

CYNGOR CYMUNED GELLIGAER ~ GELLIGAER COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the ORDINARY Council Meeting held on Wednesday 23rd October 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, W Matthews, C Moss (Vice Chair), H Pritchard (Chair) and J Pritchard.

Clerk: C Mortimer

In Attendance: Mrs Nicola Quarry

Chair Cllr Haydn Pritchard welcomed everyone to the meeting

103. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs G Bruford and A Wood due to holiday, D Cushing and M James due to sickness, T Parry due to caring commitments and R Callison due to family commitments

104. 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 Judith Pritchard declared an interest in Minute no.114 (i) – Youth Centre Cefn Hengoed
Cllr Alan Angel declared an interest in Minute no.124 - Planning

Mrs Nicola Quarry arrived at the meeting and was invited to speak.

105. Public Participation

In summary Mrs Quarry spoke about a children's dance class in Shappelles that were in need of new dresses for their UK competitions and championships. The dresses would remain at the dance centre for all children to use.

It was explained to Mrs Quarry, that the Community Council would not be able to support all the groups at the centre as there were so many. However Chair Cllr Haydn Pritchard, stated that he may be able to make a contribution from his Chair's civic allowance on the proviso further documentation was provided and will discuss later under Financial Assistance.

Mrs Nicola Quarry was thanked for her attendance, and she subsequently left the meeting.

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

Members received and noted:

Police Update September and Appendix 1

107. Retired Chair's Annual Report - deferred

108. Chair's Announcements

Chair Cllr Haydn Pritchard announced that he had attended the following:

- A Gwent Police bike marking and registering event with fellow councillors in Gelligaer, which was very well attended.

109. Minutes

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

110. Matters Arising – there were no matters arising.

111. Business deferred from Annual Meeting and Ordinary Meetings:

- Ystrad Mynach Primary School – vacancy exists. Clerk was awaiting to hear from a suitable candidate.
(Andrew James who transferred to a minor authority rep has stepped down)
- Greenhill Primary School – vacancy exists

CCBC Community Centre Management

- Gelligaer Community Centre
- Penybryn Village Hall

112. Finance to 17th October 2024

(i) Balance of Funds

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

(ii) Bank Statements

Bank statement no 112 was received, approved and signed as an accurate record.

113. Review of Financial System

(i) RESOLVED: Council granted permission to investigate bespoke financial system designed specifically for Community and Parish Councils to establish what may be appropriate and beneficial for Gelligaer Community Council.

Cllr Judith Pritchard declared an interest in the next item and subsequently left the chamber thus playing no part in the ensuing discussions.

114. Financial Assistance/Grants 2024/25

(i) The Youth Centre Cefn Hengoed

RESOLVED: Council agreed to grant the sum of £1,500 to The Youth Centre, Cefn Hengoed

Cllr Judith Pritchard returned to the meeting.

(ii) Tiryberth PTA

RESOLVED: Council agreed to grant the sum of £350 to Tiryberth PTA

(iii) Urdd National Eisteddfod

RESOLVED: Council agreed to grant the sum of £250 to Urdd National Eisteddfod.

(iv) Under 8's Formation Dance Team

Chair Cllr Haydn Pritchard agreed to support the team with a donation from the Chair's Civic Account on the proviso a constitution, bank statements and quotations are provided.

115. Eco Officer Update

(i) Eco Officer Monthly Reports

To receive and note reports for:

- June
- July
- August
- September

RESOLVED: Council approved and ratified additional spend

(ii) Beechgrove Land - Information was received and noted

RESOLVED: Council agreed that Eco Officer is to proceed to establish a plan for wild flowers and fruit trees incorporating both paths.

(iii) Proposal No. 10 – Ystrad Mynach Wales in Bloom

RESOLVED: Council agreed to stone dust path on the Wild Patch, near the veg and wildflower area, on the proviso that owner Mr Leader is in agreement.

116. Projects 2024/25

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

(ii) Armistice Services 10th November

(a) Armistice Service dates and times were noted

(b) Wreaths and poppies were distributed to members

Cllr Wyndham Matthews – St Catwg's Church, Cllr Adrienne Wood – Tiryberth Memorial, Cllr Donna Cushing – Derwendeg Memorial and Cllr Mandy McCarthy – Ystrad Mynach Memorial.

(c) Installation of poppies Risk Assessment was received and approved.

(iii) Festive Fayre

(a) Clerks report was received and noted

RESOLVED: Council agreed additional costs of:

500 selection boxes £1,000

Promotional items - £1,800

Raffle prizes - £100

Grotto decorations - £300

RESOLVED: It was agreed that proceeds from the Christmas fayre would be donated to Sands for the improvements to the Bereavement Suite at The Grange.

It was further agreed that entry to the grotto will be charged at £1 per child.

(b) Risk Assessment for Sata's Grotto was received and approved.

(iv) New project proposals – there were none.

117. Llancaiach Fawr Manor

(i) Friends of Llancaiach and Delyth Jewell MS

Correspondence was received and noted.

118. CCBC Consultation – Home to School Transport

The Caerphilly Conversation is currently consulting on proposed changes to the home-to-school transport policy for learners in Caerphilly County Borough.

<https://conversation.caerphilly.gov.uk/home-to-school-transport>

The council aims to align the transport provision with Welsh Government statutory distance criteria, potentially reducing the current high level of discretionary transport. CCBC seeks community feedback on these changes, which are part of broader efforts to address financial challenges. Consultation closes: 28th October 2024.

Gelligaer Community Council objected to Caerphilly County Borough Council's consultation on home-to-school transportation for the following reasons:

1. Impact on Families - Reducing transport provision could place a significant burden on families, especially those with multiple children or those who cannot afford alternative transport options.
2. Access to Education - Changes to transport policies might limit access to preferred schools, particularly for students in rural areas or those attending faith or Welsh-medium schools. It will therefore have a disproportionate effect on the Welsh language because parents will be taking their children out of Welsh schools and moving them to an English school.
3. Safety Concerns - Walking longer distances to school could pose safety risks, especially for younger children.
Dark coloured clothing can make it harder for drivers to see children especially during the winter months or heavy rain when visibility is poor.
4. Financial Strain - While the council aims to save money, the cost of alternative transport might fall on families, potentially leading to increased financial strain. Or if children have to walk, we worry whether families have the means to provide suitable warm, waterproof hi-viz clothing and shoes.
5. Attendance – It could potentially have an adverse effect on school attendances.

6. Environmental Impact – Caerphilly County Borough Council's impact assessment fails to recognise that a reduction in transportation doesn't necessarily have a positive outcome for the environment. To the contrary, it could indeed lead to an increase in car usage, which has several environmental impacts. As you well know, more cars on the road mean:

- (a) Higher emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gases, contributing to climate change.
- (b) Cars emit pollutants like nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and particulate matter (PM), which can harm air quality around our schools and ultimately our public health.
- (c) Increased traffic will lead to congestion, which in turn can raise emissions.
- (d) Will create higher levels of noise pollution in residential areas.

119. Caerphilly County Borough Council CCBC Consultation – library closures

CCBC have 18 libraries in the borough and are proposing to close most of them and offer an "improved library service" in our towns.

"The Library Service Strategic Vision has 4 key objectives:

- Improve and develop the library services availability and offer.
 - Help residents to access information, advice and support in a 'hub' location.
 - Put community needs at the heart of our town centre hubs, to support and encourage greater resilience for individuals through support and signposting.
 - Rationalise the number of buildings to maximise resources and improve the overall offer.
- The consultation will help the council to better understand the needs of the community in order to shape the development of the hub vision. A model that has been tried and tested at the popular library hub site in Rhymney.

The vision indicates that the development of the hub model would result in an overall reduction in library venues, to allow the council to focus on the development of improved town centre hubs providing a one-stop-shop approach for community services".

Consultation opens on Monday 22nd October 2024 for 6 weeks.

Members received and noted CCBC's Draft Library Service Strategic Vision 2024 – 2028 and as it did not affect our library in Ystrad Mynach with closure, members declined to comment but fully empathised with other villages that will face closures.

120. Biodiversity Report - deferred

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

122. Dust Monitor – verbal update – deferred.

123. Training for 2024/25

- (i) Training dates for October – December 2024 were received and noted.
- (ii) Training plan was received and noted.

Cllr Alan Angel declared an interest in the next item and left the chamber

124. Planning Applications

Planning applications were received and the following comments were noted:

Case Ref: 24/0736/HH

Erect side and rear single storey extension 23 Hengoed Road Penpedairheol Hengoed CF82 8BR GRID REFERENCE - 314306(E) 197353(N)

Contact/Cysylltwch â: Joshua Burrows Telephone/Ffon: 01443 864427

RESOLVED: No objections

Case Ref: 24/0264/FULL

Erect 2 bedroom two storey detached dwelling Land At Grid Ref 315231 195450 Bryn Teg Cefn

Hengoed Hengoed GRID REFERENCE - 315232(E) 195450(N

Contact/Cysylltwch â: Joshua Burrows Telephone/Ffon: 01443 864427

RESOLVED: No objections

125. Meeting date 20th November 2024

Members agreed to reschedule our next meeting from 20th to 27th November, allowing the clerk and members to attend OVW/SLCC event on 20th.

126. Next meeting Date: Ordinary Meeting 27th November 2024

Meeting closed at 8.55pm

Signed: _____ **Chair** **Date: 27th November 2024.**