



GELLIGAER COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES of the MEETING of the GELLIGAER COMMUNITY COUNCIL held on Wednesday 22nd July 2009 at the COUNCIL OFFICE, LLWYN ONN, PENPEDAIRHEOL.

PRESENT

Councillors: R Bevan, D Bolter, W David, W Griffiths, M James, Mrs T Parry, Mrs J A Pritchard and R Thomas

Clerk: Mrs C Mortimer

In Attendance: Ms Nicola Quarry Chairperson to the Tir y Berth & Glan y Nant Community 1st Partnership

The Chairman, Cllr Dennis Bolter welcomed Ms Nicola Quarry to the meeting

58 Nicola Quarry, Chairperson to the Glan y Nant & Tir y Berth Partnership

Nicola Quarry introduced herself and explained that due to her post of Health Visitor she has first hand experience of working with vulnerable families.

A recent audit that was undertaken revealed that that there were no play group provision for the under 5's in the Glan y Nant and Tir y Berth area and yet St Cattwgs is reportedly one of the most play deprived areas in the borough. The audit also revealed that there was a high level of illiteracy.

A member stated that some children that start school are unable to perform rudimentary functions such as using the toilet or holding a knife and fork, which in turn placed an added burden on the teachers.

Ms Quarry explained that it was important to address the problem and therefore the Community First Partnership were looking to run a Home Start project in the area, but not exclusive to St Cattwg.

Home Start would be used as a vehicle to drive the project due to their expertise, knowledge, trained staff and admin support. Costings were distributed but more detail was required.

The partnership would advertise the project and would work closely with Health Visitors accepting referrals, and Health Visitors would be accompanying some families. They were also looking to provide transport.

Another member stated that the Community Council already supported Home Start Cwm Rhymni. The member also stated that schools currently accept children aged 3 years and asked who the partnerships target age group would be.

Ms Quarry stated that their target group would be 0-3 years, which was a very important age, to try and teach children with their parents, basic social skills prior to starting school.

The partnership are seeking further funding from other organisations and it was suggested that they contact Zoe Williams at Gavo for advice on setting themselves up as a separate organisation. The members agreed that it was a very worthwhile project and invited Ms Quarry to return to a future meeting to discuss further.

59 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr A Angel due to stewarding the Royal Welsh Show and Cllr G Roberts due to work commitments.

60 Declarations of Interest

Interest was declared on Minute No. 68 & 85

61 Chairman's Announcements

Cllr Bolter along with the members congratulated Cllr Judith Pritchard on her recent 70th birthday.

62 Minutes

The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 24/06/2009 were received, confirmed and signed as a correct record.

63 Current Financial Situation

Details of the Current Financial Situation of the Council as at 16/07/2009 was received confirmed and signed as a correct record.

64 Financial Assistance – Caerphilly County Swim Squad App No.22

In supporting the development of swimming skills in the area it was resolved that £150 be granted to the Caerphilly County Swim Squad to aid their function under Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1976.

- 65 Financial Assistance – Blackwood VIP App No.23**
In supporting and assisting to improve the lives of visually impaired people it was resolved that £200 be granted to the Blackwood VIP to aid their function under Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1976.
- 66 Financial Assistance – Cylch Meithrin Penpedairheol App No.24**
In supporting children where they can comfortably learn social skills and interact with others through the medium of Welsh it was resolved that £250 be granted to the Cylch Meithrin, Penpedairheol to aid their function under Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1976.
- 67 Financial Assistance – Eisteddfod y Cymoedd App No.25**
In supporting an annual community Eisteddfod it was resolved that £250 be granted to the Eisteddfod y Cymoedd to aid their function under Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1976.
- Cllr W David and Cllr W Griffiths declared an interest in the next item and subsequently left the chamber.*
- 68 Financial Assistance – Cefn Hengoed Ladies Choir App No.26**
In supporting female choristers and in developing and promoting an appreciation of choral signing to a wider audience it was resolved that £300 be granted to the Cefn Hengoed Ladies Choir to aid their function under Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1976.
- Cllr W David and Cllr W Griffiths returned to the chamber.*
- 69 Financial Assistance – Over 40's Club App No.27**
In supporting and promoting social activities it was resolved that £150 be granted to the Over 40's Club to aid their function under Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1976.
- 70 Financial Assistance – Friendship & Con Club App No. 28**
In supporting resources to assist in the educational development of children it was resolved that £150 be granted to the Friendship & Con Club to aid their function under Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1976.

71 Consultation on proposed changes to the Account & Audit (Wales) Regulations 2005

The Clerk presented her report and the Members agreed with the Clerks responses to the consultation. In summary it was agreed:

- Community and Town Councils application of the CIPFA SORP should be removed
- The voluntary completion of accounts using CIPFA SORP as proper practice should be withdrawn
- The threshold at which an Income and Expenditure account and Statement of Balance must be completed should not remain at the current level
- The threshold should be raised to £200,000 in line with the authorities in England
- The dates for closure should not be brought forward. Many Community Councils in Wales do not employ specialist Finance Officers and bringing forward the finalisation of accounts would impose an excessive burden on the Community Clerk.
- If the dates for approval and publication are brought forward there should definitely be a phased period of at least three years, reducing the timetable by one month per year.

72 Local Government Act 1972 – Section 56(1) Review of Community Boundaries in the County Borough of Caerphilly of One Voice Wales 2009 Conference and AGM

There were no further comments in relation to the final proposals. Members were requested to arrange the posting of notices in relation to the reports publication, the Commissions Final Proposals, and where it can be inspected

73 Office Equipment

The Clerk presented quotes and details of a new Fax/Phone for the office and Exhibition Displays, which can be purchased from County Supplies, Bridgend. The Members agreed for the Clerk to purchase these items.

74 CCBC Non-Domestic Rate Account – Small business rate relief awarded in error

CCBC have in error awarded a 50% small business rate relief in respect of the Community Council Office since 01/04/07

CCBC have as a result issued amended demands

The Members requested that the Clerk write to CCBC and suggest that they waver the earlier demand for the period 01:04:07 – 31:03:08 totalling £436.80, as the oversight was theirs.

- 75 CCBC Standards Committee Conference – 15th October 2009**
Members declined an invitation to the conference
- 76 Caerphilly 50+ Forum 17th September 2009**
Cllr Dennis Bolter accepted the invitation to attend the annual general meeting
- 77 CCBC Gambling Act 2005 – Statement of Licensing Policy**
There were no comments in relation to the current policy statement.
- 78 Possible Future Use of Caerphilly District Miners Hospital (House)**
Correspondence received from Jeff Cuthbert AM explains that a steering group has made a proposal to the CCBC Local Development Plan to have the site of the Beech House of the Caerphilly District Miners' Hospital changed from "Housing" to "Housing and Mixed Use". A member suggested that it would be an ideal venue for an Arts Centre.
- 79 One Voice Wales - National Training Programme**
Two Members and the Clerk expressed an interest in Module 3: The Council as an Employer scheduled for 25/03/2010, Venue TBC but possibly the Council Office at Tredomen. The Clerk will make further enquiries.
- 80 Winter Service Plan Review 2009/10**
Members requested the Clerk to forward the following comments in respect of arrangements for precautionary salting in the local vicinity, to Mr Gareth Richards CCBC's Principal Engineer, Highways Maintenance:
- **Cae Pen y Waun, Hengoed** – This is a road that is in great need of Winter Salting. It is extremely steep and exposed and is the spine road and only entrance/exit for all roads off it on the Persimmon estate in Hengoed.
 - **Bryn Terrace, Hengoed** – This terrace would benefit from a salting bin placed at the top of the terrace.
- 81 Swine Flu Update - Edwina Hart MBE AM Minister for Health and Social Services**
Correspondence having previously been circulated was noted.

82 Ystrad Mynach Police Custody Facilities

Correspondence having previously been distributed was discussed. A Member of the Ystrad Mynach ward stated that since the custodial sentence facility had opened in 2006 that local residents allege that crime in the area had increased. They have expressed concern to ward Members, that once detainees are released they are no longer supervised and are left to their own devices.

This was a controversial proposal in the first instance of housing a custodial facility in the area, due to it being a residential area.

Opinions remain the same that the concept of a custodial facility is good, but much more thought should be given to its location.

83 Plans of the sites where Vehicle Activated Signs will be positioned throughout Gelligaer

The 2 signs that have been purchased by the Community Council will be rotated at 3 monthly intervals

CCBC are now in the process of erecting posts in readiness for the VAS at the following locations:

- **Pengam Road, Ystrad Mynach**
- **Hengoed Road N/r Derwendeg**
- **Hengoed Road N/r Brynsiriol/Rolls Avenue**
- **Church Road to Pengam Road**

84 Projects Summary

Project No.195 Casc-aid Carnival

Work to be undertaken: Hire of toilets

Current Situation: Awaiting invoice

Cost: £500

Project No.194 Sultans Challenge

Work to be undertaken: Payment towards the cost of transport, refreshment & trophies

Current situation: CCBC's Communities 1st Team are organizing this annual race event for 17th September 2009. 4.00pm – 6.30pm

Cost: £500

Project No.193 Vehicle Activated Signs at various locations

Work to be undertaken: Installation of VAS signs

Cost: £5,000

Members agreed to finance 2 VAS signs at a cost of between £2,000-£2,500 and 8 posts at the following locations in the first instance:

- **Pengam Road, Ystrad Mynach**
- **Hengoed Road N/r Derwen Deg**
- **Hengoed Road N/r Brynsiriol and Rolls Ave**
- **Church Road to Pengam Road**

Project No.192 Ystrad Mynach Partnership Fun Day

Work to be undertaken: Fun Day

Current situation: Members agreed to finance marquee

Cost: £850 + VAT

Project No.191 Duffryn Field

Work to be undertaken: Concrete driveway leading to football field

Current situation: three quotes received, Clerk has instructed Mark Engwell to proceed

Cost: £4050 + VAT

Project No.190: Glan y Nant Play Area near Hanbury Street and Pengam Street

Work to be undertaken: To tarmac to the side of the play area by the gate. Quote received of £2240, match funding of £1120 from CCBC's Park Services. Members agreed, project completed.

Cost: £1120

Project No.187: Maes yr Adar

Work to be undertaken: Environmental project –3 suitable sites have been found 1.Ystrad Mynach Park 2. Coed Top Hill Landfill Site 3.Glyngaer Primary

Current Situation: 3 suitable locations have been established – completed

Cost: £1639.88

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 completed awaiting invoice

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: Maintenance to shrub beds

Current Situation: 19 visits

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

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 Letter from Council sent in support

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.

Judged in July 2009 by Mr Derek Price,

Cost: £8,000 & cost for shields and certificates

The Clerk announced the Winners and presented the judges comments to the Members.

1st : Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Allta

Excellent allotment area with wide range of vegetable plants sown harvested, cooked and eaten by pupils.

Very good pupil knowledge of plant types and use as food

Large pupil input into all aspects of project

Creative use of bank area for both floral and reading capacity

Big input throughout the project by very enthusiastic pupil eco group

2nd: Tir y Berth Primary

Excellent tour of all areas by the children who had great knowledge, involvement and enthusiasm in all the projects

Wide range of plants used with excellent use of allotment areas for all classes

Wildlife development with bird boxes and feeders extensively used

3rd: Derwendeg Primary

Good use of constructed boxes

Wide variety of plants

Good spread and depth of pupil participation from Nursery upward

Eco group in all classes

Glyngaer Primary

Excellent guided tour by children

Wildlife are has commenced, in the early stages not yet fully developed but very good

Good wildlife elements – bird box with camera will provide added dimension to class work

Greenhill Primary

Construction of tubs undertaken

Good use of plastic bottles in the construction of the greenhouse

School about to be demolished and developed, funding provided can be transferred

Hengoed Primary

Wooden frames just recently constructed from funding. Children have sown seed.

Inventive way of creating willow source for other schoolwork

Parents are keen to start Gardening Club involving small children

Good use of space around the school

Nicely developed wildlife area and pond

Trinity Fields

Good use of DVD showing plan of The Big Dig Project

Children shown to be planting, growing, picking and cleaning vegetables

Good internal display boards raising the profile of The Big Dig Project

Vegetable areas well laid out, partitioned off and constructed to try and serve various needs of pupils.

Ystrad Mynach Primary

Good creation of play/activity area next to the stream

Good use of shelter, which parents had decorated

Nice input of children on points of interest in animals/insects

Fare level of small planting within tubs in yard areas

Members commented that it had been a very successful project, the children participating, enjoying and learning much from the experience. They requested that the Clerk contact Mr Derek Price to thank him for his time spent judging all 8 schools

Project No.167: Bi-Annual Gelligaer Community Newsletter

Current Situation: Newsletter has been distributed.

Cost: £825 PAID for issue 1. Issue 2 Cost: £825

This project will be a bi-annual project June and October. Issue no. 2 has been distributed by Members and the CCBC's Youth Offending Team. Thank you YOT for your support.

Project No.165: Annual Project Ystrad Mynach Christmas Lighting

Work to be undertaken: Install Remove and Store

Current Situation: Annual project Invoice Paid

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

WAG funding available

CCBC to manage Admin & Finance

Clerk has set up HLF Application

Gavo working on application

Covenant being drawn up for Land Owner

Need to ascertain who will be responsible

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 Completed

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: £677.50 quote received and Clerk has instructed Simon Beacham/Jerry Ryan to proceed

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 - Clerk to enquire

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

Paul O'Neill, Community Education Manager attended our meeting to discuss further, will now provide costings. Apologies received for the delay – will forward asap. Vice Chair to speak with Steve Mason.

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.

New Project: Bottle Banks

Work to be undertaken: To place bottle banks o/s commercial premises for them and residents alike to use.

Some licensed premises are hiring skips to dispose of their bottles, which are then taken to landfill.

New Project: Ladies Chapel at St Cattwgs

Work to be undertaken: Bricked up window to be replaced with glass window. Rev.Tony Stevens to provide Members with costing.

Cllr D Bolter and Cllr W David declared an interest in the next item and subsequently left the chamber.

Vice Chairman Cllr M James chaired the remaining item of the meeting

85 Planning Applications

There were no objections to Planning Application No. **09/0504/FULL** on the proviso that it is used for agricultural purposes, for the sole use of storing straw.

Meeting Closed at 9.25 pm

Signed: _____ Chairman