



GELLIGAER COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES of the MEETING of the GELLIGAER COMMUNITY COUNCIL held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 14 January 2009 at the COUNCIL OFFICE, LLWYN ONN, PENPEDAIRHEOL.

PRESENT

Councillors: A P Angel, R Bevan, W David, W Griffiths, M James, T H Matthews, C Morgan, Mrs T Parry, Mrs J Pritchard and R C Thomas.

Clerk: Mrs C Mortimer

In Attendance: PC Louise Anzani and PC Neil Harris

Due to work commitments the Chairman Cllr R C Thomas was arriving later and therefore vice Chair Cllr Judith Pritchard chaired the meeting in the interim

204 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr D Bolter due to a holiday , Cllr G B Shannon due to flu and Cllr G Roberts due to work commitments.

205 Declarations of Interest.

Interest was declared on Minute No.218

206 PC Louise Anzani, Ystrad Mynach Town Ward Officer

Vice Chair Cllr Judith Pritchard welcomed PC Louise Anzani and PC Neil Harris to the meeting.

PC Louise Anzani reported on crime during December and stated that vehicle crime was prevalent in all areas but has since decreased during the first couple of weeks into January.

It was also noted that there were going to be significant changes to the running of the Police Force from March 2009.

The Police' work shift patterns were changing thus allowing more Officers in use at a given time and that Response Units were going to be set up and deployed throughout the region.

The Chairman Cllr R C Thomas arrived at the meeting

Hengoed

Members expressed their concern at the heavily armed response unit at Kingswood Close and were told that the reason for the heavy presence was due to a resident reported missing at the Care Home. Cllr J Pritchard stated that she would contact Social Services to make further enquiries into the incident.

A Member reported that approximately 50 wheelie bins had been set alight up by the schools Institute Field Hengoed and youths had been seen digging up the field.

Cefn Hengoed

Members stated that some residents close to Derwendeg School wanted to have the benches removed to stop the youths congregating and causing anti social behaviour and vandalism. Other Members stated that the benches should not be removed as that is giving in to the youths and that they should be charged with criminal damage if caught in the act. The Police find it extremely difficult to catch the offenders as there can be up to 30 youths congregating at a time.

St Cattwgs

Again vehicle crime prevalent but PC Anzani did not have specifics.

It was reported that the Castle Hill area had set up a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme to help alleviate crime.

A Member reported that there had been vast improvements in the area over the past 3 years with regular quarterly meetings held between the Police and the Partnership, but following the funeral of 2 youths, matters had significantly deteriorated.

One of the worst areas is by the Co-op where local youths congregate and randomly hurl glass bottle missiles over the roof of the shop. When the Police have arrived they start behaving. Unfortunately the area is a signaling black spot for CCTV.

There is also a new Ward Officer, PC Tim James, who had started 3 weeks ago.

A Member reported that the sheds had been broken into on the allotments to the rear of Claerwen.

Ystrad Mynach

Youth crime has decreased, serious crime was very low and volume of calls through December were at a minimum. There had been a spate of make offs from the Tesco petrol station and shoplifting at the store during December.

A member stated that litter is a criminal offence and that people should be charged for discarding their take away cartons and cigarette butts. PC Anzani stated that the CSW are encouraged to prosecute those that are caught littering the streets.

The Park Watch signs are up in the park and very noticeable.

The Traffic Warden has returned to the village and as a result there is less congestion.

General

Members reported that cars are meeting by the Youth Club near Duffryn Park and by the College in Ystrad Mynach near the railway bridge where drug dealing is allegedly taking place.

Cllr RC Thomas stated that he would like to propose a new project that would help to involve the local youths and to assist in decreasing anti-social behaviour.

Details of which were discussed under “ New Projects”

Cllr Judith Pritchard thanked the Police Officers for attending the meeting and providing the Members with an update.

Vice Chair Cllr Judith Pritchard handed the Chair back to the Chairman Cllr R C Thomas

207 Chairman’s Announcements.

The Chairman announced that he had delivered flowers to Mr and Mrs Hearne of Central Street Ystrad Mynach to celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary.

Cllr C Morgan invited all Members present along to the Cascade Youth Club on Friday evening to view the refurbishment work that has been undertaken to the building and the new facilities now available.

208 Minutes

The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 17/12/2008 were received, confirmed and signed as a correct record.

209 Current Financial Situation

Details of the Current Financial Situation of the Council as at 07/01/2009 were received confirmed and signed as a correct record.

210 Precept 2009/10

The Clerk presented her report and it was noted that last year, on the 15th January 2008, a decision was taken not to increase the level of precept for 2008/09. This was largely because the level of balances held by the Council was relatively high and it was felt that no increase was necessary. The Clerk reported to the meeting on the 11th June 2008 on the Final Position of the Authority, the outcome of which was a decision to attempt to reduce the balances remaining at March 2009.

The Clerk suggested a range of increases from 0% to 5% that the Council may wish to consider.

The Clerks Example Budget for 2009/10 includes a 2.5% increase in precept. This would mean an approximate increase of 21p for each Band D equivalent household for the year.

Overall it would mean that the Council would have an additional £1669 to spend on worthwhile projects that can make a difference within the Community, it would also assist to cover inflation i.e. energy costs, pay awards etc.

The Example Budget was put forward as a proposal and seconded.

An amendment to the proposal was put forward where a member stated that this was the worst recession in our life time and that there should be no increase in the Precept for 2009/10

With a show of hands for the Amendment

4 Members voted in favour to the Amendment

5 Members voted against the Amendment

With a show of hands for the Proposal

5 Members voted in favour of the Proposal

4 Members voted against the Proposal

The Proposal to increase the Precept by 2.5% was carried.

The Members opposing the Proposal asked that the Clerk minute their names.

They were Cllr W David, Cllr R Bevan, Cllr W Griffiths and Cllr T Matthews

211 Financial Assistance (Application No.54)

In supporting a department within a school that caters for the needs of pupils with a disability in the County of Caerphilly

It was resolved that £250 be granted to the Sensory Needs Department of St Cenydd School, Caerphilly to aid their function under Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1976.

212 British Heart Foundation (Application No.55)

In supporting the fight against heart disease
It was resolved that £300 be granted to the British Heart Foundation to aid their function under Section 137 of the Local Government Act, 1972, Section 36-38 of the Local Government and Housing Act, 1989.

213 Fantasia Latin American Formation Team

This application was withdrawn as the newly formed group do not have a constitution and would be in breach of our Financial Regulations.
The Clerk is to contact the organisation to explain.

214 Projects Summary

Project No.187: Create “Treowen Field” throughout Gelligaer

Work to be Undertaken: Environmental project – select suitable sites in the first instance

Current Situation: Dave Beveridge to establish suitable locations

Cost: £480 per field

Project No.186: Develop the Website

Work to be Undertaken: Links to other groups/organisations

Current Situation: Clerk has met with CCBC Web Master Nick Rutter to discuss development - underway

Cost: £750 - £1,000

Project No.185: Knee Rail at the rear of Woodfield Terrace to stop cars and motorcycles going up the tunnel and also thus preventing antisocial behaviour

Work to be Undertaken: Supply & erect knee rail, forestry barriers and A frame

Current Situation: Work to proceed

Cost: £4,000 + CCBC to pay £3,165 = Total £7,165

Project No.183: Shrub beds at 3 Sites

1. Hengoed Ave at Cefn Hengoed,

2. Village green at Tir y Berth

3. Where the Christmas tree is situated at Penpedairheol

Work to be undertaken: Construct shrub beds

Current Situation: Sites agreed, work completed

Cost: £3000 + Maintenance £150 Nov08- March09

Works completed awaiting invoice

Annual Maintenance cost (19 visits) £134 x 3 =£402

Project No.182: 12 Sites on Main Routes through all villages within the Community of Gelligaer

Work to be undertaken: Spring bulb planting along with school children

Current Situation: Sites agreed, work commenced 3rd Nov.

Now completed awaiting invoice
Cost: £970

Project No.181: Ystrad Mynach Park Watch Scheme

Work to be undertaken: Purchase 5 no signs @ £44.70
Current Situation: Signs have been erected.
Cost: £223.50 PAID

Festive Lighting at:

Project No.180: Cefn Hengoed

Project No.179: Hengoed

Project No.178: Cascade

Project No.177: Greenhill

Project No.176: Tir y Berth

Project No.175: Pengam

Project No.174: Ystrad Mynach

Work to be undertaken: To display 3 festive motifs

Current Situation: St Lighting converting columns & C Elsbury have erected motifs. Works completed awaiting invoice

Cost: £6050 (pledged from previous years)
£5920 2008/09

Project No.173: Cwm Calon Estate

Work to be undertaken: Supply & Fit Notice Board

Current Situation: Members have arranged a site visit with residents to establish a suitable position for installation. To be Installed

Cost: £659 (Materials £400 PAID)

Project No.172: Pen y Bryn Playground

Work to be undertaken: Installation of playground

Current Situation: Member submitted drawings and quote of £60,000 and is seeking funding from other sources

Cost: Pledged 2008/09 £5,000

Project No.171: School Environmental Project

Work to be undertaken: From January 2009, each school in the community to undertake an environmental project of their choosing to be judged in July 2009. Winner will receive a shield. Clerk has contacted all Head Teachers. Cheques sent out in December.

Cost: £8,000 & cost of shield & runner up prizes

Members requested that the Clerk invite Mr Derek Price, Principal Parks Manager to judge the competition due to his expertise and experience.

Project No.169: Claerwen Kick Wall

Work to be undertaken: Extend the fencing

Current Situation: Members agreed to the quote therefore Contractor to commence work in January 2009.

Cost: £2505 + VAT.

Project No.168: Annual Project The Rest Porthcawl

Current Situation: Awaiting price for 2009

Cost: £4044 + VAT 2008 (paid) + Transport Costs (to be confirmed)

Project No.167: Gelligaer Community Newsletter

Current Situation: Newsletter has been distributed. Awaiting Invoice.

Cost: £825 PAID

This project will be a bi-annual project, next issue to be released in the Spring/Summer, Clerk requests suitable material

Project No.165: Annual Project Ystrad Mynach Christmas Lighting

Work to be undertaken: Install Remove and Store

Current Situation: Annual project

Cost: £1,900

Project No.163: St Anne's Church, Cefn Hengoed

Work to be undertaken: Refurbishment

Current Situation: £25,000- £30,000 to repair.

Cost: £5,000 pledged Awaiting further funding.

Project No.162: 2nd Phase Gelligaer Fort

Work to be undertaken: Interpretation Project

Current Situation: Bid has been submitted.

Cost: £1000 pledged towards match funding

Bid made for WAG funding. An additional £2000.00 to be ring fenced for Clerk/Accountants services from WAG funding (not Gelligaer Community Council funding)

Project No.161: Hill View Hengoed

Work to be undertaken: Turn a small part of a large grassed area amenity into a car park with fencing, separating car park from grassed area for safety reasons. Further £720 funding agreed for higher fence

Cost: £5,000 (2007/08) + £720 (2008/09) =£5,720

Project No.156: Griffiths Street Play Area

Work to be undertaken: Erect Goal Posts

Current Situation: Consultations taking place Re: Benches

Some of the work has been undertaken i.e. goal posts

Cost: £700.00 Pledged

Project No. 99: Cefn Road kick-about area

Work to be undertaken: Provision of kick-wall, basketball hoop and stand.

Leisure Department of CCBC confirmed that Persimmon had contributed £30,000.00 to new play area. Play area/kick-about area to be redesigned.

Area cleared for new design & fence in place.

Current Situation: New play area has been installed
Cost: Circa £2500.00 Pledged
Awaiting further details from Simon Beacham -Cllr Pritchard to enquire

New Project: The Bungalows, Hengoed.

Work to be undertaken: Lay-by provision
Current Situation: Ward Member to obtain quotation.
Cost:

New Project: Vehicle Activated Signs at various locations

Work to be undertaken: Installation of signs
Cost:

The Report was discussed and Members have forwarded areas of excessive speed to the Clerk. The Clerk has submitted to Clive Campbell who has arranged speed surveys in the first instance. Discussions to take place in October 2008, when results of surveys will be available.

A Member, who had received expert advice from Julie Gambold of CCBC, stated that we should avoid considering VAS signs which displays actual speed, they were less effective as they enticed boy racers to put their foot down to test them.

Members have received the results to some of the surveys that have been carried out, but remaining results will not be available until after Christmas due to bag log of work within the department. It was agreed that the Members would await all results prior to making any decisions.

New Project : Part Time Sessional Outreach Youth Workers

Work to be undertaken: To share 2 youth workers amongst the wards to work with disaffected youths concentrating on the anti-social hot spots
The Clerk to investigate further.

215 Withdrawal of the X38 Bus Service to Cardiff

Minutes of the meeting held on the 16th December having previously been circulated were noted

Following that meeting Cllr M James who represents Gelligaer Community Council stated that Cllr Rob Gough, CCBC Cabinet Member for Transportation and Planning, is contacting the Welsh Assembly to meet and discuss further funding to re-instate this invaluable service.

216 Cycle of Meetings

Members agreed to change the Cycle of Council Meetings from 3 weekly to 4 weekly with effect from May 2009. Consideration given, where possible, to attempt to alter any meetings that fall on the first Wednesday of the month which would prevent one of the Members from attending.

The Clerk left the Chamber prior to the next item being discussed

217 Working with Your Council

The Clerks Report was discussed.

The Clerk is looking to undertake a 2-year home study course - "Working With Your Council"

The Course WWYC is jointly written and monitored by the University of Wales, Aberystwyth and the University of Gloucestershire, working in partnership. On successful completion students receive a special Certificate of Achievement from the two Universities.

The programme is relevant and practical and will enable the Clerk to apply the principles in the work place.

There are six headings to the programme which cover

- Roles and Responsibilities
- Law
- Procedures
- Finance
- Planning
- Community Action

The Welsh Assembly Government has provided funding up to £5,000 to subsidise the cost of the "Working With Your Council"

There is a bursary available to Community and Town Councils with an annual budget of less than £25,000, which is administered by One Voice Wales.

However due to the size of Gelligaer Community Council the cost for the programme is £150 + additional costs for training events and books.

The Council Resolved that the Clerk is permitted to undertake the course.

The Clerk returned to the Chamber and the Council informed the Clerk that she is permitted to undertake the course.

Cllr W David and Cllr A Angel declared an interest in the next item and played no further part in the ensuing discussions

218 Planning Applications

There were no objections to Application No. **08/1344/OUT**

The Meeting Closed at 9-17 pm

Signed: _____ Chairman