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## **Minutes of Meeting of the Council held at the Community Centre, Heol Las, North Cornelly, on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2014**

**Present:** **Chair:** Cllr Mr B L Rose (Chair)  
**Members:** Cllrs Mrs M Bevan, Mrs S Bennett, Miss L Davies, Mr R M Granville,  
Mrs M Marke, Mrs D Spanswick & Mr D Wilson  
**Clerk:** Ms D Evans

### **ITEM**

#### **1. Apologies for absence.**

Cllr Mr J H Tildesley

#### **2. Questions / Observations from the Public**

Mrs A Lloyd asked whether it was correct for members of the public to be allowed to take part in Council meetings after the initial 'Questions/Observations from the Public' section on the Agenda has been discussed. The Chair referred to the Standing Orders of Cornelly Community Council item 70, which states: ***"At all meeting of the Council the Chairman may at his discretion and at a convenient time in the transaction of business, adjourn the meeting so as to allow any members of the public to address the meeting in relation to the business to be transacted at that meeting."*** Mrs Lloyd asked for clarification on this point as she is concerned that in the minutes of previous meetings there are details of occasions when members of the public are detailed as speaking while members are discussing Council business, there has been no adjournment of the meeting. The Chair said he feels it is important that members of the public are given the right to speak if they have something of value to add to the discussion. Mrs Lloyd asked for a copy of Standing Orders and the Clerk supplied her with this. Mrs Lloyd stated that she is concerned that the statement detailed at the top of the Agenda for Council meetings that "the meeting is open to the public, but any representations which the public wish to make should be addressed to their Community Councillors or in writing to the Clerk prior to the meeting", as she had done with her question, is not being adhered to. Mrs Lloyd also referred to the 'Good Practice Guide for Councillors' and said that her concern is that members are being unduly influenced by members of the public, the residents of Cornelly have elected the members to make decisions on their behalf and it would not be right for members of the public, who have not been elected, to put pressure on them during discussions and influence decisions made by this Council in any way. The Chair said he has noted Mrs Lloyd's concerns, however he does not feel the members of the public have any influence on decisions made by this Council, advice is taken from the public if it is offered, but this does not influence decisions. Mrs Lloyd said she feels the Chairs comments are quite difficult to understand as the advice would only be taken from the members of the public present and this would not necessarily represent the public as a whole and if, as the Chair has said members of the public can come to meetings and pass on advice, how could that happen if everyone in the community turned up at the meetings it would not be possible for everyone to be given a say and who would decide who would be given the opportunity. Mrs Lloyd asked Cllr Marke for her opinion on this matter and Cllr Marke agreed with Mrs Lloyd and said she is concerned that the ten minutes for observations / questions from the public, as stated on the Agenda, is not being adhered to and members of the public are

### **ACTION**

actually taking part in debates. Mr Horton said he is concerned that in 2014 someone can still have the attitude that you can shut people up. He spoke about information where it states members of the public can advise at any time during the meeting. He said no members of the public put their hands up to vote, if they did this would be taking part in the meeting, however if members need more information on an item being discussed and a member of the public has that information, if the Chairman accepts the offer of help, then it is effectively legitimate. He said in fact the Council itself are not clear on this matter as the Agenda says members of the public have 10 minutes to speak, but the Newsletter says 15 minutes. Mr Horton then said he is astounded that there are efforts to suppress freedom of speech and he will not relinquish his rights to freedom of speech, as written in the Representation of the Peoples Act. He said if he has information that would benefit the Council he has the right to give that information to them, as do all the other residents of Cornelly and if they do not wish to come to these meetings to give their input then that is up to them. Councillor Marke referred to the Good Councillors Guide with regard to public participation and said that if the public are given the opportunity to speak then the meeting should be adjourned and this has not been happening. Mr Mike Martin said he has been coming to these meetings for some years and he has found it an interesting experience, with differences of opinion, but at no time has he, or other members of the public who have come along as observers, entered into the discussion appertaining to the subject matter on the agenda, other than to give observations. He said that he does not feel members of the public have been influencing the Council and he does not think the question is a valid one. The Chair addressed Mrs Lloyd and said as you can see time has gone on and 10 minutes is not long enough for members of the public to speak and this is why he has allowed members of the public to speak during the meeting if they have relevant information to give on a particular subject, as he believes in openness. Mrs Lloyd said that her concern is that if members of the public are allowed to give opinions then members can be unduly influenced by these opinions when reaching decisions and as she has elected the members to make decisions on her behalf, she would not like to think members of the public who had not been elected, are actually influencing these decisions. Mrs Lloyd said she is also concerned with the Chair stating he allows relevant opinions, when he would have no way of knowing before the opinion is expressed whether it would be relevant. The Chair said I have given my opinion on your question and if you do not like it then please feel free not to vote for me in future elections.

Mr Mike Jeffrey introduced himself as a Senior Youth Worker who runs the Youth Club that is held twice a week at the Community Centre and also as a resident of the village. Mr Jeffrey informed members that BCBC intend to close the Youth Club due to lack of funding and he spoke about the upset this had caused to Club members. He spoke about the reluctance of the members of this Youth Club to attend the Centre at Gibbons Way and his concerns that when this facility closes there may be a rise in anti social behaviour in the area as the young people who attend the Club will have nowhere to go. Mr Jeffreys had provided the Clerk with a breakdown of the running costs for Cornelly Youth Centre for a year and he asked members whether they would consider helping to fund the Club. Members discussed the running of the Club and the asked Mr Jeffreys specific question relating to the costs quoted. The members asked that the Clerk provide details of where in the budget funding could be found to help the Youth Centre and it was agreed the Clerk would provide these for the February meeting to allow a decision to be made on this request.

The Chair offered condolences to Cllr Wilson on behalf of himself and members of the Council on the recent loss of his mother. The Chair also spoke about Peter John of P J Landscapes being taken ill while in Australia during the new year. Cllr Wilson gave an update of Mr John's condition.

### **3. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Davies declared an interest in 'Correspondence' item no. 25 by virtue of the fact she works at a pre-school nursery.

There were no other Declaration of Interest.

### **4.To approve as a correct record thereof the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2013**

The Chair invited Members to agree the minutes as a true and fair record of the meeting. Cllr Granville Moved and Cllr Marke Seconded that the minutes be agreed.

## **5. Matters arising from the Minutes at item 4 above**

### **5.1 On item 2 – Offer of Interest Free Loan to CADDT towards purchase of lease for Capel y Pil**

The Clerk stated that there is correspondence relating to this issue at 'Correspondence' item 12.

### **5.2 On item 6.1 – Double Parking on Meadow Street**

The Chair stated there have been further instances of this road being blocked when emergency vehicles would have been unable to get through. Cllr Wilson said he has spoken to a member of the Committee at Kenfig Hill Rugby Club about this problem and it was agreed the situation should be monitored. The Clerk said she has recently spoken to PCSO Couch and he has said he will call on the Chair to discuss the problems being encountered.

### **5.3 On item 6.2 – Illegal Parking on Heol Las**

The Clerk stated that this item is included in correspondence as information has been received from Mr D Thomas on the matter.

### **5.4 On item 6.3 – Repairs to Community Centre Roof**

The Clerk stated there has been no more water coming into her room.

### **5.5 On item 6.4 – New Kitchen at Community Centre**

The Clerk stated that there is no further information on the provision of a new kitchen. Mr Mike Martin asked whether the accounts for the Community Association had been received, as requested at the last meeting. The Clerk stated that Cllr Spanswick had provided accounts and these had been passed to the Chair. Cllr Spanswick stated that if further information is required then a request should be addressed to Mrs Jean David.

### **5.6 On item 8.8 – Website Development**

The Clerk stated that Mr Horton had forwarded her a link to a new website which he had registered for this Community Council. The Clerk stated that she had looked at this new site, but she did not feel confident in taking forward the updating of the site and would be more comfortable continuing with the gentleman who presently provides administration for the website. Cllr Bennett said she feels it is important that the Clerk is comfortable with her duties and she can see no problem with the current website. Mrs Lloyd said she has been perusing the website to keep up with Community Council business and she feels it is excellent as it is and provides all the information required whilst being extremely user friendly.

### **5.7 On item 10 – Donations**

St Mary Magdalene Church - the Clerk stated that she had requested up to date estimates for the proposed work, however these had not been received yet.

## **6. Cllr Granville Moved and Cllr Marke Seconded that all accounts be paid.**

The Financial update and following accounts payable were approved:

<b>Payee</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Chq No.</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Seaside News – Newsletter Delivery	20 <sup>th</sup> Nov 13	1264	144.00
Clerk's Tax & NIC – October 2013	20 <sup>th</sup> Nov 13	1265	159.44
Donation – Horticultural Show	22 <sup>nd</sup> Nov 13	1266	100.00
Donation – Bobath Children's Centre	22 <sup>nd</sup> Nov 13	1267	25.00
Donation – Hoe Start Bridgend	22 <sup>nd</sup> Nov 13	1268	25.00
Clerk's Salary – November 13	2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec 13	1269	951.97
Commercial Print Wales – Newsletter	5 <sup>th</sup> Dec 13	1270	232.00
P J Landscapes – Church & Allotments	11 <sup>th</sup> Dec 13	1271	480.00
SLCC – Clerk's Guidance Books	11 <sup>th</sup> Dec 13	1272	66.95
Clerk's Tax & NIC – November 2013	11 <sup>th</sup> Dec 13	1273	212.64
Clerk's Salary Dec 13	2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan 14	1274	951.97
BT – Internet at Community Centre	6 <sup>th</sup> Jan 14	1275	73.50
Danwood – photocopier	6 <sup>th</sup> Jan 14	1276	90.00
Smith or Derby – Maudlam Church Clock	6 <sup>th</sup> Jan 14	1277	212.40
Clerk's Telephone – Aug to Dec 13	7 <sup>th</sup> Jan 14	1278	139.22
Community Centre Room Hire	7 <sup>th</sup> Jan 14	1279	87.50
McAfee Internet Security	8 <sup>th</sup> Jan 14	1280	39.95
Estimated Accounts Payable at February 2014:-			

- Clerk's Salary (December) - £988
- Clerk's Tax & NI (November) - £187
- Clerk's Telephone £26.00
- Internet at Community Centre - £22.00
- North Cornelly Comm Assoc Room Hire - £17.50

## **7 Correspondence**

### **7.1 One Voice Wales - Various**

The Clerk gave details of this correspondence. The Chair asked that a Special Meeting be held to discuss the consultation document on Council Tax proposals – members agreed the Clerk should arrange this. Members noted other items of correspondence.

### **7.2 BCBC – Proposal for Street Names at Development at Tydraw Farm**

The Clerk gave details of this correspondence. Members discussed and asked that the following street names be proposed: Line Close / Line Crescent / Railway Close.

### **7.3 BCBC – Potholes at highway in the region of Maudlam Cross to Angel Public House**

The Clerk gave details of this correspondence. Members noted.

### **7.4 BCBC – Flooding at Heol y Parc**

The Clerk gave details of this correspondence regarding action already taken and that to be taken. Members noted.

### **7.5 BCBC – Bridgend Local Development Plan Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG)**

The Clerk gave details of this correspondence. Members asked that this item be included as an Agenda item at the Special Meeting discussed at item 7.1.

### **7.6 BCBC – Fund for Town and Community Council Projects**

The Clerk gave details of this correspondence. Members discussed and asked that the Clerk look into the cost of providing a new surface for the footpath from Heol Broom to Maudlam, leading to Prince Lane and the present surface is not acceptable.

### **7.7 RWE Npower Renewables Ltd - Atlantic Array Project Update**

The Clerk gave details of this correspondence. Members noted.

### **7.8 Thank you for Donation : Bobath Children's Therapy Centre Wales / Home Start Bridgend / Cornelly Horticultural Society**

The Clerk gave details of this correspondence. Members noted.

### **7.9 INVOLVE Newsletter**

The Clerk gave details of this Newsletter and asked members if they would like a copy of it.

### **7.10 Play for Wales Newsletter**

The Clerk gave details of this Newsletter and asked members if they would like a copy of it.

### **7.11 Mr D Thomas – Various Things**

The Clerk gave details of Mr Thomas's correspondence. Members noted the issues raised and asked that the Clerk contact BCBC regarding the ongoing problem of dog mess throughout the village supporting Mr Thomas's concerns.

### **7.12 Mr A Morgan & Cllr Butcher – Interest Free Loan**

The Clerk gave details of both these pieces of correspondence. The members discussed the content of the messages and there was agreement that the offer of an interest free loan was still the most sensible option available.

### **7.13 Mr S Perry – Concerns re Broadlands Estate**

The Clerk gave details of this correspondence. Members discussed the concerns raised and Cllr Wilson said that when he has walked through the estate there did not appear to be a problem with litter. Cllr Davies said she attended the last PACT meeting and this matter was raised there, residents of the estate had said they were picking up litter. It was agreed this issue should be monitored.

### **7.14 BCBC – Copy Memorandum of Understanding with One Voice Wales**

The Clerk gave details of this correspondence. Members noted.

### **7.15 Bridgewater – Grass Cutting**

The Clerk gave details of this correspondence. Members asked that this matter be passed to Cllr Tildesley.

### **7.16 Community Voice – Self-Harm Self Help Group**

The Clerk gave details of this correspondence. Members noted.

### **7.17 Mr M Horton – Information re request to Management Committee of Public Hall and**

### **Community Centre / Information re Website**

The Clerk gave details of this correspondence. The Chair asked Cllr Spanswick if the accounts for the Public Hall were available. Cllr Spanswick stated request should be made to Mrs Jean David for any accounts required. The issue of the website was discussed earlier at item 5.6.

### **7.18 Western Power Distribution – Invitation to Stakeholder Workshop**

The Clerk gave details of this correspondence. Members noted.

### **7.19 Mayor's Office – Citizenship Award**

The Clerk gave details of this correspondence. It was agreed members would pass any nominations they wished to be considered to the Clerk.

### **7.20 Children from Afon y Felin School – Concerns re rubbish on streets**

The Clerk gave details of this correspondence and asked that the Clerk copy it to BCBC, Pyle Community Council and Cefn Community Council.

### **7.21 Cllr Davies – Charity Ball & Volunteering Project**

The Clerk gave details of this correspondence. Members discussed the request and asked that the Clerk obtain more information regarding the event.

### **7.22 Planning Department, BCBC – Application No. P/09/447/FUL at Heol Llan**

The Clerk gave details of this correspondence. Members discussed this matter and asked that the Clerk contact the Planning Department at BCBC and establish whether there are requirements for houses to be built with a certain distance from neighbouring properties.

### **7.23 Digital Bridgend – Heritage Project**

Cllr Tildesley gave details of this matter. Members noted.

### **7.24 Communities 1<sup>st</sup> Bridgend – Cluster Forum**

The Clerk gave details of this correspondence. Members noted.

### **7.25 BCBC – Draft Nursery Education Policy Questionnaire**

Members discussed the policy and provided opinions on the questionnaire. The Clerk to submit the following comments to BCBC:

***The members of Cornelly Community Council want all the children of Cornelly to have a good standard of education from the age of 3 years onward. If the proposed changes are implemented children will suffer, as the unemployed and people on a low income would not be able to access private nursery provision, the option of private nurseries would only be available to those who could afford it. The members believe it is imperative that BCBC fund nursery provision for all children from the age of 3 years onwards.***

## **8. Footpaths & Allotments Report**

Cllr Granville said he had walked a few of the footpaths, but the weather has been so bad he has been unable to cover them all. He has seen no problems with the ones he has walked and he will walk the remaining ones when the weather allows.

The Clerk gave a report on the Allotments and said the majority of plot rental invoices for 2014 had been paid. A complaint has been received from the tenant of plot 14B regarding overhanging branches not allowing him to fully utilise the plot. The Clerk said the trees in this area have been an ongoing problem and the new tenant of plot 13B will be even more affected by the overhang and also the debris left behind by the previous plot holder in his attempts to cut the branches back. Cllrs Marke, Spanswick and the Clerk have met with the residents at the property behind this area of the allotments, regarding the cutting back of the trees and he has asked to be involved in any decisions made on how far to cut the trees back. Members discussed this problem and it was resolved the Clerk should appoint a contractor to take forward the cutting back of the trees and removing the debris from plot 13B, ensuring that the resident of the property behind is kept informed at all times. The Clerk stated that she will contact the resident and arrange for him to meet with any contractor that is approached regarding this work.

## **9. Christmas Lights 2014**

The Clerk stated that it had been agreed at earlier meetings that consideration of the upgrade of Christmas lights for 2014 would be discussed at this meeting. Members discussed this matter and agreed that at the present time, with the austerity measures in place in all areas, it would not be good use of money to upgrade the lights when the present ones are in full working order.

**RESOLVED** the Christmas lights would not be upgraded in 2014.

#### **10. Hanging Baskets 2014**

Members discussed the provision of hanging baskets for 2014. It was agreed the Clerk should establish whether the price per basket is the same as 2013 and if it is then the same amount of baskets should be ordered. However if the price has increased then the Clerk should come back to the Council to establish how many baskets they wish to purchase.

**RESOLVED** the Clerk should take forward quote for hanging baskets.

#### **11. Any Other Business (At Chair's Discretion)**

(a) Cllr Spanswick said that since the new boiler had been put into the Public Hall a number of years ago, it had not been serviced and she felt a service should now be taken forward. Members discussed this and agreed the Clerk should make enquiries regarding a service plan.

(b) The Clerk stated that before Christmas Mrs Betty Lingwood had fallen in Heol Llan and she had spoken to BCBC on Mrs Lingwood's behalf. Mrs Lingwood has contacted her this week and told her that she has heard nothing further about the accident or any repair to the pavement in the area of her fall. Members discussed this matter and asked that the Clerk contact BCBC to establish what action had been taken.

#### **Planning Applications:**

- **Application No. P/13/850/FUL – Two Storey Extension with a pitched roof to provide kitchen dining area and master bedroom and en-suite – The Manse, 35 Fford yr Eglwys**

The members discussed this application; there were no comments / observations.

- **Application No. P/13/901/FUL – 17.5M Galvanized Steel Grey Pole, 7 Antenna & RRU's and 3 New Cabinets – Rear of Cornelly Garage, Porthcawl Road – Vodafone Ltd**

Members discussed this application, there was not full agreement on whether objections/comments should be submitted. Chair asked for a vote, the result of which was:

5 in favour of offering no objections/comments

1 against offering no objection/comments.

**It was resolved no comments/objections would be submitted.**

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Chair