

CYNGOR CYMUNED
YNYSYBWL & COED-Y-CWM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Cefnodion Cyfarfod y Cyngor

MINUTES of the MONTHLY meeting of the Ynysybwl & Coed-y-Cwm Community Council Held by
REMOTE TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL on Tuesday 1st September 2020
at 6.45pm

Clerk.....

PRESENT:- Councillors Messrs A Burnell, H Osborne, J Haines, Mrs A Ellis, Mrs M Jones, C Jones

1. DISCLOSURES OF PERSONAL INTEREST

There were no disclosures of personal interest.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors RC Evans, D Baish, Mrs C Banwell, A Holloway

3. PUBLIC BREAK

There was no public break.

4. POLICE

The police report for July had been previously circulated to members. Cllr Ellis has spoken with PCSO Vbranch who informed her that she will be leaving the village shortly to go on a secondment for a few months. A PCSO from Pontypridd, who has policed Ynysybwl & Coed-y-Cwm with PCSO Vbranch, will be taking her place in the community while she is away.

5. TO APPROVE MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes from July 2020.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.1 Community Centre – update on whether this will reopen in 2020

The committee are currently awaiting instructions from RCTCBC. At the moment, it is unlikely that it will reopen as no food can be prepared there and no more than 20 people will be allowed in at any one time. This will also affect the youth club. The volunteer committee will review this in a month and make a final decision then.

6.2 Senior Citizens Christmas dinners – update on whether these will take place in December 2020

This has been cancelled. Cllr M Jones informed the committee that the Christmas lights will be displayed at the front of the building.

6.3 Traffic management plans for various thoroughfares in the community

The Clerk has been in contact with Tim Phillips from RCTCBC Traffic Management. He apologised for not contacting us sooner but his department has been extremely busy implementing Covid 19 restrictions throughout the borough which has taken priority over everything else.

He is more than happy to meet with members of the Community Council and it was **RESOLVED** to contact Tim and arrange a meeting. Cllr Haines requested that this meeting be held around 5.30pm when traffic is at its busiest in the village. It was **RESOLVED** to ask Tim for his availability and request a later meeting, possibly after 4pm, however, Cllr Ellis pointed out that members of the local authority are not obliged to meet with us so if he cannot attend at that time, we will arrange to meet at his convenience. **DONE**

6.4 Mural for Gurnos House

Some of the comments on the YCC Facebook page and YCC group FB page were personal from individuals which members were unhappy with. New murals in Barry Sidings and the Graig have had a positive impact on the communities. Tourism should be considered when making a decision on the mural. It was stated that in no way would the mural detract from the monument. Cllr Haines had spoken to some residents who were in favour of renovating the façade but not with a mural. Cllr Ellis queried whether the artist could provide us with a sketch in order that this can be shown to residents. The cost of the mural was clarified at £1500. It was **RESOLVED** to contact other companies/individuals for quotes. It was **RESOLVED** to defer this item to the next agenda in October. **DONE**

6.5 Covert cameras

The Chair spoke with Nigel Wheeler of RCT Streetcare who informed him that the application has gone to the magistrates court in Caernarfon due to the magistrates courts in RCT being currently closed.

The Community Warden has been on leave so there was no report for the meeting, however, Nigel Wheeler assured the Chair that we would receive a report in the next few days.

The public bins have not been emptied regularly lately but this routine will be back to normal soon.

Cllr C Jones stated that he would like to see a written report from the Warden. Cllr Ellis reminded Cllr C Jones that the Warden had only been officially operating again in the village for the past 2/3 weeks. The Warden has been very proactive during the lockdown period.

Cllr M Jones requested that the Clerk contact RCTCBC with regards to the public bin in Cribyn Ddu Street which is overflowing, and, being on the route to school, could become a problem if not emptied. It was **RESOLVED** to contact the Streetcare team regarding this. **DONE**

6.6 Proposal that the Community Council takes on the following ethos:

‘As a council, we will work smarter, we will be open, honest and transparent and we will listen to, and act on the instructions of, community’ as a pledge to the community we serve.

It was **RESOLVED** to defer this until YCC can meet face to face, due to the broad issues which will need to be discussed in further detail. **DONE**

7. CHAIRPERSONS REPORT

- 7.1** Report from the Chair and Cllr A Ellis regarding a meeting with RCT Parks Department concerning new changing facilities at the Rec

A meeting was held on 12th August with the Chair, Cllr Ellis, Cllr Sue Pickering along with Dave Batten and Neil Jenkins of the RCT Parks Department. The location of the changing rooms was looked at and it was agreed that they would be erected alongside the stand. They will be up to FA standard with a separate room for referees. Confirmation of the £100,000 will be received in September. Cllr Ellis expressed concern that the changing rooms were for the football club only, RCTCBC have agreed to look further into this. The area under the stand is in a terrible state and will cost approximately £30,000 to £40,000 to revamp. Dave Batten has agreed to open negotiations to raise funds for this and will also speak to other sports organisations in Ynysybwl. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk contact Dave Batten and Neil Jenkins thanking them for the positive meeting, for their input into this matter and to request an update. **DONE**

- 7.2** Receipt of Durham Miners seat token and plans to display in the new office

The Chair informed members that a replica of the seat token had been received and with councillors permission, he would like to mount this in a frame and display it in the new office. It was **RESOLVED** to do this.

8. CLERKS REPORT

- 8.1** New office premises in Windsor Place – update on opening times and availability to the public

The Clerk had been in contact with Andrew Vbranch and the decorating that was due to take place in August will not happen until the last week of September. The Clerk and Chair discussed this and it was **RESOLVED** to move into the new office during the first week of October with a view to opening to the public on 19th October as the Clerk is on annual leave from 12th to 16th October. Cllr C Jones questioned whether the Clerk's annual leave had been approved by council members. The Chair had actually approved the leave a few weeks previously and an email was sent to members on 25th August with dates of absence.

- 8.2** Renewal of YCC insurance policy with Zurich

It was **RESOLVED** to renew the insurance policy. **DONE**

- 8.3** Cllr C Banwell – request for leave of absence due to personal circumstances

It was **RESOLVED** to accept Cllr Banwell's request for leave of absence.

- 8.4** SLCC renewal of membership

It was **RESOLVED** to renew the SLCC membership. **DONE**

9. CORRESPONDENCE

9.1 Letter from DL James regarding the mural on Gurnos House

Noted – it was **RESOLVED** to thank DL James for his letter and inform him that the matter has been deferred to the October meeting. **DONE**

9.2 John Galvin, RCTCBC Senior Technical Officer (Traffic), regarding yellow line removal in Windsor Place

Noted

10. TO CONSIDER:

Town & Country Planning Applications

No planning applications received. However, the Clerk informed councillors that the planning application for Noddfa Chapel in High Street has been passed without any data received from RCT regarding this. The Clerk has complained to RCT Planning Department and also has requested the reasons why this was passed when there were objections, not only from the Community Council but also from several residents.

Currently corresponding with Giles Howard of the Planning Department

11. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

It was **RESOLVED** to accept accounts for payment for August of £4649.30 and September of £899.02 as presented.

12. GRANT AID (S137)

12.1 Ynysybwl Football Club

The club are requesting the payment of pitch fees for use of the 4G pitch at Maesycoed. This would be paid directly to RCTCBC following a monthly invoice from them.

There were concerns as the constitution states that membership is open to over 18s. It was felt that this should be changed to include all ages and genders. The Chair had looked at the constitution and asked the club to make the change. It was **RESOLVED** that, once this change is made, the Community Council will be happy to pay the £600 required for pitch fees. **Amended constitution received 02/09/20. Clerk requested that Ynysybwl FC make arrangements for RCTCBC to invoice YCC.**

Cllr Ellis reminded councillors that in a previous meeting it was **RESOLVED** to make S137 applications available once a year, with a cut off date of 30th September. It was **RESOLVED** to put a notice on the website, Facebook page and notice board inviting applications. **DONE**

13. TO CONSIDER (Items brought to the Agenda by members of the Council)

13.1 To discuss the possible purchase of 2 commemorative benches for the Cenotaph

The Chair has discussed this with Cllr RC Evans and he is happy for the benches to be installed as long as they are not directly against his building. It was proposed that the 2 benches be installed facing the monument at 45 degree angles. The Chair and Cllr Ellis had looked at several designs which were in keeping with the area, possibly including colliery scenes. Cllr M Jones and Cllr Haines both felt that they should reflect those who lost their lives in conflict. Cllr M Jones queried whether the Royal British Legion would be involved with this project. It would not be an issue to include the RBL in this. The Chair informed council that the approximate cost per bench would be £850, not including fitting which would need to be done by RCTCBC. It was **RESOLVED** to look at costings of purchasing and fitting

13.2 The employment of a person to maintain back lanes once a month

Cllr Ellis has been in contact with Craig yr Hesg quarry who have offered to provide scalplings for every back lane in Ynysybwl. RCTCBC have not yet confirmed if they can take away any rubbish from the sides of the lanes. It was thought that someone could tender for the service to cut back any growth. However, Cllr Ellis was concerned that we may be taking on the clearing and will have to maintain this. A contract would have to be drawn up. Cllr Ellis has also contacted Welsh Water and is awaiting a response. She is also trying to find the owners of the privately owned lanes. It was **RESOLVED** to leave this matter with Cllr Ellis to pursue.

13.3 Remembrance Concert 2020

Confirmation has been received that this will now be cancelled. It is not yet confirmed if the parade will take place on Remembrance Sunday.

13.4 Lady Windsor Development

The Chair thanked Cllr Ellis for her presentation to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and also Cllr C Jones for alerting the Community Council to the matter of the sale of the land at Lady Windsor. Thanks also to the 3 councillors who called in the sale and those who supported the residents of Ynysybwl & Coed-y-Cwm. The sale to Persimmon has now been halted, and the local authority will now ensure that public consultation will go ahead in the future. Cllr C Jones requested that YCC write to the 3 councillors who instigated the call in. It was felt that, carrying out the sale of the land during lockdown was extremely undemocratic.

Councillors raised the question of how the local authority had involved YRP as community representatives when YRP had stated time and again that they were not. There are serious questions to be asked regarding the conduct of the authority on this issue. It was resolved to discuss this matter and adequate time given to do so.

A meeting was held at the Lady Windsor site on Friday 28th August attended by members of Daerwynno, YRP, the Community Council and members of the public with a coal tip eco expert who explained why the land was important for flora and fauna and that housing developments could be harmful to the biodiversity in the area. We asked about the possibility of commissioning an ecology report which was thought to be useful. Emma Williams, the ecologist, will provide information which will be shared with councillors on receipt.

13.5 Discuss Community Councillors use of social media and official Community Council email

Cllr Osborne requested that when Community Councillors use social media that they ensure the public know that opinions are personal and not those of the Community Council.

He also asked that councillors refrained from personal opinions of people when corresponding with other Community Councillors via emails.

Cllr Ellis reminded members that personal emails are open to public scrutiny. She will be meeting with the Clerk shortly to set up Community Council emails which all councillors will have to use.

Cllr M Jones requested that this be deferred to the next meeting under a Class 2 paper. **DONE**

14. BUDGET

14.1 It was **RESOLVED** to accept the budget.

15. TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

15.1 The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 6th October at 6.45pm.

Cllr Ellis informed councillors that the Community Centre can be used for the meeting as long as a risk assessment is completed and social distancing guidelines are adhered to.

Cllr C Jones requested that his email of 23rd August, which included a list of agenda items, be included in the next agenda. As some of these items were discussed in today's meeting, the Clerk will sift through the list and only include the items not discussed. **DONE**

Cllr Ellis reminded council that the Clerk has the final word on what can be included on the agenda.

Closure of official business of the council

Verbal report of the Community Councillors

Meeting closed at 8pm

Signed: Date.....