## Crynant Community Council

***Minutes of the Council meeting held at 6:30pm on Thursday 31st January, 2019. Crynant Community Centre, Woodland Road, Crynant.***

**419: Apologies for absence/reason given**. Cllr. Suzanne Waldron (holiday); Cllr. Peter Shopland (work commitment).

**420: Register of attendance.** Chairman Cllr. Brian Lewis; Cllr. Barry Michael; Cllr. Colin Bevan; Cllr. Sian Phillips; Cllr. Pat Wood; Cllr. Sean Keir; Cllr. Roger Miles; Cllr. Judy Rundle; Cllr. Andrea Hart; County Cllr. Sian Harris. Clerk: Heidi Mortimer

**421: To receive Declarations of Interest:** no declarations received.

**422: To approve and sign the Council meeting minutes. Resolved:** That the minutes signed as true and accurate.

**423: Matters arising from the minutes.** No matters arising.

**424: To adjourn if necessary to receive public questions**. No members of the public present.

**425: To receive Police report**. No police representative in attendance, typed report provided and below for information.

**426: County Councillor Harris report. To include agenda item 415 November. Update on traffic calming & Maes Mawr Road.**

County Councillor Harris report below for information.

Cllr Judy Rundle requested that the bus shelters cleaned. Councillors also noted that the usual litter picking crew had not been seen in the village for a number of weeks, Councillor Harris stated that we are on a rota system and she was not aware of any changes made, but had send an email to the relevant department, a response has not yet been received. Clerk requested clarification on the flooding report at Treforgan – Cllr Harris stated email had been sent to which there had been no response to date. Flooding point 1 on report Cllr Harris confirmed that there was no difference in drainage and flooding and that the area to be looked at between iron bridge and cefn coed will be looked at this year, which is good news. County Councillor Harris requested at all speeding and concerns be reported to101. Section 106 agreement relative to development of 22 new homes on Mary Street, Councillor Harris to obtain detail.

**427: To receive a report from any Member concerning meetings at which he or she represented the Council. To include information received at NPT Standards forum meeting attended by the Clerk.** Clerk provided report on standards forum meeting and shared email from Craig Griffiths, Head of legal services and monitoring officer regarding complaints received, that Members have breached the Member code of conduct. Guidance notes shared. Cllr. Sean Keir provided a report from the One Voice Wales area committee meeting, as part of the meeting a presentation from WACADA was delivered which was very informative Cllr. Keir advised that the same presentation is available to Community Councils.

**428: Planning application no: Application Number: P2019/0030 Retrospective to receive for information only observations and declarations of interest received by email.**

**Applicants Name /Address: MR L J DAVIES, , COED DDU FARM, CRYNANT, , NEATH,SA10 8SU Site Location: COED DDU FARM, CRYNANT, NEATH, SA10 8SU**

**Proposed Development: Approval of Details: Agricultural storage building (Prior Notification Application P2018/1038)** Cllr. Suzanne Waldron declared an interest. No observations or objections received.

**429: Clerks report to include (a) Bank reconciliation (b) Payment authorisations (c) Personnel report, and review of staffing requirements. (d) Budget and Precept request (e) Association report. Resolved:** Bank reconciliation confirmed for December and cash book signed. **Resolved:** That the following payments made:

Barclays Bank £12.20 Service charge December

Barclays Bank £14.85 Service charge January

NPT £64.00 each Dec & Jan rates

CME & Machine Mart £330.80 portable gas heaters

Screwfix £65.74 Xmas decorations consumables

Range £29.99 Xmas decorations

Screwfix £55.97 PPE

Wales audit office £277.20 Annual audit fee

Nenners locksmiths £51.66 New lock & keys cut tennis court & signage

C. Kinsey Plumbing £1670.00 New gas heating boiler

Creunant Primary school £200.00 WW1 poppy grant

December Wages £2823.85

Wired up Wales £100.00 Annual domain registration

Hi Tec Security £354.00 Extra CCtv camera & emergency call out fee

Wages for January £3251.94

Meeting closed for Chairman to deliver personnel report. Personnel report accepted. **Resolved:** That revised risk management policy adopted and implemented immediately.

**Resolved:** to confirm budget and precept issued in the sum of £48,126 as per agenda item 423.

**430: Update to item 397 & 414 to receive update from Cllr. R. Miles and plan of parcel of land re: purchase or lease of land adjacent to 70A Main Road.** Cllr R Miles provided Council with report to be provided to the Clerk for discussion with Residents regarding the sale of land.

**431: To receive information from Wales audit office.** Information received and duly noted.

**432: To receive update on NRW, Greggs grant progress reports & to consider outside and general grounds maintenance priorities.** Clerk reported that the NRW -Crynant forest walks project, good progress being made with the first drawdown of funds completed, next claim/spend to be submitted by February 20th, the Council website will be updated with the details and progress on the project. Greggs mini-beast garden, progress slow but items purchased waiting for the weather and price for the gate, wildflower seed planting will commence early spring.

**433: To consider next steps with clean up, provision of seating and potential for car parking at the Welfare, Station Road. Resolved:** Clerk contact Mr. Morse CISWO and request permission to site benches and request advice on parking.

**434: To request up to date progress report on Cefn Coed Museum.** County Councillor Harris further to her report, stated that she had arranged for her fellow County Councillors to visit Cefn Coed all very positive but not hopeful of support and was very disappointed by comments made by Council leader in respect of the state of the site. Councillor Harris also provided details of the proposed new centre and facilities however that project on hold. The rebuilding of the winding gear is separate to the grant funding, that is on hold, and consultants being sought to move things forward.

**435: Correspondence**: **Letter of complaint from Resident regarding the Council decision to lock the tennis courts and exclude dogs**. Legal advice sought and letter of response sent and shared with Council for information. **Grant funding requests.** Coffee morning rent refund agreed. **Request from Vicar Rees, to leave the star in situ to be lit in the evenings so that residents know that the church is still open.** Council agreed star to remain in situ until end of spring.

**436: Any other business**. Cllr Barry Michael requested clarification regarding a request to place the blue container within the gates of the Community Centre. Clerk advised that this was considered as part of the recent security review undertaken by Hi Tec security and as the Community Council would potentially be storing equipment in the container, it was agreed the best solution will be to move the container back into the car park.

No further business and meeting closed at 7:45pm.

 Police report

3 crimes

1 threats to kill via facebook (investigation ongoing)

1 criminal damage ( ongoing )

1 drugs ( cannabis warning)

2 suspicious incidents ( all in order Rp infromred)

5 concern for safety ( mental health no police involvement )

2 fraud (phone calls only, action fraud dealing )

1 animal (fox hunting gathering at Gradon, investigation ongoing)

1 environmental ( council environmental health dealing )

2 firearms (shotgun licenses)

1 missing person ( person not missing false call with good intent)

2 road related (investigation ongoing)

1 Road Traffic incident (investigation ongoing)

1 poice initiated ( out of force inquery)

2 highway disruption ( yellow lines traffic wardens dealing)

There were 3 speed scooping exercises carried out at various times and locations during the month approx. 300 vehicles were monitored approximately 50 were going over the speed limit but within south wales police current reportable threshold due to this warning letters sent to drivers. Please note over half lived locally.

There have been 2 dog fouling patrols carried out with no tickets issued

Council traffic enforcement have carried out 3 foot patrols in the village not had any data in relation to any tickets given out

South wales police traffic have been carrying out periodic patrols on the area as a result of request after last Pact meeting, number of stops carried out resulting in minor traffic offences ( non-reportable).

Cllr Sian Harris – report for 31st January 2019

* Flooding- just for information. A survey will be carried out at the start of the next financial year 2019/2020, ready for implementation in that period. As part of my capital works budget for **drainage only** – Crynant has been treated as one of the three priority areas. Council has a capital works budget for drainage every year but it is not allocated to all areas, only priority areas. I have taken photos on several occasions of the flooding and, yes it has been an issue for many years, and no I can’t answer why previous councillors have not treated this as a priority. The area to be looked at will be from the iron bridge to passed Cefn Coed colliery. I think we all agree this is long overdue. It is also an issue I have tried to deal with since first being elected. This has been one of my priorities.
* The details of the capital works programme will be finalised in the New Year. I have listed every single highway improvement that has been brought to my attention. I am waiting to find out what will be short-listed to my list for implementation 2019/2020. The capital works money is spent by my-self on problems or issues that are raised to my-self by the village. Myself and NPT Council sit and meet once a year to discuss and agree all the issues that are raised the previous year. However, ultimately with guidance the decision is mine. However, I do ask people for issues and I have on both occasions asked the Community Council if they would like anything raised and I have taken forward what was raised.
* Update - status of the new speed calming measures. I have been asked for a copy of the survey that was drafted for the new speed calming measures. There is no copy as survey was not done. This was undertaken with Welsh Government money, the council applied for this money for three villages, the Dulais Valley being one of them. The financial year 2019/2020 they will apply for another three villages. Moving on from the Safer Route to Schools which was implemented with the previous Councillor, the grant applied for this time was to raise driver’s awareness. So the grant was specific to raising awareness to the driver. NPT Council has the right to do the work deemed necessary to Department of Transport standards without asking village opinion. There would be no lobbying, or meetings as NPT Council do not need to do this for the work that was being carried out. Under the banner of the grant application there were limited things that could be implemented. None of them needed to go out to consultation. This was all worked out with accident spots, local knowledge of NPT Council staff. What has been consulted on and been issued for objections etc are the double yellow lines, some at the corner of Hoel Y Berllan, Brynawel and the end of School Road. Heol y Berllan had no objections, Brynawel had a couple hence the delay in implementation. School Road, as the road is also being narrowed, NPT Council are waiting to find out what SWFT are doing due to the hint that they are moving, this will then go ahead.
* The speed scoping in our area is very difficult to do, as everybody adds to FB that there is an ANPR camara in the area, and everybody slows down. The more people that come to PACT meetings to raise this issue with our PCSO the more scopes that can be done. When nobody complains it looks like we do not have an issue. Complaining, to myself, or the Community Council does not help the issue. However, we can put pressure on the police and council if the issues have been raised and logged. So when we bring up what are the police doing, they can see there is an issue by the number of calls logged. People have to speak to our local PC or PCSO. Nobody has said we do not have the same issues as Seven Sisters, yes we do. However, very unfortunately the recent death in the area in Seven Sisters highlighted Cllr S Hunts issue and he was granted speed cushions. I will point out every time someone does mention them on FB, someone else messages me, please do not have them. So it is catch 22. The road has been extended coming out of Heol y Berllan to alleviate the issue in this area. It is difficult to point out one area, singling out Heol y Berllan, when we have issues coming out of Brynawel, or turning into Maesmawr. I am aware of all these issues and I am trying to do something about it. It has been pointed out that reporting to 101 police is not the correct avenue, as understood, and this is a quote ‘ the local authority should be the first port of call for reporting speeding, the council will log and initiate a metro count, once this has taken place they will contact the police to progress if required. I have clarified this point with both the council and the police. The police confirmed they should be the first port of call, and issues can be raised by ringing 101 or emailing local PCSO or attending local PACT meetings. NPT Council, also confirm that they would take guidance from the police once issues are raised and escalated. I have been misquoted in saying that I have never heard of any speeding issues in the village, I have of course heard of many speeding issues in the village. I am fully aware of the speeding. However, I have not had one complaint brought to my attention of the rise in speeding since the speed measure was removed from The Gradon. As also mentioned the priority is decided by the amount of issues raised, I have been asked why the re-surfacing took priority and why the re-surfacing left to be done is taking priority. Community Council raised the issue of the re-surfacing by the turning to Ystradgynlais and I took this forward. This is why it was treated as a priority as several people had mentioned it, plus it had been highlighted as a red area when the council looked at the whole village. The bits left to do have also been deemed as red or amber areas.
* Removal of the speed measure at The Gradon –this was implemented in the 2017/2018 budget. Yes I removed the bus-stop from Pen y Bont and replaced it with the speed measure by The Gradon as part of my capital works money for 2017/2018. The bus stop was removed to 2018/2019 – however it was only on the list to be looked at and not to be implemented. NPT Council has now looked into the feasibility of this and due to the position of the bus-stop they will not move it to the road. Taking stopping distances etc into account, they do not want to move it. Instead, they have written and spoken to bus company’s concerned asking them to report to their drivers to be careful in the area and slow down and look out for passengers in this area. I have been asked the question has lady in the wheelchair moved? I am not sure? Since election in May 2017 I have not been spoken to once regarding this issue, not one person has complained to my-self. If the Community Council has been receiving complaints can someone pass them to me, please. Can you make me aware of any complaint’s. If anybody is aware who this lady is please pass her my telephone number or email and if she contacts me I will respond. I had complaints regarding the lay-by by The Gradon, and children travelling to catch the school bus, hence why that added to the issue of removing the speed measure. I have not been contacted once regarding school children in the Pen-y-bont area so please again if anybody complains to the Community Council please give them my details.
* Maes Mawr Road – I am dealing with this. Has the Community Council also been contacted? I am in contact with a few residents regarding this, so surprised it has been brought to the community council attention as well. I have placed on my capital works plan for 2019/2020 new signage for the area. Also, I have contacted Neath Coachbuilders to see if there was any way they could forward an email from myself, or draft their own to all their customers explaining the issues when the Sat Nav is sent in that direction. Waiting a reply.
* The Star – Property is continuing to be monitored. Action for myself underway.
* 8 The Square – bricks outside property have messaged Street care but they still have not dealt, will chase up.
* Cefn Coed – not much to update, met with a reporter to raise the awareness of our situation, so a bit of publicity for the site. Cllr Peter Rees and Hywel Francis have done an interview, to raise awareness of the site and to again raise the publicity. It wasn’t aired on the night they said it was going to be so, I haven’t actually seen it. Not sure if anyone else caught it. New steering group set up with Peter as Chair and my-self as Vice-chair. Only one meeting so far to set group up. NPT Council are meeting with Welsh Government to see what can be done, regarding the site, so things are moving but still slowly.
* Budget- as part of the Independent group we have met and are still finalising our alternative proposals. Community Council can place objections or alternative proposal’s, however the date for this has now ended.
* 22 New Houses on Lewis Road (old nursing home) – the traffic management plan has been rejected for tweaks. Once it has been resubmitted it will be on a renewed planning message for us to see. I have chased this both with the council and the developers. Still in the process of being done.
* Recycling Roadshow planned for 28 January- after a lot of discussions regarding recycling, I have arranged this roadshow for the village to ask their questions. I have also posted on my FB page to encourage people to attend and to pop their question on my page if they are unable to attend, so cross fingers it is well attended. Update – only a few people attended but it went well. Good question and answer session.