**CRYNANT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 25th September 2014**

**1. APOLOGIES**

Community Councillors: Mr. B Michael

Mr. B Lewis

Mr. R Power

County Councillor Mrs. K Pearson

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

Community Councillors: Mr. R Miles (Chairman)

Mr. M Evans

Mrs. P Wood

Mrs. A Hart

Mr. P Shopland

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: PC Jenkins PCSO Hill and PCSO Tennet, South Wales Police**

**PCSO Jenkins** apologized on behalf of Sargeant James who was not able to attend. **PCSO Tennet** stated that her responsibility had been extended to include Crynant following PCSO Craig Evans’s promotion to Police Officer. She said that there had only been one report of an off-road bike in Heol Las Fawr. Speeding and anti-social behavior matters, mainly at the rear of Crynant RFC where youths had been advised against littering and noise. A speed survey had recently been undertaken during the periods 6pm to 7pm around Pen-y-Bont and Neath Road and Cross County border surveys between Powys and West Glamorgan, although this had not included Crynant - it was hoped that Crynant would be included at some time in the future. **ME** stated that he had not seen speed vans around Crynant for some time. The Police were hoping to have more 1-man crew cars to cover more areas but financially it was difficult to purchase new cars. **ME** said that the Police should be aware of trees being burnt in Treforgan, together with the continuing obstruction caused by the parking of vehicles. **PS** was concerned about the danger caused by cars being displayed for sale on the side of the road. In addition, highlighted the cars parked at the bottom of School Road, especially at the start and end of the school day .**PC Jenkins** gave an example where children in a school in Aberdare had placed multi-coloured cones in the school road which had the resultingoutcome of deterring parking.

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

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

Subject to the inclusion of Item 7 paragraph 3, the second sentence ‘’Environmental Health have been there and would like to be able to fine people’’ should be replaced by the sentence ‘’Streetcare were going to spray the overgrowth along the pavements and fly tipping would be fined at lay-bys near the colliery.’ in the Minutes of the Meeting:-

Proposed accurate by: **PS** Seconded by: **ME**

No Objections No abstentions

**6. MATTERS ARISING**

There were no Matters Arising.

**7.** **MEETING RE: APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTING STATEMENT: ANNUAL RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2014**

Aquorum of Councillors met on 28th August 2014 to approve the accounting statements under Regulation 9(3) Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2005 (as amended) and the Annual Governance Statement for the annual return ended 31st March 2014, following the certification of the Annual Return by MAZARS , the External Auditor on behalf of the Auditor General of Wales. Certification as Responsible Financial Officer was undertaken by the Clerk and approved by the Chairman.

**8.** **COUNTY COUNCILLOR PEARSON**

The new bus stop on the down side at Cefn Colliery is still on-going as there are legal issues re: ownership of land that have to be dealt with.

The issues regarding how to reduce speed on Main Road at junctions with Brynawel and Maes Mawr on-going, while Heol Las Fawr required yellow lines.

**9.** **FREE RUNNING AREA**

The Free Running facility had been installed but the swings had to be removed due to its close vicinity to the Free Running Area. New swings were expected, however, with a grant from the organization Awards for All.

**ME** said that the tree near to the Free Running area, however, needed to be cut back.

A meeting with Daniel Griffin of Neath Port Talbot Council and Gail Devine, of Groundwork, on 29th September was expected to sign-off the project.

**10.** **COMMUNITY CENTRE YARD**

**ME** said that Crynant Plant were expected to start work next week and **RM** expressed his thanks to Paul Hinder from Neath Port Talbot Council for his advice leading to the approval of a Minor Project grant from the Borough Council. **RM** confirmed that he had written to Paul Hinder expressing the Community Council’s gratitude.

**11.** **REPORTS**

**FINANCE REPORT(HT)**

Bank Balances as at 25th September 2014

Community Council: £39,145

Savings Account: £ 2,796

Community Association: £13,807

**Total:** £55,748

Authorisation: £ 4,263

**Total: £51,485**

**12. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Application Number: P2014/0875

Applicant’s Name/Address: Archiception Ltd

231, Vauxhall Bridge Road

London

SW1 1EH

Site Location: Coed Y Glyn Farm

Ty’n Y Graig

Crynant

Neath

SA10 8TB

Proposed Development: Screening Request for a 10MWp Solar Farm

Easting: 278714 Northing: 205331

Town and Country Planning Act 1990

Observations: Concerns about the restricting height of the panels on the higher part of the land, diminishing tourism and effect on traffic and local residents.

**13. AUTHORISATIONS**

**Community Council - August 2014**

NPTCBC (DD) £ 80.00

Barclays Bank (DD) £ 2.00

Crynant Landscapes £ 897.42

E G Nicholas £ 703.26

R Evans £ 449.15

B Michael £ 28.00

**Total: £2,159.83**

**Community Council : September 2014**

NPTCBC (DD) £ 80.00

Barclays Bank (DD) £ 2.00

Crynant Landscapes £ 897.42

Mazars (Ext Auditor) £ 354.00

E G Nicholas £ 683.26

R Evans £ 448.95

B Michael £ 28.00

HMRC £ 234.00

PSL Building & Roofing £ 90.00

Zurich Insurance (Free Running) £ 124.80

I Sadler (Cemetery: Cut/Clear) £ 80.00

**Total: £3,022.43**

Payments proposed: **PS** Payments seconded : **PW**

Abstentions: NIL Objections : NIL

**Community Association : August 2014**

T G Jones (Clear play area) £ 250.00

British Gas £ 257.51

I Sadler £ 10.00

I Sadler £ 780.51

BT £ 232.15

**Total: £1,530.17**

**Community Association: September 2014**

Total Gym Services (Service) £ 220.50

HMRC (September) £ 37.55

Ian Sadler £ 883 58

Trade Waste (Invoice) £ 118.95

**Total: £ 1,260.58**

Payments proposed: **PS** Payments seconded: **PW**

Abstentions: NIL Objections : NIL

**14. CORRESPONDENCE**

224. A letter dated 11th September 2014 in response to the Council’s letter in March concerning litter problems on the A4109, especially between the bridge and Cefn Coed Colliery and the possible return to the same problems after the litter picking has been undertaken. Hot spots, including pull-ins and bends near the sewerage treatment plant, waste enforcement officers are patrolling and imposing fines on those causing the litter mess. Budget cuts, however do not allow an increase in the frequency of patrolling and imposing fines.

225. An e-mail received from a resident in the Crescent stating that it is not possible for prams and wheelchairs to enter Maes-Yr-Hendre cemetery and that the gate above the Woodland area (below the Public Toilet) is similarly not accessible. It has been explained that the main gate at Maes-yr-Hendre is always open and accessible for prams and wheelchairs, but it is not kept wide open for security reasons. Other than the current approach only one person has made an inquiry and this was explained and accepted by contact with the Council. With regard to the gate in the Woodland area, this has been inspected and it can be adjusted to allow access to both prams and wheelchairs.

226. A letter dated 19th September 2014, from Mrs Elisabeth Davies, Chapel Secretary, Bethel Methodist Chapel asking for assistance regarding a problem caused by brambles spreading at the rear of the chapel affecting the toilet and the emergency exit.

**AGREED** that a quote be sought regarding the likely cost of making the rear of the chapel secure. It was suggested and agreed that the quote be sought from the firm Spic’n Span.

227. A copy of an e-mail was received by the Council from Judith and Gareth James of Gould Cottage, informing Neath Port Talbot Council concerning the planning application for an hydro-electric scheme (**P2014/0461)** in Crynant, which had been received and discussed at an earlier Council meeting. The e-mail states that the hydro electric generator has been in operation without the planning application having been approved and requests an enforcement due to the lack of planning consent.

**15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Since the last Council meeting resignations have been received from Councillor Jackie Grey and Councillor Cliff Davies for personal reasons. The Chair had written to both thanking them for their service as representatives of Crynant Community Council.

Councillor Davies had served local government for more than 40 years and it was felt that his long service should merit an evening occasion where members of the Council can show their gratitude and his service can be recognized. It was agreed that Peter Hain MP be invited to the evening.

**Meeting Closed At 8.30 pm**

**DATE OF NEXT FULL COUNCIL MEETING ON THURSDAY, 25th September 2014 COMMENCING at 7.00 PM AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE WOODLAND ROAD CRYNANT.**

Minutes Proposed as accurate: Seconded:

Abstentions: Objections:

Signed: Chairman Date: