## Crynant Community Council

The Community Centre, Woodland Road, Crynant. S10 8RG

Minutes of the meeting held Thursday, 31st October 2019

**546: To Receive Apologies for absence and Declarations of Personal/Prejudicial Interest**.

Apologies for absence received: Cllr. Sian Phillips (work commitment); Cllr. Brian Lewis (work commitment); Cllr. Pat Wood (unwell); Cllr. Peter Shopland (work commitment), County Cllr.Sian Harris.

Members present: Cllr Barry Michael; Cllr. Sean Keir; Cllr. Suzanne Waldron; Cllr. Andrea Hart; Cllr. Colin Bevan; Cllr. Roger Miles; Cllr. Andrew Farthing & Clerk Heidi Mortimer.

No declarations of interest received.

**547: To approve and sign the previous Council meeting minutes. RESOLVED**: That the minutes are true and accurate.

**548: Matters arising from the minutes:** Item 540 Clerk advised meeting regarding Trust and CCC with Craig Griffiths Head of legal services NPT, arranged Monday 4th November.

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

**550: To receive Police report**. No Police representative in attendance report sent stated that: August 30th – September 26th 9 occurrences 4 of which were crimes. Violence against a person x3; Theft and handling x1; ASB x1; Burglary x1; Domestic incident x1; Concern for safety x2;September 27th – October 31st 11 occurrences 2 of which were crimes: Police generated occurrence x1; Concern for safety x3; Abandoned call to 999 x1; Highway disruption x2; Complaints against police x1; Violence against a person x1; Theft and handling x1; RTC x1. Clerk advised Council that P.C. Chris Higgs had been appointed as the Officer coving NPT Upper Valleys, Clerk extended open invitation for monthly Council meeting.

**551: County Councillor Harris report**.

**551/01: ROSPA grant for gate.** Cllr Harris awaiting a response from Cabinet, early indications are positive.

**551/02 Welfare Hall**. Comments noted however Community Council disagree with the NPT Officer observations, the Welfare Hall has no legal owner, it is understood in this instance NPT have a duty of care.

**551/03 Weeds Cefn Coed and Cemetery**. Noted.

**551/04 New Bus Stops**. Noted

**551/05 Dropped kerb by Public Toilets**. Noted that Cllr Harris will forward response.

**551/06 Planters**. Noted. Clarification required, the original request from the Members fund was for a grant of £2k this would provide six planters and a sum of money for equipment to maintain/water & ongoing maintenance in the first year.

**551/07 Public Benches**: Noted. Clerk to request plan and will look through Community archive for information.

**551/08 Flu Jabs**. Noted. Clerk advised that over 200 flu jabs were administered at the Community Centre in October, with a sum of £350 raised by the ladies of coffee morning for Ty Hafan.

**551/09 County Councillor involvement**. Noted.

**551/10 Drainage Issues**. Council presumed this was in reference to the flooding by the Museum and under the railway bridge. Can Councillor Harris provide an update on what works have been undertaken and what is proposed in the future to reduce the problem.

**551/11 PACT Meetings**. Cllr Keir asked why the scoping exercise was not brought to the attention of the Community Council when seeking volunteers.

**552: To receive a report from any Member concerning meetings at which he or she represented the Council:** Clerk held a meeting with Coastal Housing regarding their request for joint Christmas party to be held at the Community Centre on December 3rd. It was agreed to provide the Centre and Staff free of charge as the Council’s contribution.

 Cllr. Barry Michael reported that following a meeting with the Monumental Mason, he has very kindly agreed to provide a small stone to mark the recently cleared area of Maes yr Hendre cemetery where a number of stillborn babies were laid to rest. Agreed that suitable inscriptions be available for consideration at the next meeting.

**553: Planning Application Number: P2019/5442** Applicants Name /Address: Mr G Morgan

12 Maes Y Gorof, Ystradgynlais, SA19 1DA. Site Location: Ynyswen Farm, Ynyswen Terrace,Crynant. SA10 8PT Proposed Development: Demolition of existing extensions, two storey side and rear extension, single storey rear extensions, refurbishment of barn to facilitate its change of use to bedrooms to serve existing house and new granny annex, together with associated external alterations and alterations and extensions to existing outbuilding to provide bat roost. The Council welcomes this work, which will preserve and improve one of the oldest buildings in the Village. **RESOLVED**: No objections be submitted.

**554: Clerks report to include payment authorisations**.

Balance £13,294 Reserve £5200 resolved the following payments made:

Wages £2615 Wages as per contract for October

Fuel £ 19.40 Grasscutting machinery

Crynant Landscapes £ 807.20 Ground maintenance Aug-Oct.

Hi Tec security £ 324.00 Annual inspection fee

Powercut £ 328.83 Tractor service

The Clerk advised that the ongoing employee consultation deferred for a further month.

VE Day commemorations sub-committee meeting to be organised in November.

The Council considered the possibility of providing a new tree for the grassed area alongside Saron Chapel. It was agreed that whilst this is a good position the preference is to purchase new outdoor commercial lights for the existing living tree review again next year. With regards to the provision of the cut tree required for St. Margaret's Church, Clerk to request tree and placement by the same donors as last year.

**555: To receive progress report on Forest walk project - NRW grant**.

Cllr. Suzanne Waldron provided a very informative report on the Woodland Walk project. The Council are awaiting receipt of £2255 being the third drawdown of funds from NRW. The next steps will be to receive quotations for the signposts and interpretive panels. Work will continue to clear the identified areas of the Forest and install the remaining benches and sculptures.

**556: To consider future requirements to facilitate and promote digital inclusion.**

Cllr. Sean Keir briefed the meeting on the need to consider how the Council reach out and identify any Residents who may be isolated and in need of assistance when accessing online services.

Clerk advised that six residents had already been helped to renew their bus passes using CCC’s online access and computers with a further request for assistance received by another fifteen.

Recommended that a tightly monitored Facebook page be set up to allow Council to share targeted information. Cllr. Sean Keir to set this up on behalf of Council.

**557: To consider the draft report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales relating to allowances and expenses available to Community Councillors. (No changes currently proposed).**Duly noted, no further action required.

**558: To review information received regarding a previous proposal for a pathway between the communities of Crynant and Seven Sisters.** Clerk shared email on behalf of Cllr. Peter Shopland received from Cllr. Hunt. **RESOLVED**: To lodge request with NPTCBC to re-consider pedestrian/cycle route between Crynant & Nant y Cafan on the grounds of safety.

**559: To consider formulation of a winter maintenance plan, including any matters to be referred to NPT liaison committee forum.**

Agreed that Cllr. Farthing & Cllr. Keir would meet with Clerk to formulate a schedule.

Clerk to confirm the NPT maintenance and gritting plan for this winter at liaison committee meeting.

**560: Any other business**: Following discussions it was agreed that the Council need to consider future project ideas, Councillors to submit any proposals for discussion at the next Council meeting.

Cllr. Roger Miles shared an update on the progress of work, received from the Contractors, on the restoration of the headgear at Cefn Coed.

There was no further business and the meeting closed 19:45

County Councillor Harris Report:

 ROSPA approved gate grant, is in front of cabinet on Wednesday 30 th October. So hopefully,I will be able to tell you on Thursday 31 st October, if this grant has been approved.

 Welfare Hall – I have had no contact with the owner of the property next door. I havelogged a complaint regarding the state of the building and below is the reply:-In response to your enquiry relating to the former Miners Welfare Hall in Station Road, Crynant, NPTBuilding Inspector has visited the site and provided photographs of the empty boarded up building.The overall condition of the building does not currently warrant any action under our legislation(section 215 notice) however, the complaint appears to be that of water ingress from the buildinginto neighbouring gardens. Unfortunately, this is a private civil matter which the complainants willneed to action with the owner of the building. The Local Authority have no control/jurisdiction oversuch occurrences other than on new builds.I have had another email since the above from Environmental Health Technical Officer who hasstated that she is on leave half term week, but will make some enquires about this property on herreturn. So I will wait to see what she comes back with. As the complainant has not contacted mebut the Community Council I will leave you to pass my comments on. If the complainant has anyfuture issues I would advise he contacts me direct.

 Weeds Cefn Coed and the pavement outside the cemetery. No, it was not too late to putthese on the list when requested. The work that was being undertaken at the time wasmainly grass strimming cutting and general tidying up. The area by the cemetery neededthe pavement cleaner and Cefn Coed needed the weeds to be sprayed so different workteams. Moving on, the cemetery has had the sweeper out and the weeds at the colliery cut.The weeds at the colliery were cut on this occasion because it looks like the second round ofweed killer was not undertaken. The first one was done, but the second forgotten. So thisis probably why the area was a mess. It has now been done, and also a few other areas thatwere looking unsightly. Leaves on the Star hill have been cleared, keeping an eye on thearea.

 We are having two new bus-stops, one by The Square and one by Tre-forgan. The Tre-forgan bus-stop is in a bad state. Why I am bringing this up is that we are about to have ageneral clean of all the bus-stops in the village and the street signs. So hopefully a goodstart going into the winter.

 I have spoken to my zone supervisor regarding the drop curb at the public convenience. Iwill inform you when a reply has been received. I have had another complaint regarding theflooding behind the houses on Main Road. I passed the clerks email details to the resident.NPT council are still able to work with you for a solution, as they are concerned about thewater course, but I believe this would be Community Council to fund.

 Planters - on hold a minute as we are having to look at the areas they are placed once again.My fault, I simply haven’t had time to sit down and sort it, hopefully it will all be ready toprocess next week. When this is all in place NPT will inform us of the next action. Due tothe planters being placed in Glyn-neath without an agreement I am waiting for a responseto this from NPT, which they will not give me until I finalise the planter locations. Ifcommunity council are not happy with whatever NPT come up with, there is no issues, wedo not have to have the planters, although I am hoping that there will not be a set rigidagreement. Let’s cross fingers and wait and see.

 Benches – I have also asked NPT for a plan of the seats in the village. I have been given aplan of the locations of the benches, but I am afraid even NPT council do not know whoowns which ones? So unless Community Council have anything archived? We might haveto start making a list of ones that Community Council definitely know they have paid for,and then take that to NPT with a view to them agreeing to the rest, so that we can at leasthave a list moving on.

 Yes – a very successful flu jab surgery. I am the flu champion for the Dulais Valley and I havebeen having a very good response to the information I have given out. I have more updatesto post later on my community site as the surgery are putting on evening surgeries to copewith the demand. Also, Crynant chemist have been doing extra Tuesday morning sessionsas well as the jab being available in Seven Sisters chemist as well as the surgery. Regardingthe lady that attended and complained about the access to the Community Centre. I haverang her twice but no reply, so my next action would be to call down. Regarding giving outmy surgery times, and hitting the same issue regarding access to the Community Centre, Ido undertake house calls. I do not expect any elderly or frail resident to attend my surgery’sand if my number can be given to anybody that needs it please, if they ring me with theirpermission I will attend their house. I have spoken to the lady in question and we are goingfor a little walk, on 1 st November, to see if we can highlight some areas where she strugglesto pass and I have my members works programme meeting in November and possibility ofsome money available for dropped curbs in the village. Although, I can’t promise this. Asthis is a councillor issue I will continue to work with the lady for a suitable outcome.Regarding, access to the Community Centre itself, I will leave that for CommunityCouncillors to discuss. Regarding the issue with the bus-stop at Pen y Bont, I still have notreceived one complaint regarding this issue. So if you are still receiving complaints pleasecan you direct the complainant to my-self.

 Any issues that need to have NPT involvement can you please direct them to myself. Myzone supervisor has been contacted directly and as he has pointed out these need to comethrough myself in case I am lready working on these issues. 1. Benches I have answeredearlier. 2. Bin for the Community Centre – I am afraid that will need to come out ofCommunity Council budget as if I need one for village and then I can’t have one that wouldnot be fair. I am currently trying to obtain a few new ones from Treforgan to the village aswe do not have many on one side of the road. However, I do know that Ian Davies hasrecently undertaken work on a school and removed a lot of old bins. Some are in very goodcondition, I am sure he would be able to give one to the Community Council. 3. Wildflowers– NPT not too keen on this as it would affect how they cut the grass. What I have beeninformed is if you want to plant on large areas of grass this would be a problem as theywould use the sit down mower for these areas, so having wild flowers on these areas wouldcause an issue to the grass cutters. However, on smaller areas where they would strim thegrass this is feasible as they would strim around anyway. There were some concernsregarding the flowers looking a mess when they were die-ing back, so if there was somekind of verbal agreement that you would maintain the area as well I can’t see an issue. Iwould advise you to look for the smaller areas that you know are strimmed and I will ask myzone supervisor if he has any objections.

 Due to recent events I am also chasing up the drainage issue.

 In case anybody has commented, the accident tonight 28 October had nothing to do withthe car parked on the left hand side of the village as we leave Crynant.

 PACT meetings the last twice with our new PCSO have been much better attended and weare addressing speeding at the moment. However where the village is quite vocal onspeeding, it has taken me 2 months to obtain 6 volunteers to take part in speed scopingexercises. We have now received enough volunteers and I am waiting for the last form tobe returned so that we can all be vetted.