**CRYNANT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 9th July 2015**

**1. APOLOGIES**

Nil

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

Community Councillors: Mr. B Michael (Chairman)

Mrs. A Hart

Mr. P Shopland

Mr. R Power

Mr. M Evans

Mr. R Miles

Mr C Bevan

Mrs. P Wood

Mr B Lewis

Mrs S Phillips

Mr. R Evans (Clerk)

**3.** **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Community Councillors as per schedule of Councillor Interests held.

**4. NEW COUNCILLOR**

Mrs Sian Phillips was attending as a Councillor for the first time.

**5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 28TH MAY 2015**

The Minutes re: the full Council Meeting held on 28th May 2015.

Proposed accurate by: **PS** Seconded by: **AH**

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 2015**

A quorum of Councillors met on 16th June 2015 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 2015.

Certification as Responsible Financial Officer was undertaken by the Clerk and approved by the Chairman, prior to being forwarded to MAZARS, the External Auditor on behalf of the Auditor General of Wales.

**8. FREE RUNNING AREA**

Since the last meeting **RM** had been endeavouring to contact Gwenda Thomas of Welsh Government and out of the blue the Clerk received a phone call from Aled Evans, Director of Education in Neath Port Talbot indicating that a grant for the Free Running Area was available from the Rural Development Programme, but that the grant would be subject to receipt by 30th June 2015 and suggested that contact needed to be made the following day with Mr. Hywel Jenkins, Director of Finance for Neath Port Talbot.

During the discussion with Mr. Jenkins it was noticed by the Clerk that the figures being used by the Borough Council did not match the Invoice from the Contractors of the Free Running Area, HAGS-SMP, which was £24,000 (including £4,000 VAT) while a figure of £17,000 (+£3,400 VAT) had been quoted by Groundwork. As a result the payments were recalculated with a grant of £14,303.40 to be paid to the Council by Neath Port Talbot. Thah payment, together with a sum of £9,696.40 would meet the costs due to HAGS-SMP, and a VAT reclaim would hopefully reduce the amount to £5,696.60.

Correspondence and contact between our Solicitor, Peter Morgan of Hutchinson Thomas was of the view that the Council should continue to challenge the case of liability. It was the view of Councillors **BM**, **PS** and **RM** together with the Clerk that due to the deadline for the grant (30th June) there would not be enough time before the grant expired. This was the view even though Solicitors from HAGS-SMP had submitted additional costs and interest amounting to an addition of £2,602.

The Clerk was on holiday from 24th June and arrangements were made by **BM, PS** and **RM** to ensure that payment was made within the deadline to the contractors and that Neath Port Talbot also submitted the grant payment to the Council’s account. Thankfully all payments were met within the deadline period.

**9. POLICE REPORT**

CPSO Strangward was unable to attend the meeting but had informed the Clerk that no crimes were undertaken in the previous month in Crynant. **PS** said, however, that there were problems. Especially with regard to parking and **ME** referred to the footpath area between School Road and Heol y Berllan – one of the safer school routes – was covered by litter and Japanese Knotweed.

**10.** **REPORTS**

**RP** had been in contact with Johnathan Price of the Fforestry Commission concerning the trees above Top Rock, which are preventing the view over the village. In addition, at **RP’s** request Mr Price had agreed to remove overgrown trees from the seat on the Fforestry road above Hopkins’ farm.

**RP** attended a One Voice Wales meeting at Resolven, which included a discussion about amalgamating Councils with resources of £200,000 and above. There were many suggestions to change Community Councils and a White Paper was due in August.

**RP’s** opinion was that wind turbines were likely to move from the Valleys to the coast.

**AH** said that new road signs were being place in certain communities but that none were being placed in Crynant.

**PS** noted that knotweed was out of control between the Star and Brynawel House above the Square.

The Clerk received an email from Councillor Karen Pearson indicating she might be able to return to her position in September.

**ME** proposed that outstanding issues in the village should be forwarded to Mr. Ally Thomas, Leader of Neath Port Talbot Borough Council.

**BM** a Mason had inspected and rectified 23 stones in the Cemetery. Some families had come forward while with regard to those families who had not responded stones would be placed on the ground.

An estimate of £395 plus VAT had been submitted by Crynant Landscapes for the clearance of the hedge in the path leading to the Woodland area - no other estimates had been received.

**ME** suggested that a part of the payment be requested from the family who had planted the hedges.

**11.** **FINANCE REPORT (HT)**

Bank Balances as at 30th June 2015

Community Council: £24,711

Savings Account: £ 2,797

Community Association: £ 3,982

**Total : £31,490**

**12. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**Application Number P2015/0608**

Applicants Name/Address Mr D Williams

Hillcroft

Pollard Close

Trinity View

Caerleon

NP18 3SS

Site Location: Glyndulais Old Peoples Home

Mary Street

Crynant

Neath

SA10 8RU

Proposed Development: Variation of Condition 3 to allow for an extension of time for the submission of reserved matters OF planning permission P2014/1082 (Outline development of 21 dwellings

Easting: 279119 Northing: 204710

Town and Country Planning Act 1990

Observations: Nil

**Application Number P2014/0729**

Applicants Name/Address Energy Build Limited

Aberpergwm Mine

Engine Cottage Site

Glynneath

Neath

SA11 5SF

Site Location: Aberpergwm Colliery

Glynneath

Neath

SA11 5SF

Proposed Development: Application for an extension to and reconfiguration of the underground coal workings; Creation of a mine waste depository with retention and improvement of the associated haul road (to dispose of mine waste and discard from coal preparation at the mine) and the delivery of further peat habitat mitigation works; mine surface development including - regularization and time extension of existing mine related operations and mine surface development, consolidation of existing planning permissions and planning controls, construction of infrastructure/buildings formation of materials storage and stocking areas, drainage works and landscaping (Further information received 18/05/15).

Easting: 286628 Northing: 205957

Town and Country Planning Act 1990

Observations: Nil

**Application Number P2015/0454**

Applicants Name/Address Mr Darryl Jones

65 Treforgan Road

Crynant

Neath

Site Location: Land adjoining

the Old NursingHome,

Crynant

Neath

SA10 8

Proposed Development: Felling of 13 pine trees and crown reduction to one oak subject Tree and Preservation. T10/A2, A3, A4.

Easting: 279052 Northing: 206135

Town and Country Planning Act 1990

Observations: If any replacements to be made – preferably deciduous trees

**10. AUTHORISATIONS**

**Community Council - June 2015**

Barclays Bank (DD) £ 2.00

NPTCBC (DD) £ 82.00

Chairman’s Allowance £ 200.00

Ink Cartridge £ 41.78

Crynant Landscapes £ 915.42

WVB Accountants £ 600.00

HMRC (June) £ 251.92

B Michael £ 28.00

E G Nicholas £ 740.73

R Evans £ 448.95

HAGS-SMP £14,309.40

HAGS-SMP £12,298.60

Same day payments £ 50.00

**Total: £29,968.08**

Payments proposed: **RP** Payments Seconded: **RM**

Abstentions: **Nil** Objections: **Nil**

**Community Association: June 2015**

EON (Gas) (DD) £ 85.00

EON (Electric) (DD) £ 93.00

Coffee Morning £ 420.00

Trade Refuse £ 391.30

WBV Accountants £ 306.00

Amplifier (Old Age) £ 35.00

BVS Group £ 53.64

I Sadler £ 822.45

HMRC (June) £ 26.58

**Total: £2,238.27**

Payments proposed: **PS** Payments seconded: **RM**

Abstentions: **NIL** Objections: **NIL**

**10. CORRESPONDENCE**

**Nil**

**12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Repairs were needed to the locks of the gates to the Woodland area. The Clerk would contact Crynant Landscapes.

It was **AGREED** that the next meeting would be held on 6th August 2015.

**DATE OF NEXT FULL COUNCIL MEETING ON THURSDAY,**

**9th July 2015 COMMENCING at 7.00 PM**

**AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, WOODLAND ROAD, CRYNANT.**

Minutes Proposed as accurate: Seconded:

Abstentions: Objections:

Signed: Chairman Date: