who benefit from this directorate. Again this proposal does not support the aims of the Well-being of the Future Generations Act.

Social Services

We view with alarm the proposal to increase the vacancy factor from 4.5% to 9% in view of the great need in the community for social work support.

We therefore urge the department to make increased efforts to recruit vacant positions through streamlining the application process. There is a greater need for more support for carers and the danger is care will be spread more thinly if fewer carers are available to cover the same number of clients.

There is also insufficient support available for vulnerable residents, leaving families in an impossible position.

166. Planning Applications

The following planning applications were received & discussed.

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

APPLICATION NO. 23/0739/LA (closing date for comments 30/01/24)

Rebuild existing front walls with new dwarf wall, 215mm wide, brick with brick coping, structure min height 0.3m, max height 1.6m to both houses and flats, demolish existing defective front walls and rebuild wall with steel fence behind, to include new access gates, walls to be constructed adjacent to front footpath (Aneurin Bevan Avenue - 2,13,16,18,19,20,21,28,30,25- 31,33-39,41,43,63-69,87, Dan y Gaer - 4,6,9,10-16, Gaer Place - 6-12,14-20, Greenhill Place - 2- 8,5-11,10-14,18-24,29-35,40,42-48,53,59,61-67, Haman Place - 5-11,4,6-12,13-19,14-20,21,23, Heol Cattwg - 13,19,21,47,49-55, Heol Edward Lewis - 5-11,10,13-19,16,21-27,22,24,26,29- 35,37,40,41-47,46,49-55,52,54,56,57-63,65,39, Heol y Waun - 1,2,6,7,8, 10-16,18-24,23,26- 32,34-40,27, St Cattwgs Avenue - 5-11,19,27,29,33,37,90,94 Various Properties At Aneurin Bevan Ave, Dan-y-graig Road, Gaer Place, Greenhill Place, Haman Place, Heol Cattwg, Heol Edward Lewis & St Cattwgs Avenue, Gelligaer.

RESOLVED: There were no objections.

167. Next meeting Date: ORDINARY Meeting on Wednesday 21st February 2024, 7.00pm Gelligaer Community Council office.

ADDENDUM: Due to the Clerk's illness the meeting was rescheduled to Wednesday 28th February 2024, 7.00pm.

Meeting closed at 10.05 pm.

Signed: _____ **CHAIR**

DATE: 28th February 2024