

CYNGOR CYMUNED GELLIGAER ~ GELLIGAER COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the ORDINARY Council Meeting held on Wednesday 26th June 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, M James, C Moss (Vice Chair), T Parry, H Pritchard (Chair) and J Pritchard.

Clerk: C Mortimer

Chair Cllr Haydn Pritchard welcomed everyone to the meeting

- 39. Apologies** – were received from Cllrs G Bruford due to illness, R Callison due to work commitments, D Cushing due to family commitments, W Matthews and A Wood due to other commitments.
- 40. 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 Alan Angel declared an interest in minute no. 59 - Planning
- 41. Police Update for St Cattwg, Hengoed and Ystrad Mynach Wards** – there were no updates received.
- 42. Public Participation** – there were no members of the public present.
- 43. Retired Chair's Annual Report** – this item was deferred.
- 44. Chair's Announcements**
Chair Cllr Haydn Pritchard announced that he and Consort Mrs Jackie Pritchard, had attended D Day 80th Anniversary Commemorative Services at Glyngaer and Greenhill Primary School and the unveiling of a D Day Commemorative bench and service at Llanbradach.
- 45. Minutes**
Minutes of the ORDINARY COUNCIL meeting held on 05/06/2024 were received, approved and signed as an accurate record following the correction of a typo.
- 46. Matters Arising** – there were no matters arising.
- 47. Business deferred from Annual Meeting dated 22/05/24 and Ordinary Meeting dated 5th June 2024 and further deferred.**
- A. Minor Authority Representatives on Schools Board of Governors:**
- Hengoed Primary School – Cllr Judith Pritchard 19/01/22 – 18/01/26
 - Ystrad Mynach Primary School – vacancy exists
(Andrew James who transferred to a minor authority rep has stepped down)
- B. CCBC Community Centre Management**
- Gelligaer Community Centre
 - Glanynant Memorial Hall (not owned by CCBC)
 - Penybryn Village Hall

- 48. Audit - Year Ended 31st March 2024**
- (i) Internal Auditors Report was received and noted.
 - (ii) RESOLVED: Council received and approved Annual Return Year Ended 31st March 2024.
 - (iii) Council received and noted Explanation of Variances, Debtors and Creditors, Bank Reconciliation and Statement of Accounts.
 - (iv) Members noted that a Basic Audit will be undertaken for year ended 31st March 2024
 - (v) Members received and noted “Notice of appointment of the date for the exercise of electors’ rights”.
 - (vi) Members noted the following Audit timetable:
by **16 June 2024** we publish the Notice of appointment of the date for the exercise of electors’ rights on a noticeboard in the area and on the Council’s website for a minimum of **14 calendar days**; and
 - after the 14 calendar days referred to above, council is to make appropriate arrangements for the **public to inspect** the accounts and supporting documents **for a total of 20 working days to from 1 July to 26 July 2024.**
 - **completed and approved annual return and all requested information will be emailed to Audit Wales and hard copies hand delivered to** Community Council Audits, Audit Wales, 1 Capital Quarter, Tyndal Street, Cardiff CF10 4BZ **by 5 July or 8 July at the latest.**
- 49. Finance to 13th June 2024**
- (i) Balance of Funds**
‘Balance of Funds’ document was received, approved and signed as an accurate record.
 - (ii) Bank Statements**
Bank statement no. 61, 76, and 106 were received, approved and signed as an accurate record.
- 50. Financial Assistance/Grants 2024/25** – there were no applications received.
- 51. Eco Officer Update for May 2024**
Members received and noted report for May.
- 52. Projects 2024/25**
- (i) Project Summary 2024/25 – deferred.
 - (ii) Newsletter – deferred.
 - (iii) Wales in Bloom 2024 Update
 - Clerk to contact CCBC’s cleansing for support with weeding and additional cleansing.
 - Clerk to coordinate the 1st Ystrad Cubs and Vicarage Allotment Association to plant up the raised bed.
 - (iv) Gelligaer Planters Update - the square is looking beautiful.
 - (v) New project proposals:
 - (a) Email requesting an additional RBL silhouette at Glyngaer
RESOLVED: Council agreed to an additional silhouette.
 - (b) Gelligaer FC – members received letter and quotation for the provision/installation of utility for the new cabins
RESOLVED: Council agreed to fund £4706.75 towards the installation of electricity to the cabins.
 - (c) Glanynant Garden
Council approved in principle to moving the picnic table from the hard standing closer to path for ease of access for wheelchair users and prams and for the purchase and installation of a captains bench on the existing hard standing. Clerk to obtain quotes.
 - (d) Ystrad Mynach Park Toilet Closure
RESOLVED: Council agreed to fund signage signposting park users to use the toilet/wash room facilities at the Centre of Sporting Excellence.
- 53. Biodiversity Report - deferred**
- 54. Decarbonisation/Green Projects** – awaiting to hear from P Rossiter - deferred.

55. **Dust Monitor** – deferred - verbal update
56. **Training for 2024/25**
 (i) OVW training for 2024/25 was received and noted.
 (ii) Updated training plan – deferred.
57. **CCBC Consultation on Lewis Girls School – consultation period 3rd July - 15th July 2024**
 Members received, discussed and commented on the following consultation.
Gelligaer Community Council supports the principle of co-education and the proposed merger and acknowledged a phased approach. Members however expressed concerns regarding staff and felt that there should be equal opportunities for staff at both schools through a process of application.
Members were aware that the Sue Noakes Leisure Centre was an important facility to Lewis Girls and should remain as a community leisure centre.

“Caerphilly County Borough Council has announced plans which could transform secondary education in the Upper Rhymney Valley over the next few years.

A special Board of experts have been considering options for the future of single sex education, as well as looking at the impact of surplus places on the current school configuration in the area. Caerphilly is the only council area in Wales to still operate single sex comprehensive schools - one at Lewis Girls School in Ystrad Mynach and the other at Lewis School Pengam.

The Board agreed to explore ways in which families can be brought together and re-united and avoid the division that some experience when, due to the current arrangement of schools, children from the same family are split apart at age 11.

Lewis Girls School and Lewis School Pengam share the same catchment areas, with many families having children at both schools. The surplus places at both schools are also a key consideration, with 38.8% surplus places at Lewis Girls and 41.84% at Lewis School Pengam. As a result, the Board has proposed moving away from single sex provision to co-education in the Upper Rhymney Valley. This would involve locating pupils from both sites to Lewis School Pengam, while retaining the Lewis Girls School site to manage the transition over a number of years.

The proposal will now go through the council's relevant decision-making process and, if agreed, the matter would then be subject to formal consultation.

When considering current and projected demographics and the variable quality of the secondary school buildings, the Board felt it would seem appropriate to reduce the number of secondary schools in the Upper Rhymney Valley (Lewis Girls, Lewis School Pengam, Idris Davies School and Heolddu Comprehensive) from four to three and consider the possibility of a new build in this revised configuration.

Subject to the necessary council agreement and Business Case approval by Welsh Government, the council plans to formally consult on developing a new secondary school on land adjacent to the existing Heolddu School in Bargoed. The proposals would also include upgrading the existing Leisure Facilities to serve the school and the surrounding community”.

“These are an exciting set of proposals which could deliver significant benefits for our pupils and the wider community across the Upper Rhymney Valley,” said Cllr Carol Andrews, CCBC Cabinet Member for Education. “We are still in the early stages and all stakeholders will get the chance to have their say as we move through the decision-making process. We will keep everyone updated over the coming months as we take these ambitious proposals forward.”

Lewis Girls School - Oakfield St, Ystrad Mynach, Hengoed CF82 7WW

Lewis School Pengam - Gilfach, Pengam, Bargoed CF81 8LJ

What are we proposing?

The proposal seeks to close Lewis Girls schools and make a regulated alteration to Lewis School Pengam to change from single sex to co-education with effect from September 2025.

The Lewis Girls School site would be retained as a provision to Lewis School Pengam to manage the transition over a number of years. (minimising impact on exam pupils and enabling staff and pupils to be integrated over an appropriate timeframe).

Consultation Stage: In Progress

Anticipated Completion Date: September 2025

[Latest News\(External link\)](#)

Why are we consulting?

The requirement to undertake Consultation applies to all of our school proposals in respect of maintained schools (as defined by the School Organisation Code 2018). The consultation process represents an opportunity for people to learn about the proposal and make comments that will be recorded and summarised in a Consultation Report which will be considered by our Education and Social Services Scrutiny Committee and the Council's Cabinet.

Stage 1 of the process is designed to gather your views which will be summarised in the Consultation Report.

For these to be included, they must be submitted in writing and submitted within the consultation period dates.

Stage 3 of the process provides that anyone wishing to make objections to a school organisation proposal has the opportunity to do so. To be considered as statutory objections, objections must be made in writing and sent to the Council within the 28-day period.

Ways to give your views

Post: [Lewis Girls School and Lewis School Pengam Proposal](#)

Sustainable Communities for Learning (21st Century Schools)

Directorate of Education and Corporate Services

Caerphilly County Borough Council

Penallta House, Tredomen Park, Ystrad Mynach, Hengoed CF82 7PG

Email: 21stcenturyschools@caerphilly.gov.uk(External link)

Electronic response: [Via Microsoft Forms\(External link\)](#)

Subject to Cabinet approval, Formal Objections will only be valid at Stage 3 when the Statutory Notice is issued and the Objection period opens.

58. **Correspondence from Mr Ken Skates, Welsh Government AS/MS and Cabinet Secretary for North Wales and Transport Re: 20 mph**
Members received and noted correspondence.
Gelligaer Community Council fully support maintaining 20mph on most roads through villages etc because slower traffic means safer roads however members agreed that some roads needed to be reviewed and adjusted accordingly.

Cllr Alan Angel declared an interest in the next item and subsequently left the meeting thus playing no part in the ensuing discussions.

59. Planning Applications

Members received & discussed the following planning applications.

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

Case Ref. 24/0407/FULL Site Area: 1197m²

Location: LBS Builders Merchants Ltd New Road Tir-y-berth Hengod CF82 8AU (UPRN 000043030786) Proposal: Erect rear extension with pitched roof Case Officer: Joe Simmons (01443 864428 : simmoj1@caerphilly.gov.uk Ward: St Cattwg Map Ref: 315089 (E) 197164 (N) Community Council: Gelligaer Community Council Expected Decision Level: Delegated
RESOLVED: No objection

Case Ref: 24/0417/RET

Retain replacement wooden side fence with concrete upright posts and infill panel sections, with decorative brick work affect.

1 Brunel Close Penpedairheol Hengoed CF82 8HT

Contact/Cysylltwch â: Abbie-Jane Stokes Telephone/Ffon: 01443 866221

E Mail/E Bost: planning@caerphilly.gov.uk GRID REFERENCE - 314107(E) 197223(N)

RESOLVED: No objection

Case Ref: 24/0408/HH

Erect single storey extension to the rear of property 5 Tyn-y-coed Tredomen Hengoed CF82 7DD

Contact/Cysylltwch â: Abbie-Jane Stokes Telephone/Ffon: 01443 866221

E Mail/E Bost: planning@caerphilly.gov.uk

GRID REFERENCE - 314015(E) 194262(N)

Case Ref. 24/0451/COU Site Area: 1610m² Location: Bridge Croft Kennels Tir Adam Uchaf Farm Heol Adam Gelligaer Hengoed CF82 8FU (UPRN 000043009732) Proposal: Change the use of existing kennels to single dwelling Case Officer: Joe Simmons (01443 864428 : simmoj1@caerphilly.gov.uk Ward: St Cattwg Map Ref: 312540 (E) 198176 (N) Community Council: Gelligaer Community Council Expected Decision Level: Delegated
RESOLVED: Awaiting further info.

60. Next meeting Date: Ordinary Meeting 24th July 2024 at the later time of 7.30pm, to allow sufficient time for county members to travel from CCBC's full council to Gelligaer.

Meeting closed at 9.00pm

Signed: _____ Chair Date: 24th July 2024.