

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 Wednesday 11th December 2019 at 6.30pm

Pwllfawatkin Landfill Site

Prior to the commencement of the Council meeting the Chairperson, Cllr Dafydd Humphries, allowed members of the public to express their concerns about the foul odour that was coming from the Landfill Site. In response, County Cllr Sonia Reynolds provided a good deal of information and dealt with the questions raised.

436. Members' Present

Councillors – Dafydd Humphreys (Presiding), Leander Prescott, Dave Jones, Len Preece, Dai Davies, Adrian Herdman, Geoff Moore, Helen Baker, Mike Harrison and Sue Jordan.

Also In Attendance

County Cllr Sonia Reynolds
Lyn Llewellyn, Clerk to the Council
Debra Ware, Assistant Clerk
Members of the public

Apologies – (Agenda item No 1)

Cathrin Harrison

New Assistant Clerk, Debra Ware

The Chairperson, Cllr Dafydd Humphreys, welcomed Debra to her first meeting of the Council and she was introduced to the members.

437. Declarations of personal interest – (Agenda item No 2)

Cllrs Len Preece and Mike Harrison declared an interest in item 7 - request for financial assistance of £1,000.00 to fund membership of FareShare, Cymru.

438. Presentation of cheques - (Agenda item No 3)

The Chairperson, Cllr Dafydd Humphreys, presented cheques to representatives of the following organisations -

- Y Lolfa £1,500.00
- Gwaun Cae Gurwen Community Bowls Club £500.00

439. Minutes - (Agenda item No 4)

Proposed and seconded and agreed by all members present that the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting, held on the 12th November 2019, be approved and signed by the Chairperson.

440. Matters arising not otherwise on the Agenda- (Agenda item No 5) Noted that all matters arising were on the agenda for the current meeting.

441. Councillors' Allowances - (Agenda item No 6)

Councillors were asked to complete the forms, which were circulated at the meeting, confirming whether or not they wished to receive payment of the £150.00 - in accordance with Determination 44 contained in the Annual Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales - to cover costs incurred in respect of telephone usage, information technology, consumables etc. Note: that all ten members present returned the forms to the Clerk on the night of the meeting.

442. Applications for Financial Assistance - (Agenda item No 7)

The following applications were considered -

1. Canolfan Maerdy £1,000.00 – to establish membership of FareShare, Cymru. Cllrs Len Preece and Mike Harrison left the room whilst this application was considered.

It was agreed to suspend this application pending the receipt of further information.

2. Bobath, Children's Therapy Centre Wales

It was agreed to defer this application until March 2020.

3. Gwaun Cae Gurwen OAP Association.

It was proposed, seconded and agreed by a majority of members present that £500.00 be awarded to the Association.

4. Marie Currie

It was agreed to defer this application until March 2020.

5. Wales Air Ambulance

It was agreed to defer this application until March 2020.

6. Swansea Bay Age Cymru

It was agreed to defer this application until March 2020.

443. Update on the following matters – (Agenda item No 8)

- **GCG Community Centre** – Reported that the Food Bank was “struggling.” The problem with the sewer blockages has finally been resolved; a contractor has been requested to provide an estimate for painting at the centre. In addition, the crack in the outside wall has been inspected by a builder and his report is pending.
- **Lower Brynman Community Centre** – Reported that three quotations had been received for the installation of central heating – the three quotes ex VAT are Contractor A = £16,792.34, B = £17,105.31 and C = £9,850.00. **Proposed, seconded and agreed by member present that Contractor C's quotation in the sum of £9,850.00 be accepted.** The trashing and replacement of a sewer cover and treatment of Japanese knotweed have been completed. Prices are awaited in respect of the roof repairs and the collection and replacement of the skip has been ordered.

- **Tairgwaith Community Centre** – The roof repairs, including the removal and refit of the solar panels, has still not been started. The Clerk will chase up the contractor.
- **Community Health Issues** – The Chairperson, Cllr Dafydd Humphreys provided a verbal report.
- **Meeting with Jeremy Miles AM concerning the opencast site** – Agreed, that in view of the general election, the request for a meeting be deferred until January, 2020.
- **Christmas Lights** – Noted that compliments had been received about the Christmas lights and the Chairperson, Cllr Dafydd Humphreys, and members of the Christmas Lights Committee were warmly congratulated.
- **Rating of GCG and Tairgwaith Community Centres** – Reported that a favourable response had been received from Neath Port Talbot CBC. The e-mail dated 15th November 2019 received from the Team Leader (Business Rates) was read to members.

444. Council Presentation Plates - (Agenda item 9)

Reported that the Chairperson, Cllr Dafydd Humphreys, has already presented a Council plate to William Glyndwr Jones on the occasion of his 90th birthday on the 20th November 2019 and will present a plate to Mary Sylvene Thomas on the occasion of her 90th birthday on the 13th December 2019.

Cllr Dave Jones indicated that he had been a member of the Council for over 12 years and therefore qualified for a Council presentation plate. The Clerk will check the office records and report back.

445. Accounts for Payment for December 2019 – (Agenda item No 10)

It was proposed, seconded and agreed by all members present that the Accounts totalling £14,763.40 (Cheque No 104022 to 104046) be approved for payment.

See Schedule of Payments attached to these minutes

446. Correspondence (Agenda item No 11)

The following letters No 1 and 2 were noted -

1. Precept –

Letter dated 22nd November 2019, received from the Principal Council Tax Officer, Neath Port Talbot CBC informing the Council of the following -

- Council Tax Base 2020/21
£1,339.52 - as approved by Cabinet on the 20th November 2019
- Schedule of Precept Payments for 2020/21
 - (a) The number of instalments shall be 3;
 - (b) Each instalment shall be one-third of the total amount due;
 - (c) Payments will be made the last working day of April, August and December
- Timetable for Receipt of Precepts
The latest date for the receipt of precepts is 17th January 2020.

2. Section 137 notification – Welsh Government

Letter dated November 2019, received from Welsh Government, notifying the Council that the appropriate sum for the purposes of section 137(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 for Community and Town Councils in Wales for 2020/21 is £8.32.

Section 137(1) of the 1972 Act permits each Community or Town Council to spend on activities for which it has no other specific powers if the Council considers that the expenditure is in the interest of, and will bring direct benefit to, the area or any part of it, or all or some of its inhabitants, providing that the benefit is commensurate with the expenditure. Community and Town Councils are also permitted under section 137(3) to incur expenditure for certain charitable and other purposes. The maximum expenditure that can be incurred under both section 137(1) and (3) for the financial year 2020/21 will be £8.32 per elector.

For the financial year 2020/21, the appropriate sum for the purposes of section 137(4) is calculated by applying the formula set out in Schedule 12B to the Act.

The Retail Price Index increased by 2.4% between September 2018 and September 2019. This means that, by application of the formula, the maximum sum for 2020/21 increase from £8.12 to £8.32 per elector.

3. Cwmgors Community Centre

Reported that as a result of an altercation between the Caretaker and one of the users of the Cwmgors Community Centre the Chairman, Cllr Dafydd Humphreys, decided to ban the user from using the Centre in the future.

It was proposed and seconded and supported by all members present that the user involved be banned from all properties owned by the Council.

Christmas & New Year Holidays

Noted that the Council office will be closed from Monday the 23rd of December 2019 until Monday the 6th of January 2020 and will reopen on Tuesday, 7th January 2020.

447. Planning Applications (Agenda item No 12)

Application No: 2019/5581

Applicant's Name/Address: Lyn Jones, 45 New Road,
Gwaun Cae Gurwen, SA18 1UN

Site Location – as above

Proposed Development: Single storey rear extension

No objection

Application No: 2019/5588

Applicant's Name/Address: Mr Robert Thompson, 9 Beddau Way,
Castegate Business Park, Caerphilly CF83 2AX

Location: East Pit Revised Opencast Mine, New Road, Gwaun Cae Gurwen, SA18 1UP

Proposed discharge of condition 82 on Planning permission P2019/0636

No objection

Pre-planning Notice Solar and Battery Project

Proposed Ground-Mounted Solar Farm adjacent to existing wind farm on Mynydd y Gwrhyd

Noted

448. Reports and representations of committees, sub committees and external bodies – (Agenda item No: 13)

There were no reports received.

449. To consider motions received (Agenda item No: 14)

No motions received.

450. Questions for the Chairperson

☐ Parc y Waun

Reported that there was a need to commission an architect, preferably pro bona.

The meeting was closed at 9.20 pm following the passing of a resolution extending it by 30 minutes.

Signed.......... Dated **15/01/2020**