**CRYNANT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 29th May 2014**

**1. APOLOGIES**

Community Councillors: Mrs A Hart

County Councillor NIL

**2**. **REGISTER OF ATTENDANCE**

Community Councillors: Mr R Miles (Chairman)

Mrs P Wood

Mr M Evans

Mr R Power

Mr B Michael

Mr P Shopland

Mr B Lewis

Mr R Evans (Clerk)

County Councillor: Mrs K Pearson

**3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Community Councillors as per schedule of Councillor Interests held.

County Councillor Pearson: Planning Matters.

4. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES TO THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The Minutes re: the full Council Meeting held on 24th April 2014

Subject to amendments requested by **KP** that corrected the reference that ‘’Neath Port Talbot Council were putting in mirrors at the entrance to Brynawel’’ (Item 7 Paragraph 5 ) and said that ‘’Neath Port Talbot were installing speed monitors at the junction between Main Road and Brynawel’’; and that **KP** had not referred to ’’Hounds at the kennels on the Common were being left out of control in the forestry’’ (Item 7 Para 2); and the correction by **PW** that should read‘’ There were no bins at the bottom of Nant Celyn’’ (Item 7 Para 2).

Proposed accurate by: **BM** Seconded by: **PW**

No Objections No abstentions

**5. MATTERS ARISING**

There were no Matters Arising.

**6. POLICE REPORT**

There was no Police Report.

**ME** said that it was the third meeting in which there had been no Police Report. **PS** said that he had reported to the Police a white van parking on the bend in Brynawel which was causing a danger, there had been no reply. There were also major parking problems in School Road, especially during school time. **PW** said that she had invited the Chief Constable to a Council meeting and he had agreed to come to the June meeting, where any matters could be risen.

**7.** **COUNTY COUNCILLOR PEARSON**

Councillor Pearson said that she received each Police monthly report.

The problems concerning bins at Nant Celyn had been resolved and the bench at Woodland Road was due to be repaired.

**PS** said that trees leading up to Cefn Coed needed to be cut and some trees were covering the road warning signs. Trees under the railway bridge were in railway owned land and the railway owners should be contacted. There was also a tree in Maesmawr which was in a poor and dangerous condition.

**RP** said that 80% of funding for rights of way nationally had been cut .but it was expected that the path at the Kingfisher was likely to be agreed. Neath Port Talbot Council had said that they would take action regarding the path at Gelligaled. **KP** said that she would get someone from the Borough Council to inspect the damage to the paths following a period of heavy rain. **RP** said there was a particular problem with footpath No.3 – Brynawel to Coed Ty.

**ME** said that nothing was happening regarding the required tree cutting in Treforgan and with regard to windfarms asked **KP** whether a campaign was going to be undertaken at Hirfynydd. **KP** responded that the site was not in her area.

**CD** said that cars were speeding near the Public Toilet which is completed and ready for opening.

The problems in Lewis Road continued, but letters were to be sent to the offenders by theBorough Council.

8. **USE OF COMMUNITY CENTRE AT WEEKENDS**

**PS** was in favour of social events in the Centre, subject to the costs being metand the hall and any other rooms being cleaned up. **ME** said that events had been stopped before, but the Centre was an amenity for the people of Crynant. A caretaker would need to be in attendance to ensure that damage wasn’t done and that tidying up was done by those hiring the Centre. **RP** queried what the charge for hire would be and in the event of a bouncy castle being hired an insurance cover would be needed by the hirers. The parties would be restricted to young children and **JG** was in favour of a suitable ratio of adults to children. **PS** said that the Caretakers Employed during weekend events should be given a suitable payment.

**AGREED** that the Clerk check on the likely costs involved and that the matter be placed on the Agenda of the next meeting.

**9. REPORTS**

**PS** reported that the Neath Vintage and Steam Show at Cefn Coed was a great success. There was some work needed at Cefn Coed and had been promised by Neath Port Talbot Council but had not yet been done.

**ME** said that a large clearance of the containers in the yard had been undertaken. The items which were retained included 3 organs, a piano and reclining chairs. It was not sure what to be done with them, but that one of the containers would no longer be needed. **AGREED** that disposal of the container and other items be referred to the next meeting.

At a meeting held on the 6th May 2014 at the request of the Youth Service/Engage -attended by Chairman Pat Wood and Councillor Peter Shopland, together with the Clerk and Jan Jones, Jo Fisher of the Youth Service and Andrew Davies of Engage - the Youth Service said there was a need for improvement in the understanding of the problems which sometimes arose. There had recently been incidents in the Centre and damage had been done, although sometimes not intentionally, and the responses from the Caretakers were regarded at times by the staff to be an overreaction. One particular case involved play in the Hall where a ball broke the glass on a fire alarm and which was seen by the Caretaker on duty as being intentional. As a result the ball games in the Hall, which were popular amongst the young people who attended the Youth Club, were stopped and there was concern that as a result a subsequent reduction in attendance might have a detrimental effect, especially in the current financial situation. The Council felt that behavior had improved since two Caretakers had been appointed and hope that would continue. There was a need for greater tolerance and that in future any incidents would be reported by the Caretakers to the Clerk who would duly forward them to the Youth/Engage senior staff immediately.

The **Chairman** asked the Councillors’ for their view on the stoppage of ball games in the Community Centre Hall. It was **Proposed** that games in the Hall would in future be restricted to the use of soft balls only.

**Proposal**: 8 **Against Proposal:** Nil

**KP** left the room during the report and discussion due to a Declaration of Interest.

**FINANCE REPORT (HT)**

Bank Balances as at 29th May 2014

Community Council: £ 38,753

Savings Account: £ 2,795

Community Association: £ 14,676

**Total:** £ 56,224

Authorisation: £ 7,843

**Total:** £ 48,381

**9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**Application Number: P2014/0461**

Applicant’s Name / Address: Mr Rhodri Jones

Brynrhyg

Brynawel

Y Creunant

Neath SA10 8SR

Site Location: Brynrhyg Farm

Crynant

Proposed Development: Retention of a 5Kw micro hydro-electric installation including a water inlet. Underground pipe work, turbine house outfall and buried electrical cable and associated works .

Easting: 279768 Northing: 205292

Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

Observations: That an extension be requested to consider observations, if any.

**APPEAL INQUIRY**:

Town and Country Planning Act Appeal by: Wind Ventures UK Ltd

Site at : Farmland Adjoining Forestry East of Crynant and South of Seven Sisters, Neath

Planning Inspectorate Ref : APP/Y6930/A/13/2209942

Planning Application Code No; P2008/0024

Proposed : Revised scheme for wind energy development comprising 9 ( previously 14) turbines with a maximum height to blade tip of 125m. access tracks, cable trenches , substation , anemometer mast , crane hard standing. Temporary construction compound and associated infrastructure.

Inquiry to be held on 09/09/2014 at Neath Civic Centre , commencing 10a.m.

**10. AUTHORISATIONS**

Community Council May 2014

NPTCBC DD £ 80.00

Barclays Bank DD £ 4.00

HMRC (April) £ 230.04

E G Nicholas £ 723.32

B Michael £ 28.00

R Evans £ 449.15

Zurich Insurance £ 2,426.48

Analysis Books £ 99.98

HMRC (May £ 250.18

TOTAL £4,291.15

Payments proposed: Councillor **BL** Payments seconded: **ME**

Abstentions: NIL Objections: NIL

Community Association April 2014

NPT Sports Council (Membership) £ 7.50

NPT Sports Council (Mem.–extra) £ 2.50

HMRC (April) £ 51.42

HMRC (May) £ 43.40

Hi Tech (Security) £ 216.00

ccb supplies £ 106.42

British Gas £1,638.25

BT £ 217.25

I Sadler £ 789.02

Gym Benches £ 479.97

**Total £ 3,551.73**

Payments proposed: Councillor **RP** Payments seconded: Councillor **JG**

Abstentions: NIL Objections: NIL

**11. CORRESPONDENCE**

215. Letter from Pennant Walters re: Extension to Maesgwyn wind energy project and notification of information days – May 19TH – May 21st 2014 – to offer the local community the opportunity to understand more about the proposed extension.

216. Statutory Notice published by Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council outlining the proposal to :-

Discontinue Velindre Community School ( Port Talbot ) and Ysgol Hendre Special School (Bryncoch ) ;

Establish a new English medium special school on the same sites (above) ;

Cease to maintain Bryncoch Pupil Referral Unit ; and

Establish a secondary assessment centre within the new special school , using the same site.

217. Survey of Remuneration 2013-2014 by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales with a consultation to review the existing determinations and their current application by Councils throughout Wales on the basis of information received. The current practice would be gauged by completion of a questionnare in respect of each Council.

**AGREED** that no additional remuneration should be given over and above the existing determinations.

218. The Summer Playscheme 2014 will run for 4 weeks ( 4th August – 29th August ) again ,under the Neath Port Talbot Children and Young People’s Partnership.

219. The Legislative Reform (Payments by Parish Councils,Community Councils and Charter Trustees ) Order 2014 is now in force and provides for Councils to use online banking to make payments and not necessarially to only use a cheque or order for the payment of money to be signed by two members of the Council.

**AGREED** that the Clerk be authorized to check on the process to be undertaken in order to introduce online banking as a means by which payments can be made by the Council.

**12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Clerk confirmed that the Council’s website was now up-and-running ([www.crynantcommunitycouncil.org](http://www.crynantcommunitycouncil.org)) and was now available to include appropriate information which would be of interest to residents of Crynant.

**Meeting Closed At 8.35 pm**

**DATE OF NEXT FULL COUNCIL MEETING ON THURSDAY, 29TH MAY 2014 COMMENCING at 7.00 PM AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE WOODLAND ROAD CRYNANT.**

Minutes Proposed as accurate: Seconded:

Abstentions: Objections:

Signed: Chairman Date: