

CYNGOR CYMUNED GELLIGAER ~ GELLIGAER COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the ORDINARY Council Meeting held on Wednesday 25th September 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, D Cushing, W Matthews, C Moss* (Vice Chair), T Parry, H Pritchard (Chair), J Pritchard and A Wood*.

Clerk: C Mortimer

In Attendance: Mr Rob Young, Glanynant Memorial Hall.

* denotes remote attendance

Chair Cllr Haydn Pritchard welcomed everyone to the meeting

81. Apologies

Apologies received from Cllrs Roger Bevan due to holiday, Gaynor Bruford due to attending another meeting, Rhianwen Callison due to attending a training session and Martyn James due to illness.

82. 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.101

83. Public Participation

Chair Cllr Haydn Pritchard invited Mr Rob Young from Glanynant Memorial Hall to speak with members.

(i) Glanynant Memorial Hall (GYNMH)

In summary, Rob Young has successfully transformed the place by decorating the hall, establishing a bank account, and forming a volunteer committee. He invested a significant amount of his own money and is now seeking funding for utilities, insurance, and other running costs. Members thanked Mr Rob Young for taking on GYNMH, reopening it and turning it around, making it an important community hall for local residents. He expressed an interest too in Glanynant Garden and would like to help in sprucing the area up. It was suggested that he meet our Eco Officer with our Chair next week.

Financial support would be discussed under minute no.93 (iv) Financial Application No.17

Mr Rob Young was thanked for his attendance and he subsequently left the meeting.

84. Police Update for St Cattwg, Hengoed and Ystrad Mynach Wards

Members received and noted:

Police Update August - Appendix 1

Police Update September Appendix 2

85. Retired Chair's Annual Report - deferred

86. Chair's Announcements

Chair Cllr Haydn Pritchard announced attending the following:

- A "Dining In" event with the Ystrad Mynach Air Cadets in August, which was most enjoyable.
- Presenting a hedgehog house with Cllr Wyndham Matthews to a local resident who was caring for hedgehogs in her garden.
- Chair announced the 60th anniversary concert of Ystrad Mynach Male Voice Choir with friends at Newbridge Comprehensive School on Friday 4th October 2024, doors opening at 6.30pm.

87. Minutes

Minutes of the ORDINARY COUNCIL meeting held on 24th July 2024 were received, approved and signed as an accurate record.

88. Matters Arising

Members ratified the following business due to insufficient time for members to comment on recent CCBC consultations, and CCBC conducting the surveys during the August recess, which required the clerk using her delegated powers to respond on behalf of the Community Council:

Direct Meals Services

Gelligaer Community Council are opposed to the cessation of Direct Meals Services in the community on the grounds of:

1. The service provides a host of benefits to some of our most vulnerable members in the community, such as people with disabilities, ill health and the elderly.
2. In many cases, the meals provided by Direct Meals Services will be the only source of nutrition they have.
3. The daily visits from the staff are in many instances the only contact the users have with people. Therefore from a social perspective, the visit is more than just food as the interaction between user and staff can help to alleviate loneliness and isolation.
4. Staff can also detect if the user is unwell and can alert the emergency services if assistance is needed. The multifaceted role of the staff should not be underestimated.
5. Providing meals and regular interaction with the users does facilitate independent living, putting less strain on other departments.
6. Removing this invaluable service will undoubtedly put extra strain on social services, therefore monies saved in one department could potentially increase the resources and costs in another.

Llancaiach Fawr Manor

Gelligaer Community Council strongly object to the proposed closure/mothballing of Llancaiach Manor House due to it being a significant historical and cultural landmark in the Caerphilly borough for the following compelling reasons:

1. Historical Importance

The Manor, which is a grade I listed building, and considered to be one of the most important gentry houses to have survived the 16th and 17th century period. It is one of the finest examples of a semi fortified Manor house in Wales and has significant historical value.

2. Educational value

The Manor serves as a living history museum, providing educational opportunities for schools and visitors to learn about life in the 16th and 17th century. It offers a unique immersive experience that brings history to life.

3. Tourism and Economy

As a popular tourist attraction Llancaiach Fawr Manor contributes to the local economy. It attracts visitors from all over, supporting local businesses and generating revenue for the area.

4. Community Engagement

The Manor is a focal point for community events and activities such as weddings, birthdays, Sunday lunches, exhibitions and award ceremonies to name a few. It hosts various events throughout the year fostering community spirit and providing a venue for local gatherings.

5. Cultural Heritage

Preserving Llancaiach Fawr Manor is crucial for maintaining the Welsh cultural heritage of the region.

6. Employment

The Manor provides jobs for local residents. Closing it would result in job losses and will negatively impact the livelihoods of those employed there.

Given these reasons it's clear that Llancaiach Fawr Manor holds significant value beyond just its financial cost. Its closure would be a loss to the community, the local economy and the preservation of Welsh heritage.

The clerk was thanked for her work and submitting responses on behalf of GCC to CCBC during the recess.

88. Matters Arising cont'd and ratified:

Planning Applications

Under delegated powers the clerk responded to the following planning applications on behalf of members during the August recess:

Case Ref. 24/0461/LA Site Area: 135m² Location: Lewis Girls Comprehensive School and Leisure Centre Sue Noake Leisure Centre Pengam Road Ystrad Mynach Hengoed CF82 8AA (UPRN 000043019970) Proposal: Partially demolish changing rooms due to subsidence and restore area on completion of demolition works Case Officer: Joe Simmons (01443 864428 : simmoj1@caerphilly.gov.uk

Ward: Ystrad Mynach Map Ref: 314757 (E) 194369 (N)

Community Council: Gelligaer Community Council Expected Decision Level: Delegated

RESOLVED UNDER DELEGATED POWERS: No objection

Case Ref. 24/0571/TPO Site Area: 59m² Location: 2 Kingswood Close Hengoed CF82 7LU (UPRN 000043030494) Proposal: Cut back to growth points taking 25% off branches (Tree Preservation Order 49/82/RVDC) Case Officer: Lorna Berrow (01443 864429 : berrol@caerphilly.gov.uk

Ward: Hengoed Map Ref: 315290 (E) 195186 (N)

Community Council: Gelligaer Community Council Expected Decision Level: Delegate

RESOLVED UNDER DELEGATED POWERS: No objection to it being trimmed but would not support its felling.

Case Ref. 24/0585/FULL Site Area: 280m² Location: British Telecom Telephone Exchange Central Street Ystrad Mynach (UPRN 000043019815) Proposal: Remove Six Glass Panes and replace with New Aluminium Ventilation Louvres, to Match Existing Louvres Installed Case Officer: Luke Buffery (01443 864426 : buffel@caerphilly.gov.uk Ward: Ystrad Mynach Map Ref: 314458 (E) 194204 (N) Community Council: Gelligaer Community Council Expected Decision Level: Delegated

RESOLVED UNDER DELEGATED POWERS: No objection

Case Ref. 24/0525/FULL Site Area: 208200m² Location: Gelliargwellt Uchaf Farm Gelligaer Road Gelligaer Hengoed CF82 8FY (UPRN 000043086592) Proposal: Enable extension to existing quarry operations including drainage, landscape bunds with associated works and erect sports pitch and circular walkway footpaths Case Officer: Anthony Pyne (01443 864523 : pynea@caerphilly.gov.uk Ward: St Cattwg Map Ref: 312485 (E) 196441 (N) Community Council: Gelligaer Community Council Expected Decision Level: Committee

RESOLVED UNDER DELEGATED POWERS: Gelligaer Community Council would like to object to planning application 24/0525 - Enable extension to existing quarry operations including landscape bunds with associated works and erect sports pitch and circular walkway footpaths on the following grounds:

- The development will have a significant and long-lasting impact on residential amenity. The impact on health and mental wellbeing of the current quarrying works is well documented. Residents have had to deal with the constant noise dust and traffic for a significant number of years; it's unacceptable to extend this for 20+ years in to the future. The cumulative impact on residential amenity from the various works on the site should be considered as part of the application.
- The quarrying work will impact significantly on air quality in the area which will have a detrimental impact on residents. No independent monitoring has been conducted of the surrounding air quality. Given its potential for significant harm the true extent of its impact needs to be explored further before planning permission is granted. The 250m buffer zones set in the LDP should be recognized as a minimum and not a target. The landscape bund is still in development and it will be a significant number of years before the trees in this area are mature enough to provide any genuine protection and or privacy to residents.

88. Matters Arising cont'd and ratified:

- The air quality Impact report states that extraction will take place at a 300m distance from local dwellings. It is unclear whether the buffer zone includes the haulage routes or the quarrying only – we would like clarification on this prior to planning permission being granted.
- The extent of the impact on water levels and the subsequent impact on the Nelson Bog SSSI has not been considered in enough detail. Mitigation reports and further study should not be a condition of planning but completed prior to planning being granted.
- There will be a significant and unacceptable impact on protected species – those at Nelson bog and those that have been discovered on site. These include red list birds, European protected Great Crested Newts and reptiles. CCBC operate a reptile trans relocation site in the grounds adjacent to the development - any development would likely have an impact on this habitat.
- Within the application there is a proposal to remove significant amounts of peat within the site. Damaged peatlands are a significant source of greenhouse gas emissions. The extraction of water from peat sources and its disturbance will result in significant levels of CO2 release into the atmosphere from the peat which has been absorbing CO2 for thousands of years. Peatlands can absorb significantly more CO2 than any other land type and should be afforded our protection now for the benefit of future generations. Caerphilly's LDP aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from developments.

Quarrying activity should only take place where there is a demonstrable need for the stone – particularly as in this case where it is likely to impact significantly on the surrounding area for a considerable period of time. CCBC's LDP annual monitoring report 2023 shows that there is already significant stone of similar grade available beyond the required 10 year landbank. This shows that the extension to Bryn Quarry is unnecessary and should not go ahead.

Vice Chair Cllr Catrin Moss was thanked for her work on the Gelliargwellt Uchaf application.

89. Business deferred from Annual Meeting and Ordinary Meetings:

A. Minor Authority Representatives on Schools Board of Governors:

- Ystrad Mynach Primary School – vacancy exists
(Andrew James who transferred to a minor authority rep has stepped down)
Clerk to enquire with Mrs Judith Climer.
- Greenhill Primary School – deferred.

B. CCBC Community Centre Management

- Gelligaer Community Centre – deferred.
- Glanynant Memorial Hall (not owned by CCBC)
Cllr Adrienne Wood was nominated as our representative on the the Management Committee.
- Penybryn Village Hall – deferred.

90. Finance to 19th September 2024

(i) Balance of Funds

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

(ii) Bank Statements

Bank statement no's 63,64,78,79,109,110,111 were received, approved and signed as an accurate record.

(iii) Unity

Members received and noted correspondence dated 29/07/24 and 28/08/24 regarding changes.

91. Utilities

(i) Electricity at the Office and the Public Toilets at Ystrad Mynach.

RESOLVED: Council agreed to the installation of SSE smart meters at the office and at the public toilets in Ystrad Mynach for the provision of up to date and accurate energy readings for billing purposes.

(ii) Ystrad Mynach Public Toilets

RESOLVED: Council agreed to setting up a direct debit to Welsh Water for the toilet in Ystrad Mynach (we already have a Direct Debit set up for Welsh Water for the office)

(iii) Office Telephone and Alarm

RESOLVED: Council agreed to finding an alarm system that could be linked to the WiFi as opposed to the telephone line, to reduce line rental costs.

92. The Pension Regulator

Members received and noted re-enrolment and re-declaration: your legal duties as an employer. The clerk to action.

93. Financial Assistance/Grants 2024/25

(i) Penallta RFC – Minis and Juniors Application no. 14

RESOLVED: Council agreed to fund the sum of £500 to Penallta RFC's Minis & Juniors

(ii) Ystrad Mynach Male Voice Choir Application no. 15

RESOLVED: Council agreed to grant the sum of £500 to Ystrad Mynach Male Voice Choir

(iii) Bushscout Cymru Application no. 16

RESOLVED: Council agreed to grant the sum of £500 to Bushscout Cymru on the proviso a copy of their constitution was received.

(iv) Glanynant Village Hall Application no. 17

RESOLVED: Council agreed to grant the sum of £1,500 to Glanynant Village Hall on the receipt of a completed grant application form.

94. Eco Officer Update – there were no updates received this month.

95. Projects 2024/25

(i) Project Summary 2024/25 was received and noted.

(ii) Newsletter - noted

(iii) Ystrad Mynach Town Toilets

Clerks report was received and noted.

RESOLVED: Council agreed to implementing the recommended changes such as notices of contact details in the cubicles and foyer and an emergency button to open the shutter door.

(iv) CCBC – regarding a one-off offer to help with planting the wild patch in Ystrad Mynach

RESOLVED: Council agreed to offer of support.

(v) Project proposal – Christmas books

RESOLVED: Members received and noted email and decided not to pursue with the proposal.

(vi) Christmas market – Arrangements were discussed and noted with members agreeing to take it in turn to front the stall and run the grotto.

(vii) Forgotten Soldier Plaque

Plaque sample from Horizon Forge, Llanbradach was received and approved. Members were awaiting a quote.

(viii) KWT – Orchards

RESOLVED: Members agreed to submitting an application for a free orchard pack in Gelligaer.

(ix) New project proposals

(a) Ystrad Mynach Toilets – members agreed in principle to a mural on the outside walls of the toilet and noted that the inside walls needed freshening up – a project for the Spring.

96. CCBC Ystrad Mynach Town Centre Audit - July 2024

Audit was received and noted.

97. Biodiversity Report - deferred

98. Decarbonisation/Green Projects – awaiting to hear from P Rossiter.

Clerk to make enquiries regarding solar panels to the toilet in Ystrad Mynach and Cascade Community Centre.

99. Dust Monitor – deferred - verbal update

100. Training for 2024/25

(i) Training dates for September – December 2024 were received and noted.

(ii) Update training plan was received and noted.

101. Planning Applications (any additional applications will be tabled at meeting)

To receive & discuss planning applications. Comments or enquiries must be emailed to planadmin@caerphilly.gov.uk within 21 days of receipt of the email date.

Case ref:24/0658/HH

Demolish existing single storey rear annexe and dilapidated masonry store, remove two trees, erect two story rear extension with hardstanding plus associated external works 6 Station Road Glan-y-nant Blackwood NP12 3XL GRID REFERENCE - 315091(E) 197531(N)

RESOLVED: Council agreed to RETAINING the tree at the bottom of the garden, close to the lane, and agreed to the removal of one tree closest to the property.

Case Ref: 24/649/COU

Change of use of existing kennels to single dwelling Bridge Croft Kennels Tir Adam Uchaf Farm Heol Adam Gelligaer GRID REFERENCE - 312540(E) 198176(N)

Councillor to get back to Clerk.

102. Next meeting Date: Ordinary Meeting 23rd October 2024.

Meeting closed at 9.05pm

Signed: _____ **Chair**

Date: 23rd October 2024.