

CYNGOR CYMUNED GWAUN CAE GURWEN GWAUN CAE GURWEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council

Held at the Tairgwaith Community Centre

On Tuesday 13th March 2018 at 6.30pm

158. Present

Councillors – Geoff Moore (Presiding), Dave Jones, Nia Treharne, Cathryn Harrison, Michele Emerson, Len Preece, Dafydd Humphries, Adrian Herdman, Mike Harrison, Dai Davies and Sue Jordan.

In Attendance

Lyn Llewellyn, Clerk to the Council.

Apologies – Agenda item No 1

Gareth Edmondson, Leander Bell and Linda Bentham

159. Declarations of personal interest – Agenda item No 2

- Geoff Moore – Director of Y Banwen Development
- Len Preece – Canolfan Maerdy was a probable tenant of Y Banwen Development – Noted the Clerk had written to the Monitoring Officer, and provided answers to the questions he raised, but no definitive guidance had been received to date. It was agreed that the Clerk pursue the Monitoring Officer for guidance.

160. Minutes – Agenda item No 3

Proposed and seconded and agreed by all members present that the draft minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on the 13th February 2018 be approved and signed by the Chairperson.

161. Matters arising from those minutes – Agenda item No 4

- **Minute 146 refers - Resignation - Cllr Robert Smith**

Proposed and seconded and agreed by all members present that a letter of thanks be sent to Robert for his hard work on behalf of the Council and also wishing him well for the future.

Minute 149 refers -

- **The Old School, Ysgol y Glyn - Roofing Repairs and dry rot treatment**

Reported that the appointed asbestos contractor visited the school last week and took away samples. A full report has been provided during the last few days and will be discussed with our consultant as soon as possible.

- **Y Banwen Association**

Reported that a meeting of the Association will take place on Thursday, 8th March 2018, - the agenda was read out for members' information. A copy of the minutes for the last meeting, which was held on 9th January 2018, was available on request to the Clerk.

- **Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Local Health Board re: outstanding debt for 2017 amounting to £3,178.50 relating to the GCG Community Centre**

Reported that invoices in respect of the year 2017 totalling £3,178.50 were paid on the 12th March 2018 directly to the Council's bank.

- **Request for a meeting between representatives of the Health Board and the Council to discuss the terms of the lease agreement.**

Reported that a meeting has finally been arranged with Mr Jonathan Parker, Health Board Primary Care and Community Estates Manager, at 10.30 am tomorrow morning to discuss the lease agreement for the GCG Community Centre.

- **Defibrillators**

Reported that a cheque for £500.00 was sent off to Ciriad and the receipt thereof has been duly acknowledged by them. The Council was informed that it would be advised of further developments. However, it was reported by a member, that the Fire and Emergency Service will shortly be holding a training session in the use of the equipment in the Amman Valley Fire and Emergency Station in GCG. Noted that there were two further defibrillators required and that the Community Centres at Cwmgors and Tairgwaith should make application for grant from the Celtic Energy Community Benefit Fund to help fund the required defibrillators.

Matter arising - Minute 150 refers

Declaration of Councillor Vacancy for Lower Brynmanan Ward

Reported that in an e-mail dated 13th March 2018 Council was informed that no election has been called for the Lower Brynmanan Ward and that, the Council may proceed to co-option. A notice inviting applications will be posted as soon as possible.

Matters arising - Minute 151 refers

Updates

- **Christmas Lights**

Noted that the questionnaire will be circulated by Michele shortly

- **Cwmgors Village Forum**

Noted that no letter has been received from the Secretary.

- **Council Website**

There was no update

Matter arising - Minute 152 refers

- **Draft Lease for the former Glyn School site Lower Brynmanan**

Noted that a copy of the draft lease has been sent to the Banwen Company for consideration.

162. Co-option of new members – Agenda item No 5

Dafydd Humphreys was welcomed to the Council and following introductions it was proposed and seconded and agreed by all members present that Dafydd Humphries be duly co-opted to serve as one of the two members representing Tairgwaith. Noted that Dafydd will sign the declaration of acceptance of office form in the next meeting of Council.

Reported that the two other applicants for co-option were unable to be present and apologised for their unavoidable absence - Leander Bell has indicated that she will attend the April meeting and Linda Bentham has said she will attend the May meeting of Council.

163 (a) Budget Monitoring Statement – Agenda item No: 6

The Budget Monitoring Report for the 9 months from 1st April 2017 to 31st December 2017 was presented by the Clerk/RFO and the significant variances were explained.

It was proposed, seconded and agreed by all members present that the Report be accepted subject to the following amendments -

- Precept – 9 months Budget and Actual - remove £24,133 in both columns and replace with £72,400 in both columns. It was confirmed that the precept was received by way of three instalments on the 30th April, 31st August and the 31st December 2017. The Clerk/RFO explained that until very recently the bank statements were sent to the former Clerk and, unfortunately, a number of statements had, apparently, been lost in the post. As a result it was not possible to complete a bank reconciliation statement. The bank mandate has finally been changed and future statements etc., will be sent to me and the Council will be able to order duplicate statements.
- Celtic Energy Administration – Community Benefits
According to members this line should be deleted as the Council had determined (before the present Clerk/RFO was appointed) that the Community Benefits pot would not be subject to reduction by the cost of Council administration.

- Celtic Energy Grant – Tairgwaith Community Centre
According to members the grant of £500.00 should be paid over to the Community Centre.

163 (b) Risk Assessment Schedule – Agenda item No 6

The Clerk/RFO presented the Council's Risk Assessment Schedule for annual review. This was a work-in-progress and four items had been added to the schedule, namely –

- Standing Orders and Financial Regulations
- Employers Liability, Public Liability, Cwmgors, GCG and Tairgwaith Community Centres
- Borrowing – PWLB loan
- Councillors' Training

Proposed, seconded and agreed by all members present that the Council's Risk Assessment Schedule be approved

164. Accounts for Payment for March 2018 – Agenda item No 7

It was proposed, seconded and agreed by all members present that the following accounts be approved for payment –

- Payments for March 2018 totalling £5,263.09 (Cheque Nos: 103681 - 103692)

The Clerk drew attention to the invoice presented by Hurley & Davies, which included additional fees, outside the contract, totalling £341.25 plus VAT relating to the asbestos survey - the Council agreed to pay the additional fees.

See Schedules of Payments attached to these minutes

165(a). Correspondence /emails from – Agenda item No 8

- Children's Wales Air Ambulance Appeal - letter dated 5th March 2018
Application for financial contribution. Response: The Council has decided not to make any financial contributions for the next 12 months.

- Wales Audit Office – e-mail dated 13th March 2018
Request to complete survey “how local government bodies deliver service to rural communities.” Response: The Clerk will respond with the assistance of the Chairperson.
- Resident complaining about a property in New Road – e-mail via Cathryn. Response: The Clerk will pass the e-mail to the County Councillor for attention and advise the complainant.

165(b). Other Clerk’s matters – Agenda item No 8

- Quote for supply and fit new rubber flat roof to the boiler room at GCG Community Centre
Reported that three roofers have been invited to tender for the new roof. In the event only one has responded in the sum of £1,200.00 despite the closing date for the receipt of tenders being extended to today. The leaking roof is causing rainwater to fall on the oil boiler which is beginning to rust. Consequently, it was proposed, seconded and agreed by members, with one abstention, that the work be awarded to the sole tenderer in the sum of £1,200.00. Note this decision will need to be confirmed in the next Council.
- Reported that the Chairperson, Cllr Geoff Moore, and the Clerk attended a meeting sponsored by the Independent Review Panel, to discuss the future of Community and Town councils. This was further to Gwenda Thomas’ visit to the last Council meeting.
- Noted that the Chairperson, Cllr Geoff Moore, and Mrs Moore have accepted an invitation to a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace later this year.

166. Presentation Plates

Noted that the Chairman, Cllr Geoff Moore, has issues presentation plates to the following on the occasion of their 90th birthday –

- Eirwen John, 2nd March 2018
- Myra Davies , 4th March 2018

167. Planning Applications – Agenda item No 9

None received since the last meeting

168. Report from Cllr Mike Harrison - Potential Project- Agenda item No 10

Mike outlined his project regarding development of land next to the GCG Community Centre to celebrate the culture and heritage of the area and its people – some ideas had been e-mailed to members prior to the meeting. It was proposed, seconded and agreed by all members present that a Project Committee be formed to explore the possibility of developing the proposal and the following members were appointed to serve on the Committee - Mike Harrison, Chairperson, Michele Emerson, Secretary, Dave Jones and Nia Treharne

169. Members' Reports – Agenda item No 11

- Dai reported verbally on the meeting he had attended relating to the Celtic Energy opencast site and said that the company is likely to renege on the agreed re-instatement and development of the site following the end of coaling in about 18 months time. Apparently, no developer has been found for the site. He expressed grave concerns about the lake and the potential danger of flooding.
- Michele reported verbally on the One Voice Wales Neath Port Talbot Area Committee attended and said that there would be no necessity to appoint a data protection officer and that a tool kit had been sent out by OVW to all its members.

170. To consider motion received (if any) – Agenda item No 12

There were no motions received.

171. Any other urgent business Agenda item No 13

There was no other urgent business.

The meeting was closed at 9.05pm

Signed.....Dated.....

DRAFT