## Crynant Community Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting held Thursday 29th July 2021 via Microsoft Teams

The chairman opened the meeting at 18:30

**744: Apologies for absence**:

Apologies received from Cllr. Bevan (Holiday) Cllr. Michael (Personal committment).

**In attendance**: Cllr. Sean Keir; Cllr. Peter Shopland; Cllr. Suzanne Waldron; Cllr. Sian Phillips; Cllr. Andrew Farthing; Cllr. Roger Miles; Cllr. Stephen Rundle; Cllr. Maggie Hayes; Cllr. Brian Lewis; County Cllr. Sian Harris; Clerk: Mrs. Heidi Mortimer; & Mx. Ceri Willcox.  
Members of the public in attendance: Ms. Liwsi Callard Preedy

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

No declarations were received.

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

The member of the public in attendance raised the following questions: Request for CCTV footage to pass on to police; to know what issues Mx. Willcox had with her dogs; that there was £10,000 to spend through County Councillor’s Members fund and to understand why no money had been allocated for dog owners; that Cllr. Keir does not approach Ms.Preedy’s father surrounding her issues with the Community Council.

In response, Ms. Preedy was informed that she would receive the answers to her questions in due course as a response from the Clerk.

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

**RESOLVED:** Minutes from June signed as true and accurate

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

No matters to consider from previous Minutes.

**749: To receive Police report**.

Cllr Keir reported that no verbal report has been received from PCSO this month. Cllr. Keir advised that data had been obtained through the publically accessible police.uk website totalling 12 reported crimes. Cllr. Hayes noted a positive point in the drop in Violence and Sexual Offences crimes reported and suggested that it would be useful for the PCSO to be able to explain some of the figures in person. It was agreed that as an **ACTION**: The Clerk write to the PCSO and Sergeant to invite them to attend.

**750: County Councillor Harris report. [Noted with discussion at the end]**

Request for update on Steering Group reply

Meeting between Andrew Thomas, Wayne John and Paul Walker – to provide Andrew with some historical background to Cefn Coed museum, changes in visitor trends over the years and on-going issues at the site. The three in the meeting have drafted a Terms of Reference for the Steering Group and these will be discussed and considered in more detail at the first meeting which will be held in the next few weeks (email dated 5 th July) The above meeting looked at the structure of the steering group, those members who should attend every meeting and identified staff who would be required to provide specialists input at certain times.

In terms of background to Cefn Coed, the steering group will look at how the site relates to the wider museums on offer in Wales, specifically the National Waterfront Museum and Big Pit, while at the same time recognising the important contribution to Heritage and tourism in Neath Port Talbot. The education role has changed over the years and we need to identify opportunities for greater engagement with local schools and this is where Harriet Eaton NPTs Heritage Education Officer will assist.

Specialist input will be sought from someone who has knowledge of smaller museums and opportunities for this sector as it will be of more relevance for Cefn Coed. Hopefully NPT can explore options for Cefn Coed in relation to holding large events and community engagement such as volunteer opportunities.

The Environment Directorate will play an important part in the Steering Group and NPT feel that it is important that Simon Brennan attend all of the meetings. In particular much more detailed information would be needed from the surveys Simon has commissioned on the current health and safety issues which have prevented the colliery from opening this year and accurate costs for remedial work to the site. Hopefully once the Steering Group meets, NPT will have a clearer picture of timescales for delivering a report back to council with all options for members to consider.

Andrew also mentioned that both Sian Harris and Steven Hunt are to be informed on a regular basis as a priority and how we engage with other stakeholders will be discussed.

Model Railway Group - to keep them engaged with the museum, arrangements are being made for them to continue to meet at either Neath or Pontardawe libraries on a regular basis until they can safely return to Cefn Coed.

Train – Colliery Car Park

I contacted Wayne John regarding the train. They have had to board the entry to the cab, due to a lot of jagged metal, due to corrosion. Advice to Wayne was to consult with a specialist for advice on repairs. Wood panels have been painted black to make it more pleasant to look at as a short term measure. Injury issues if people continued to climb on the train. Wayne is going to mention this at the steering group meeting to see if it can be included in essential maintenance plans. A list of essential maintenance is being prepared for the steering group meeting. Estimates are being looked at for some basic repairs. Temporary fencing might appear until this is all done to prevent any injuries.

New-build house The Star

It appears from NPT records, and enforcement case was opened on the 6 th January 2019. The matters relating to this case were investigated and based on the length of time that this development had been in situ it had been confirmed that it would not be expedient or in the public interest to pursue this enforcement case and the case was subsequently closed. If there are now major issues relating to this property which constitute a breach of planning control then a further investigation can be initiated albeit this will likely to be by carried out by another officer, due to the officer who investigated having now retired. I have re-opened the investigations.

Bio-diversity and Bee friendly verges

NPT are looking to approach managing their verges differently. Why? – to promote opportunities and create and enhance diverse and connected flowering habitats in our towns and villages. Basically, they want to stop cutting during the summer month’s to allow the flower’s to grow and seed. The plan is to have wildflower verges in certain area’s however natural habitat flowers, and not planted ones. Then do a last cut before the winter starts, after the flowers have dropped seeds. NPT have highlighted areas in our village where we could do this. Taking the dangerous areas, visibility for roads out of the equation. Two area’s for trial in Crynant have been highlighted as The Business Park area, and the unnamed road leading out of Crynant to Ystradgynlais, this has gone to panel now for discussion. Before the first cattle-grid. This is something NPT would like to adopt, but it will be a trial to see if it works and if it doesn’t in certain area’s it will be stopped. If flowers don’t grow naturally, they would consider intervention with flowers from the area, but not flowers that are not native to the area. Firstly, until the flowers grow, it will look a bit natural, but long term, it should look pretty, and encourage bees. I did ask then if we could plant bee hotels in the areas, and NPT said yes. We could involve the village in this as a project.

County Cllr. Harris asked whether the flower planters from the previous application to the Members Fund could go ahead. After a brief discussion, it was agreed that as an **ACTION:** The Clerk would revisit the indemnity and document arrangements from the previous fund and circulate them to Full Council for consideration.

***Cllr. Lewis arrival at this point in the meeting***

Cllr. Hayes was keen to see this project go ahead and cited clear consultation and desire from the community was shown.

County Cllr. Harris asked whether Cllr. Waldron would be interested in applying to the Members Fund for more carvings at the forest. Cllr. Waldron responded that she would like to see more planters and hanging baskets around the village in this instance as all carvings and sculptures were budgeted and funded.

County Cllr. Harris suggested funding a mural in the village to celebrate the achievements of Hannah Jones and Connor Roberts with a local artist. There was a discussion with Council Members and support of this idea, with prominent areas to be considered.

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

The Clerk reported on attendance at a Standards forum at the beginning of the month and gave a brief overview of discussions held, in particular around Councillor Code of Conduct, which would be mandatory going forwards from the next election. There was some information given regarding Power of Competency, with Briton Ferry being the only council to take this up, to date. The Clerk also reported that all elections were due to be held on the first Thursday of May 2022.

The Clerk had also been present at a very well attended virtual conference with the health board with particular focus on what support was available for third sector branches, social prescribers, and GP practices working together.

**752: To Review Planning Applications a) Ref. No: P2021/0760 –** [**Rear shower room extension –**](https://planningonline.npt.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=QWC3ZTKZFNG00&activeTab=summary)**33 Main Road Crynant SA10 8NT b) Ref. No: P2021/0732 –** [**Dwelling and detached garage –**](https://planningonline.npt.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=QVXKTUKZFKG00&activeTab=summary) **Land Adj To 2 Garbett Place Crynant SA10 8PQ c) Ref. No: P2021/0685 – Part single storey part two storey rear/side extension – Llwynllanc Isaf Neath Road Crynant Neath Neath Port Talbot SA10 8SE**

a) No comments to make

b) No comments to make

c) No comments to make

The Clerk detailed a further application received on the 27th July Application Number: P2021/0675 Applicants Name /Address: Mr Daryl Herbert 5 Main Road Crynant Proposed Development: Retention of Garden Room/Shed; It was agreed that any observations on this application be forwarded to the Clerk in the coming days, for submission to the planning department.

**753: To consider the construction of a five-year plan**

Cllr. Rundle suggested the formation of a five-year plan for the council. This would entail both capital and non-capital projects. After some discussions, the five-year plan was broadly well received with the need for a clear vision going forwards and good community consultation. Cllr. Waldron advised that she and the Clerk had been part of the 2000 Agenda Strategy which went to consultation and suggested a larger presentation and launch for public engagement. Cllr. Hayes advised that this would be an assessment of what the community needs rather than a business plan and that the work could be completed in smaller pieces.

A potential committee was put forwards of Cllr. Rundle, Cllr. Hayes, Cllr. Waldron and Cllr. Phillips with the ability to draw in other Councillors as needed.

**754: To consider matters pertaining to the centenary of the Memorial Hall**

The Clerk advised that a member of the Voluntary Group had approached her regarding the centenary anniversary of the Memorial Hall on Station Road. The Community Council agreed to consider the production of a Memorial Book.

**755: Clerks report to include bank reconciliation & payment authorisations:**

The Clerk advised the Current account balance of £24,569 & Reserve account £40,662 .

The reserve account included a sum that has been earmarked for BMX tract refurb, and a sum from the capital grant received from CVS, the residual amount from the capital grant would be spent by the end of the month to include finishing of the cabins and providing power.

**RESOLVED:** That the following payments made:

Wages as per contract £3047.34` July wages

second life products £1302.00 Forest walk project - grant funded

ELRS £ 56.93 Signage

Playsafety Ltd £ 141.00 Playground Inspection

Celtic Mowers £ 294.00 Equipment

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

1. **Overview of Sub Committee meeting – draft minutes circulated**

Cllr. Farthing reported on Minutes circulated.

1. **Update on Pump Track, Community Meadow, and Grounds**

Cllr. Keir provided an update on new quotes and positive responses. The Clerk has sought careful legal advice around this matter to ensure compliance. Sufficient funding was confirmed. The proposal to accept the current quote and commence works was proposed, seconded, and **RESOLVED** to carry out Pump Track renovations in line with the new quotation received from Trailcraft Limited. **ACTION:** Clerk to forward the contact details for the contractor to Cllr. Brian Lewis.

1. **Update on Outdoor Gymnasium**

Cllr. Rundle reported that the Outdoor Gym equipment had been delivered. Subject to some material clarifications with Cllr. Lewis, the structures were being installed in the coming week. **ACTION:** Issues surrounding equipment mounting and surface tarring to go to the Asset Committee.

1. **Update on Forest Walk**

Cllr. Waldron provided an update on the two walks that had taken place since the last meeting and advised that the community should be particularly proud of the location of the Nightjars as a very rare bird nationally. Cllr. Waldron reported a good social media response and signs of good inclusion. The target for the LEADER funding is 60 walkers over the six months.

1. **Update on Street Furniture and Memorial Tablets.**Cllr. Farthing recommended that the Memorial Tablets be taken from future agendas and that the street furniture would be reviewed again in September. Cllr. Hayes asked whether the member of the public who had first raised the questions around the Memorial Tablets had been informed and Cllr. Shopland confirmed this to be the case.
2. **Overview of Playgrounds and Community Centre**

Cllr. Miles reported to the Council that he was pleased with the new materials used to construct the newer pieces in the Toddler Park. He advised that the timber elements would need to be monitored and potentially removed completely. Cllr Farthing enquired as to happenings with the bench in the teenager park and Cllr. Keir advised that nothing was currently in progress bit there could be a consideration for changing the seat completely.

After a request for more information, it was decided to arrange the next Asset Committee meeting for earlier to inspect and consider the Community Centre.

**757: Correspondence:**

1. Information has gone out to Full Council and Cllr. Waldron will provide a report in due course.
2. Matters pertaining to the Power of Competence were discussed. Cllr Farthing asked for this to be added to the five-year plan and Cllr. Lewis proposed that Mx. Willcox be put forwards to enroll upon the Clerk’s qualification in order to obtain this. **ACTION:** To add to five- year plan
3. Several Community Councillors voiced disappointment at the final recommendations for the three wards to be amalgamated into one single ward with two County Councillors.

***Introduction of Standing Order 3(d) – by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, members of the press and public shall be excluded***

**758:** To consider matters pertaining to correspondence received as a letter of complaint

It was agreed that Cllr. Waldron would chair this section of the Full Council meeting. After a brief discussion, it was proposed, seconded, and **RESOLVED:** An Extraordinary Meeting would be called for Monday 2nd August 2021 to discuss the correspondence in person with the same Standing Order ruling applied. **ACTION:** Clerk to write to resident to provide an update of Full Council action.

***Conclusion of Standing Order 3(d)***

**759: Any other business.**

Cllr. Farthing asked for an update on the GCRE in Wales. Cllr. Miles provided a brief update and it was hoped the GCRE would provide a good step in retaining the Colliery at Crynant.

Cllr. Hayes advised that she was interested in calling a personnel meeting. **ACTION:** Clerk to send out an invite for the personnel committee to meet.

Cllr. Phillips advised that she had been approached by a representative of a group of users of the Community Centre who were disappointed that they had not been able to use the centre. Cllr. Phillips voiced concern about how this would be perceived. The Clerk advised that this seemed to be a communication issue and that the users had been approached. Cllr. Keir spoke as the Chairperson of the Community Association and advised that specific Covid risk assessments had taken place as required by Welsh Government. While seeking to accommodate users, there would need to be compliance with the risk assessment and measures identified via that assessment. Cllr. Hayes advised that she understood that there were different guidelines for different activities and that the Association was the body that would need to be satisfied that these were being met. Cllr. Hayes believed that in this instance, this was a matter for the Community Association and not the Full Council.

Cllr. Shopland noted his disappointment with the new steering group for Cefn Coed Colliery for not involving the Friends of Cefn Colliery in the Terms of Reference.

**Meeting closed at 20:21**