## Crynant Community Council

***Minutes of the Meeting of the Crynant Community Council at 6:30pm on Thursday 29th April 2021. Held via microsoft teams in accordance with the provisions of the Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Meetings) (Wales) Regulations 2020.***

**701: Apologies for absence**:

No apologies. Present: Chariman Cllr. Sean Keir; Cllr. Suzanne Waldron; Cllr. Barry Michael; Cllr. Peter Shopland; Cllr. Roger Miles; Cllr. Brian Lewis; Cllr. Sian Phillips; Cllr. Colin Bevan; Cllr. Andrew Farthing; Cllr. Steve Rundle; Cllr. Maggie Hayes; County Councillor Sian Harris; Clerk Heidi Mortimer & Ceri Wilcox.

**702: To receive declarations of Personal/Prejudicial interest.**

None received.

**703: To adjourn if necessary to receive public questions.**

No public questions received

**704: To approve and sign the previous Council meeting minutes**.

**Resolved**: That the minutes of the meeting held 25th March 2021 and 15th April 2021 approved and signed as true and accurate.

**705: Matters arising from the minutes (for information only).**

Cllr. Phillips requested clarity on how the correspondence chain regarding County Cllr. Harris report absence. Cllr. Phillips has missed a few emails and asked for whether there were outstanding issues. **Action**: Clerk to send paper copies of correspondence to Cllr. Phillips.

Cllr. Hays asked whether we can have acknowledgement of the issues from the minutes. County Cllr. Harris believes it started because it was minuted in the report that she was not sending a report through to the CC and that this was responded to. County Cllr. Harris advised that the loss of the funding for Cefn Coed was not her fault and stated that as soon as she receives information it is sent on, for example she was told work would start on the road works on the B4109 on the Tuesday, this was shared on the Tuesday and work commenced on the Thursday.

Cllr. Hays cannot see where this has been acted on from minutes. Cllr. Lewis clarified that this was brought up in the February minutes. The Chairman to send the correspondence through to Cllrs. Phillips and Hays.

Cllr. Shopland reiterated that he and other officers knew anything about Cefn Coed – mentioned that he didn’t think that this was anything to do with this matter.

**706: To receive Police report:**

Figures available from national database confirm for the village a total of 7 occurrences recorded: 3 x anti-social behaviour, 2 x vehicle, 2 x violence and sexual assault. PCSO Aled Musslewhite did undertake speed scoping exercise last month, at Pen-y-Bont Terrace during the 20 minutes that they were there, two instances of speeding recorded, the motorists involved would be written to. The exercise wasn't as long as planned, due to a call out.

**707: County Councillor Harris report.**

Cllr. Harris report received attached for information. The content of which duly noted by Council.

County Councillor Harris stated that she had received a concern from Residents on Neath Road regarding possible road closures, Cllr. Harris clarified that the road will not be closed.

County Councillor Harris reported that the ongoing work on the drainage works at the iron bridge were going to plan. Lights to be removed for bank holiday weekend.

Six volunteers have signed up to undertake speed scoping exercises. Once vetting completed they will be able to go out in pairs not necessarily accompanied by a PCSO however he will be with them initially. Suspect that exercises will be 20-30 minutes sessions, as people spread the word they will become less effective, three areas to be covered will be: Pen-y-Bont, Neath Road, and Road going up to Treforgan. BM asked why not Station Road. SH said one step at a time but it has taken two years to get this far.

Cllr. Keir asked about Cefn Coed. County Councillor Harris had no more to report, stated that she had wanted to speak to Councillor Peter Shopland in person to fill him in, but had been silenced due to upcoming elections.

Six houses and business flooded out will have paid for flood gates. Cllr. Keir asked if this iss separate to the NRW money, reported on last month? County Cllr. Harris confirmed this money is separate and the money promised a long time ago, from NRW is still sitting there.

Cllr. Hays – Welfare clarification. County Cllr. Harris thinks that the Clerk taking this forward with NPT themselves.

**708: To receive a report from any Member concerning meetings at which he or she represented the Council.**

There have been no meetings undertaken since last monthly meeting. Cllr. Shopland advised that everything going well at the school, and confirmed that Mr. G. Hart had been appointed as the new caretaker.

**709: Clerks report to include bank reconciliation & payment authorisations.**

The Clerk confirmed the account balances for the Council current account £13,808 reserve £40,660 and Association £35,867 Total £90,335 with the first tranche of the precept for this year to be received by the end of April. £76,000 of the total has been earmarked to complete projects and to provide extra cremation plots at Maes yr Hendre.

**Resolved:** That the following payments made:

Wages £1822.79 Total as per contract

Zoar stores £ 19.90 Timber for fence posts

The Clerk confirmed that accounting statement, receipts and payments, asset schedule, and insurance review documents were completed and ready for submission to the internal auditor. Documents can be sent to anyone who would like to receive them.

The Clerk confirmed in response to the question raised by Councillor Farthing, that as projects were completed and paid for, then the asset schedule would be updated and submitted to the Council insurers to be placed on risk. The anticipated rise in insurance premium on completion of the outdoor gym and pump track will be c£400pa. This amount along with a sum for annual maintenance will be included in the budget.

The next scheduled meeting of the finance sub-committee will be at 6:30pm on the 13th May 21.

**710**: **To receive update on Asset Management & Development plan.**

PUMP TRACK: Councillor Farthing advised that we are still awaiting confirmation of a start date for the work to upgrade the BMX track. If no date forthcoming shortly, then we will go back out to tender.

OUTDOOR GYM. Start date for this project currently scheduled for June. The tarmac base required, will be completed by local contractor, quotation being sought for a 20.1 x 6.1m pad with work required to ensure no difference in height between the tarmac and grass.

TEEN PARK: It was noted that more damage had been done to the bench in the park. Cllr. Bevan also reported this. Cllr. Keir had made safe for now, but we need to consider replacing the damaged bench.

Cllr. Farthing commented how positive it is that, as we are coming out of lockdown, there is far more activity going on around all of the play area's and in hindsight really good that the decision to move the outdoor gym from the MUGA area.

VOLUNTEERS: The group who are undertaking the grass cutting have purchased a new battery strimmer = less training. Grass cutting at Maes yr Hendre due to be completed this week, with more cuts than previously scheduled in. Work on the Church, Chapel and Scout hut also completed.

Cllr.Farthing asked that when notice comes out regarding committees that the grass cutting team gets together for a meeting as there is more activity through the summer months.

FOREST WALK: Cllr. Waldron updated Council on Forest Walks project – original grants with NRW have finished and the final submission report submitted stating that all aspects of the agreed works have been completed, will result in a final £3k payment being received.

A new bid for LEADER programme NPT for £9600 to run until December, is in the process of being submitted. This will include a series of walks (bats, mammal tracking, flower identification). 3 new sculptures, new signage, giant bird table for bird feeding. There will be an opportunity for volunteers to volunteer for a different project. 2 wildlife cameras to be set up as camera traps. Footage to be shown at the community centre with specific regard to disabled users that may not be able to use the walks. Tegfan still pursuing sponsoring a fox sculpture, they would like to have an 8-foot fox and would be prepared to pay extra cost to make it something of a special feature. This is a possible issue with getting the sculpture up there.

Cllr. Hayes mentioned that there is some grant funding through, the Chief Executive office NPT and will share this information with Cllr. Waldon and commended her for all her efforts with the project.

Cllr. Farthing asked whether pictures would also be able to be shared with the school? Cllr. Waldron has offered panels to the school, as she met with Mrs Teague the last week. Mrs. Teague didn’t have room to take the panels. Cllr. Waldron explained project and aims and offered collaboration. Mrs. Teague wasn’t keen in the children doing activities up in the forest. Cllr. Hays mentioned that this is an incredibly disappointing response and doesn’t understand why this opportunity wouldn’t be taken. Cllr. Hays would like to see this on the agenda to the governors and Cllr. Shopland will certainly bring this up with Mrs Teague and include at the next meeting. Cllr. Waldron offered to incorporate transport for children into the bid and offered the use of Cefn Coed for toilets. Mrs Teague will consider this offer for the future.

**711: To consider the following consultation -Welsh Government – Consultation on Local Authority Power to Trade (Closing Date 11 June 2021):**

Cllr. Keir outlined the authority as he understood the position to be. The information was duly noted with no further action required at this stage.

**712: Death of a Member of the Royal Family or a Senior Public Figure – To consider possible arrangements to be put in place:**

The information received was duly noted the Council agreed that of the death of a Member of the Royal Family or Senior Public Figure then we would act upon the advice received from One Voice Wales.

**713: Correspondence: a) Cefn Coed Colliery Museum, to review letters received, in response to the loss of the grant funding for the visitor centre. b) County Councillor Harris letter of response with regard to provision of information and attendance at meetings. c) Letter of concern received regarding the memorial stones at St. Margaret's Church.**

a) We are waiting for direct communication from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council re the report that was promised by Mrs K. Jones Chief Executive, in response to our correspondence on Cefn Coed. **Action**: Clerk to send all hard copies of correspondence sent and received to Cllr. Phillips

**b) County Councillor Harris letter of response with regard to provision of information and attendance at meetings.** Noted

**c) Letter of concern received regarding the Memorial stones at St. Margaret's Church.**

Letter read aloud. Councillor Shopland stated that the placing of the stones was agreed a number of years ago. There were a number of potential sites considered.

Cllr. Michael mentioned that he was the person who proposed the movement of the stones in the first instance from the Welfare Hall.

Cllr. Philips feels that this is the best placement for the memorial stones and doesn’t feel that these need to be moved. Due to links with British Legion and services, the best way forwards would be to raise the money for the church.

Cllr. Shopland agreed with the position however feels that the memorial stones need some attention.

Cllr. Farthing stated he had no personal connection but agreed with Cllr. Phillips that they remain in the vicinity of St. Margaret’s Church.

The question was asked could we not take the tablets down and relocate them to the garden that is already there, to preserve them. Cllr. Shopland mentioned making them mobile and bringing them out when needed.

Cllr. Keir suggested conversing with owner of the wall and asking whether they might be moved as we are all concerned about the degradation.

It was agreed that Cllr. Shopland would speak with Rev. Locke.

County Councillor Harris to speak with Roy and Church about cleaning up the memorial stones.

Cllr.Farthing will speak to Mr.Geraint Whiteman, stone mason, for his advice.

**714: Any other business:**

Cllr. Bevan has been informed about the community centre clothes bank and concerned that it would counteract the collections at the Scout hall. The Clerk confirmed that the bank had been requested some time ago to compliment the collections at the Community Centre, and that we had just come to the top of the list. The proceeds from the collections to be decided via the community association. Cllr. Hays wouldn’t like it to conflict with the collections for the schools and scouts. Councillor Keir explained that the association is a charity in its own right.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 19:40

County Councillor Harris report 29 April 2021.

Re-surfacing – Part of Neath Road A4109 will be re-surfaced on the week commencing 24 May 2021. This is part of my forward work plan, road surfaces that are highlighted to myself by NPT as work that needs tackling. Two way stop/go signs will be in operation for the duration of the work. (Village informed by FB group)

Waiting for a date to have the pavement re-surfaced in the Neath Road area, (opposite the ‘in’ entrance to The Crescent, bus-stop down towards Neath.) They appear to have left a small area out when they did the previous pavement work. (Village will be informed by FB Group)

Note – I am going to highlight the road outside the community centre in my next forward work plan, as it has now been patched up on numerous occasions.

A4109 drainage work- all work going to plan. Issue with the lights in the area, which were then moved. They have also been stuck on red twice, I am told this is because people are jumping the red light and it is affecting the sensor. For example, light changes to red, two cars go through after the light has changed to red. Driver behaviour. Two further areas to be looked at, after the area under the bridge. (Village informed by FB group)

Speeding –finally after a lengthy delay for various reasons,Covid included, I have now obtained 6 volunteers including a representative from the Community Council. The forms have finally been submitted for vetting, however the speed scoping initiative for the village has been set up and is simply now waiting for the vetting of the 6 volunteer’s. Hopefully, by the time PCSO Musslewhite returns from 2 weeks leave the vetting will be completed andwe will be ready tobe trained. I am pleased to say we have a wide range of age’s and working pattern’s, so we will be discussing with each other the various times of day to undertake the speed scoping. PCSO Musslewhite will be accompanying us on some occasions, but we will also be undertaking the scoping in two’s without a PCSO. The evidence will be gathered and updated by myself onto the GOSAFE portal, as the named co-ordinator for the group. This information will be analysed and if need be acted on. (When all vetting is in place, the village will be informed by FB group, although they will not be informed of the times and dates that speed scoping will take place, also as this will be a long term initiative, I will be adding this to my community flyers as soon as I am able to, I will be starting the flyers back soon).

Cefn Coed – meeting took place with Karen Jones, Nicola Pearce and Simon Brennan and included Stephen Hunt. I have asked if I can explain the issue to the village and the CC. Karen Jones is preparing a press statement and I am afraid it will not be released until after the election and I am not allowed to brief you further until after the election has taken place. (I will be issuing a statement as soon as I have the go ahead on my FB group to the village, and also a report to the CC, alongside Karen Jones reply)

Seats, bins and grit bins – I will be meeting with my old zone supervisor Adrian Moore next Tuesday to discuss the plan, and I will forward you his findings by separate email before the next meeting.

Welfare – I believe the clerk to the community council has found out a lot of information and ownership details regarding the Welfare already, which is great. Can you please highlight exactly what information you would like me to find out for the CC?

The Star - Speaking to a Community Councillor, I was asked for an update on The Star. If you remember from the last conversation we had on this, I need photographs. If anybody is passing and notices a decline in the area, please take a photograph and forward it to myself. The last 3 I sent NPT informed me there was no difference in the photos. As some of the CC pass this area walking, it might be a good idea if you take a weekly photo that I can use, or a monthly photo.

Flooding –I am pleased to tell you that Neath CVS have finally allocated money for the flood victims, on Main Road. They have pulled money down from the Michael Sheen flood fund. I appreciate that this has taken over a year, but it is a year that I have chased this money constantly. Lakeside Flood Prevention are doing surveys on 6 houses and a business Tuesday 27th and Wednesday 28th April, with a view to providing a quote for me to produce to Neath CVS. Neath CVS will then directly pay Lakeside Flood Prevention. (I will be doing a brief update on FB group as soon as it has all been purchased, no personal details but just what has been achieved)