**CRYNANT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on Thursday, 30th January 2014**

**1. APOLOGIES**

Community Councillors: Mr D.Herbert

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

Community Councillors: Mrs P.Wood. (Chairman)

 Mr P.Shopland

 Mr R. Miles

 Mr C.Davies

 Mr B.Michael

 Mr M Evans

 Mr R Power

 Mrs J Grey

 Mr B Lewis

County Councillor : Mrs Karen Pearson

 Mr R.Evans (Clerk)

**3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Community Councillors as per schedule of Councillor Interests held.

County Councillor Pearson: Planning Matters.

4. **POLICE REPORT : ACTING CHIEF INSPECTOR KARL EENMAA IN ATTENDANCE**

Inspector Eenmaa stated that he was temporarily a replacement for Chief Inspector Andy Kingdom while he was based at Bridgend and would be covering the Dulais, Neath and Swansea valleys. Sergeant Andy Abraham was also in attendance.

Sergeant Abraham referred to a report on Crime Figures in Crynant covering an 8-month period. Crynant was regarded as a community with a relatively low level of crime - **BM** made reference, however, to a recent attempted robbery at the Rugby Club, although there was no clear evidence of an entry having been made.

Sgt Abraham stated that violent crimes in Crynant were mainly domestic and where possible incidents were followed-up , but not if there were no lines of enquiry or information. The current January crime figures amounted to 4 so far, with one a violent offence which followed receipt of texts from an unknown person.

As regards traffic in the village 7 prosecutions had been undertaken for speeding offences and 1 prosecution was made against a driver for the use of a mobile phone in a car.

There were no direct drug offences but one case was linked to a resident in Lewis Road.

PCSO Matthew Beynon would soon be leaving to take up a post as a Police Officer and it was hoped that his replacement would be an established PCSO. PCSO Craig Evans would within 2 years hope to be a Police Officer.

A number of questions were asked by members of the Council:-

**CD** said that there were several cases of speeding viewed in the mornings - one lady driver was seen jumping lights on two occasions. The Police were continuing with speed operations but there was a problem with the synchronized lights.

**ME** said that previously Inspectors had taken e-mails so that the Council could contact them direct.

**ME** felt that police on patrol were not pro-active enough e.g., a car parking opposite the Rugby Club was continually obstructing on the public highway but nothing had been done by the Police. Sgt Abraham said that PCSOs were instructed to speak to such offenders and to take action if no notice was taken.

**RM** was concerned that vehicles passing under the railway bridge and entering the straight into the village were travelling at high speed and accidents were possible. It was difficult, however, for the Police to monitor the traffic.

**BM** was concerned about a resident at 37 Main Road regularly speeding in a car and making a noise.

**PS** commented that PCSOs aren’t able to drive and cannot control matters in the valley without car access. Sgt Abraham said he had been pushing it and PCSO Craig is due soon to go on a course, although courses and cars are in shortage.

Inspector Eenmaa ended by guaranteeing that he would send his e-mail address to the Chairman and Clerk within a few days.

**5. COUNTY COUNCILLOR PEARSON**

Neath Port Talbot Borough Council’s ‘’Local Development Plan Re:- Alternative Sites for Consultation’’ has been issued , including alternative sites which had been proposed by various individuals or bodies during the consultation period as possible for additional inclusion in the Local Development Plan. A small number of proposals are included for development or tourism on the Cefn Coed Colliery site.

On the road towards Cefn Coed Colliery in the direction of Neath, problems had been experienced due to blockage of drains caused by road sweepers, but recently the drains have been cleared. There remains, however, an unsightly picture of papers, bottles and cans alongside the road.

Maesmawr was very much affected by the heavy rain, with the water from the mountain blocking gullies.

**6. MINERS’ WELFARE HALL**

Councillor Pearson informed the meeting that she had attended a meeting in January with representatives of CISMO and other relevant bodies to discuss the future of the old Miners’ Welfare Hall. There was much damage to the building and it had been estimated that a sum of approximately £ 70,000 would be needed to remove all the asbestos. Brains brewery are said to have possession of the deeds of the hall but CISMO are said to be in debt to the brewery. Options considered have included demolition of the Hall, with the land made available for a car park or for residential development.

Suggestions made in the meeting included

 1) calling a meeting for residents to gauge views ,

 2) the Community Council taking over the site.

Councillor Pearson said her intention was to bring to the meeting the details being considered and to allow the Community Council to determine their views on the matter. As she was unwell Councillor Pearson had to leave the meeting at that stage and it was agreed to discuss the issue of the Miners’ Welfare Hall at the end of the meeting.

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

Subject to the amendment **that** the entry in item ‘’8. County Councillor Pearson (last paragraph)’’ regarding Cefn Coed Museum was in fact raised by **PS** under item ‘’9. ‘Reports’’, stating that ‘’ the opening hours at Cefn Coed Museum were to be condensed due to the reduced finance available. The museum was due to lose £9,000 core-funding and the opening would be delayed’’.

Proposed accurate by: **RP** Seconded by: **RM**

No Objections No Abstentions

**8. MATTERS ARISING**

**PS** informed the meeting that due to a reduction in funding the Dulais Valley Partnership would cease to operate, except for Education which would be undertaken in The Dove in Banwen.

**9. PROPOSED FREE RUNNING PROJECT**

**PS,** together with Daniel Griffin, Play Development Worker NPTCBC, Gail Devine, Groundwork NPTCBC, Leon Wilson, Freemove Area Manager Wales & West and the Clerk met on 13th January regarding a proposed Free Running Project. The considered site for the free running area – next to the tennis courts – was deemed not to be practical as the equipment required would need to be transported across the rugby field with the likelihood of damage being occurred on the ground. As an alternative it was agreed that the area of the playground next to the Skateboard, and in the area occupied by the swings would be suitable - with the swings being moved to another area of the playground – and that this proposal be submitted to the Council for approval in principle. It was anticipated that the maintenance cost would be minimal.

**PS** asked the Committee therefore to support the free running project in principle.

The Chairman asked that a vote be taken, the result of which was:-

**For : 8 Against: Nil Abstension: 1**

**10. REPORTS**

**CD** said that Neath Port Talbot Council employees were undertaking work on the site of the Public Toilet. The Clerk said that he had received an agreement for signature from Hutchinson & Thomas (Solicitors) and that the solicitors were awaiting confirmation from the Neath Port Talbot Council that they would be meeting our legal costs.

**ME** was concerned regarding the problems with the Engage and Youth Service. **PS** said a meeting had been held with staff from Engage who said they were endeavouring to ensure that staff were present at all times with pupils, other than periods when pupils were in the toilets. It was noted that the Youth Service had undertaken and met the cost of decorating work in the Community Centre in the past. It was **Agreed** that the staff/pupil ratio of Engage and Youth Service be checked and reported back to the next meeting.

**BL** had received a list of damaged and missing equipment from those using the Gym and an inspection was needed.

**ME** said that the storage room in the Centre needed inspection and identification of anything which needed to be removed. In addition **ME** said that anything unwanted in the trailers in the yard should be removed, together with the tractor.

**RP** had given a talk recently to the Scouts who had offered assistance to the Community Council if needed.

A meeting was held between the Council and Crynant Rugby Club in the Community

Centre on 9th December 2013 concerning a planning application for a single storey side extension to the club’s changing rooms, following referral by the Council at it’s

meeting on 28th November 2013.

Present :Councillors Pat Wood ( Chairman ), R. Power, R.Miles, M.Evans, J. Grey and Mr A. Phillips (Chairman, Crynant RFC) and Mr C Hart (Secretary, Crynant RFC).

The matter of the planning application on leased ground owned by the Community Council – the land not leased under that of the ‘Pavilion’. This needed to be clarified. A query was raised on leasing of the 2nd field. **CH** suggested that other parties would have access.

Permission was requested by the Rugby Club to prune tree branches.

A further meeting to be arranged between the Council and the Rugby Club.

A meeting between the Council and the Rugby Club held on 28th January 2014

in the Community Centre.

Present :Councillors Pat Wood (Chairman), R.Power, J. Grey and Mr A Phillips (Chairman, Crynant RFC), Mr C Hart (Secretary, Crynant RFC) and Mr Steve Rundle (Treasurer, Crynant RFC).

Apologies: Councillor R Miles

Following the last meeting, planning had been held up due to specifications of the access to the disabled toilet. Plans were to be clarified. A discussion took place regarding the possible extension of the current 50 year lease to 100 years and it be extended to the 2nd field and the strip of land between the fields , on condition that the land was used only for recreational purposes.

The Rugby Club referred to ‘Pass the Ball’ with a view to gaining an entry in the Guinness Book of Recordson 28th June.

**RP** was in favour of tidying up leases and having 100 year leases on both fields and the strip.

The Chairman asked that a vote be taken regarding the change and increase in leases as proposed in the meeting with the Rugby Club

**Vote = For 8 Against Nil Abstensions Nil**

**PS** said that money needed to be spent on maintenance in respect of the Community Centre.

**PS** informed the meeting that the Finance Committee met on 10th January 2014 to consider the appropriate precept for the year 2014-15. It was resolved to issue a precept to Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council for the financial year 2014/15 of £39,674 , an increase in line with the projected 2.2% increase in inflation.

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**FINANCE REPORT (HT)**

Bank balances as at 31st January 2014

Community Council £ 34,144

Savings account £ 2,794

Community Association £ 12,088

Total £ 49,026

Authorisation: January 2014 £ 3,414

Net Surplus £ 45,612

**10.** **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Re : PLANNING APPLICATION – Ben Morgan

Application Number: P2014/0037

Applicants Name: Mr Ben Morgan

 19 Maes Mawr Road

 Crynant, Neath

 SA10 8SY

Site Location: 19 Maes Mawr Road, Crynant, Neath, SA10 8SY

Proposed Development: Demolition of single storey extension and construction of part single, part two storey rear extension.

Easting 279068 Northing: 204797

Town and Country Planning act 1990

Observations : Nil

 Proposed : Seconded :

 No objections : No abstentions :

**11. AUTHORISATIONS**

**Community Council January 2014**

B.Michael £ 28.00

E.G.Nicholas £717.90

R. Evans £449.05

HMRC £251.02

Rates £149.00

Barclays Bank d/d £ 4.00

CPRW s/o £ 6.00

**Total £ 1604.97**

Payments proposed: Councillor **BL** Payments seconded: Councillor **RM**

Abstentions: Nil Objections: Nil

**Community Association January 2014**

I Sadlersalary £ 821.32

Sportmark Ltd (Bowls) £ 292.08

Mayglothling Waste Ltd (Engineers) £ 181.18

HMRC £ 71.68

ccb Supplies £ 53.65

ccb Supplies £ 8.39

SWALEC £ 201.02

**Total: £1,629.32**

Payments proposed: Councillor **ME** Payments seconded: Councillor **RP**

Abstentions: Nil Objections: Nil

**12. CORRESPONDENCE**

199. Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council: Local Development Plan (LDP) Alternative Sites Statutory Public Consultation : 28th January – 10th March 2014.

200. Draft Planning (Wales) Bill to be presented to the Assembly for Wales National Assembly for Wales 2014.

201. War Memorials: A website seeking to create a greater understanding of the condition of war memorials as the centenary approaches.

202. Tata Steel, Port Talbot Steel Works: A public consultation on proposals to enhance the internal power generation facility and inform communities.

203. Notice of Meeting of the Neath Port Tabot Countryside and Environmental Group on Friday, 31st January 2013.

204. Community Councils Briefing held on: 22nd January 2014 : Forward Financial. Plan 2014-2018 and 2014/15 Budget Strategy – Presented by the Director of Finance & Corporate Strategy.

**CONTINUANCE OF ITEM 6 (above): Miners’ Welfare Hall**

 **BL** was against the Council taking over the Miners’ Welfare Hall, in particular due to the debt owed to Brains brewery and the cost which would be incurred in removing asbestos from the building. **PS** did not want the Community Council to have responsibility for the Miners’ Welfare Hall. **ME** agreed with **PS.**

The Chairman asked that a vote be taken on whether the Council is for taking on

responsibility for the Miners’ Welfare Hall:-

**Vote = For: 5 Against : Nil Abstention : 1**

**13 . ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The application for Turbines on Hirfynydd had gone to appeal.

**Meeting Closed At 9.35 pm**

**DATE OF NEXT FULL COUNCIL MEETING ON FRIDAY, 28TH FEBRUARY 2014 COMMENCING at 7.00 PM AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE WOODLAND ROAD CRYNANT.**

Minutes Proposed as accurate: Seconded:

Abstentions: Objections:

Signed: Chairman Date: