



GELLIGAER COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES of the MEETING of the GELLIGAER COMMUNITY COUNCIL held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 4 February 2009 at the COUNCIL OFFICE, LLWYN ONN, PENPEDAIRHEOL.

PRESENT

Councillors: A P Angel, R Bevan, D Bolter, W David, M James, Mrs T Parry, Mrs J Pritchard, G Roberts and R C Thomas.

Clerk: Mrs C Mortimer

219 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr W Griffiths and Cllr T H Matthews, due to other commitments

220 Declarations of Interest

Interest was declared on Minute No.226 and 232

221 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman read out an invitation for the Members to attend an event at Big Pit National Coal Museum Sunday March 1st 2009, to commemorate Penallta Colliery and its place in the local community.

The Chairman announced that he had been to visit the Sensory Need Department at St Cenydd School. He received a very warm welcome from Mr John Humphreys and his students and witnessed first hand the excellent and effective work that's undertaken with disabled Children. He met pupils from all areas of the Caerphilly County Borough, 2 of which from Gelligaer. They have an excellent record of high achievers, some going on to university and receiving Degrees. The Chairman stated that he awarded them with a cheque for £150, which will help with the costs of their annual residential week. Mr Humphreys was reportedly very grateful to the Chairman and the Community Council for the financial support that we give and Members are very welcome to visit the department.

The Chairman was invited and made very welcome at a dinner hosted by the Arthritis Care and awarded them with a cheque for £150. They were very grateful for the generous donation. It was a very pleasant evening, and the Chairman was impressed with the excellent work that they undertake.

222 Minutes

The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 14/01/2009 were received, confirmed and signed as a correct record.

223 Matters Arising

One of the Members stated that in relation to Minute No.206 recorded on the 14/01/2009 Members should not make inaccurate statements to the Police. It was reported at that meeting that approximately 50 wheelie bins had been stolen and burnt. However this was not the case, and the County Council had not received any extra requests for additional bins to replace those that had “allegedly” been stolen. The Member requested that in future all Members are to report only factual events to the Police.

A Member stated that they were unaware of the reason for the heavily armed response unit at Kingswood Close.

Another Member has followed up a separate incident where a resident went missing from the House of multiple occupation at Kingswood close. Social Services will now be monitoring their involvement.

224 Current Financial Situation

Details of the Current Financial Situation of the Council as at 30/01/2009 were received confirmed and signed as a correct record.

225 Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2008

The Clerk presented her report and it was noted that Mazars, on the basis of their review, in their opinion, the information contained in the annual return is in accordance with the Auditor General for Wales' requirements and no matters have come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

Other matters brought to our attention, which the Clerk will report back with proposals on implementation of the recommendations at future meetings are:

1. A brief Risk Assessment Document was prepared for the 2007/08 audit. The Council should formally approve a Risk assessment covering both Operational and Financial risks and should review this on an annual basis.
2. The level of fidelity cover should be reviewed in 2008/09 to ensure it remains appropriate
3. The Council should review its Standing Orders and Financial Regulations for the Governance of its affairs annually

In compliance with the exercise of electors rights, which forms part of the Statement of Assurance, a completed Notice of Conclusion of audit and the right to inspect the Annual Return along with the certified Annual Return has been placed on the external and internal notice board at the Gelligaer Community Council Office, Llwyn Onn, Penpedairheol, from the 29th January 2009 for a minimum of 14 days.

The Members thanked the Clerk for her work with the auditors.

Cllr R Bevan declared an interest in the next item and left the chamber playing no further part in the ensuing discussions.

226 Neuadd St Catwgs Financial Assistance

In supporting the refurbishment at Neuadd St Catwgs Community Hall it was agreed that this application would appear as project work. (See project summary) It was resolved that the quote of £2584.40 + VAT would be committed but paid in April 2009. Further quotes to be obtained.

227 Cascade Carvers Financial Assistance (Application No.56)

In supporting the craft of carving and bringing people together It was resolved that £50 be granted to the Cascade Carvers to aid their function under Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1976.

228 Projects Summary

Project No.189: The Rest Porthcawl (2009/10)

Work to be undertaken: Convalescence Holiday 11/05-18/05/09
Current Situation: Clerk to book, prepare applications, posters and advert
Cost: £5,000 + VAT Transport Agreed at £260 = £5,260

Project No.188: Neuadd St Catwgs Community Hall

Work to be undertaken: Suspended Ceiling and Insulation
Current Situation: Quotes received
Cost: £2584.40 + VAT

Project No.187: Create "Treowen Field" throughout Gelligaer

Work to be undertaken: Environmental project – select suitable sites in the first instance
Current Situation: Suitable locations have been established, awaiting costings
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
Mr Derek Price, Principal Parks Manager has accepted the invitation to judge the competition.

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.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 -Member 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 back 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 has requested Paul O'Neill, Community Education Manager to our next meeting to discuss further

New Project: Heritage Project

Work to be undertaken: Project to engage youths with elders by researching their history and creating picture story books, filming etc to help bridge the gap between the generations and attempting to create in the youths an interest in people, history and film making etc Member to contact Debbie Whitty for further information.

229 Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan up to 2021: Site Allocation Representation Consultation

The Council carried out a consultation on the Deposit Local Development Plan last year and the LDP will determine where development in the county will take place up to 2021.

As part of the consultation thousands of people proposed new sites for development and also gave their views on amending or removing sites.

A Member stated that many new proposed sites that had been forwarded by members of the public had not been included and that the sites that are advertised are not Council proposals. Therefore residents are advised to write in with their comments or objections. The statutory six-week consultation on the sites takes place from 28th January to 11th March 2009 at the following locations:

- Ty Pontllanfraith
- Customer First Centres
- Libraries
- Council Website www.caerphilly.gov.uk

230 Petition to Remove Bench – Junction of Gelligaer Road Cefn Hengoed

A letter from CCBC's Parks Services confirms that the steel bench from the junction of Gelligaer Road and Pottery Lane has been removed. Members stated that by removing the bench did not remove the problem, and that the bench had been there for many years before the houses were erected. However due to the petition, as residents often felt intimidated when passing the youths congregating at the bench, and as it was eroding, it was decided that it be removed and not replaced.

231 Photography Project – Imaging the City

St.Davids 2, Cardiff, has commissioned Safle to produce a programme of artworks in conjunction with their Cardiff City Centre retail-led development.

“Imaging the City” is a collaborative project between Safle, Ffotogallery and the Centre for Photographic Research (CPR) at the University of Wales, Newport, (UWN). It is an artistic exploration of the redevelopment of Cardiff City Centre, focussing particularly on its wider social and cultural implications from the city and surrounding towns.

One of the artists, Paul Shambroom from the United States, has photographed hundreds of town meeting in the US and for the South Wales project has requested to photograph our community meeting.

The Members agreed for him to attend on the 18th March 2009.

Cllr A Angel, Cllr D Bolter and Cllr W David declared an interest in the next item and left the chamber playing no further part in the ensuing discussions.

232 Planning Applications

There were **no objections to Application No.09/0041/FULL** on the condition that there is no loss to off street parking

There were **objections to Application No. 08/1183/RET** on the grounds that the house was not built in accordance with the agreed plan and that it is built at a higher level and the roof is higher than the original plans. Visually it is intrusive and is completely out of character with the existing building environment.

The Meeting Closed at 9-05 pm

Signed: _____ Chairman