## Crynant Community Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting held Thursday 27th May 2021 via Microsoft Teams

The chairman opened the meeting at 18:30

**715: Apologies for absence**:

Cllr. Waldron (Holiday)

**In attendance**: Cllr. Sean Keir; Cllr. Barry Michael; Cllr. Peter Shopland; Cllr. Sian Phillips; Cllr. Colin Bevan; Cllr. Andrew Farthing; Cllr. Brian Lewis; Cllr. Roger Miles; Cllr. Stephen Rundle; Cllr. Maggie Hayes; County Councillor Sian Harris; Clerk: Heidi Mortimer & Ceri Willcox.

**716: To receive declarations of Personal/Prejudicial interest**. Declaration received from Cllr. Waldron in a personal capacity regarding Glastir Forestry correspondence. No other declarations received.

**717: To adjourn if necessary to receive public questions**. Questions have been received from Mr. W Jones and Mr. J Jones. This has been duly moved under the header of ‘Correspondence’.

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

**RESOLVED:** Not to sign the minutes as true and accurate. The Chairman instructed the Clerk to liaise with County Councillor Harris directly in order to address the items raised in the report provided.

**719: Matters arising from the minutes**.

None recorded.

**720: To receive Police report**.

Cllr Keir read the following report: Verbal report received from the PCSO, 27th May. PCSO has been off for most of the month but has provided the following updates:

* Community speed watch programme is proceeding. Vetting has been completed and sites agreed. A training date has been set.
* Grass fires – generic programme for the time of year.
* Aled has spoken to a member of the public with respect of inappropriate use of the park for dog walking.

Crime statistics drawn from police.uk show 8 reported crimes from March 2021. These breakdown as: 3 sexual and violent crimes, 2 anti social behaviour, 2 public order, and 1 criminal damage and arson.

Cllr. Hayes would like to understand whether Community Council could engage in some promotion around domestic violence. Cllr. Phillips offered to supply phone numbers and information for promotion within the Community Centre. Cllr. Hayes offered to try to secure posters and other stationery materials.

**721: County Councillor Harris report.**

Church Memorial – spoken to St Margaret’s they are aware that it needs to be cleaned. They

haven’t sourced anybody to do the work as yet. Would welcome suggestions. There is no risk of

damage from anything other than the weather. I spoke to Andrew who was going to contact GW for

advice. I have offered to pay if there is any cost. [NOTED]

Cllr. Farthing advise that he had spoken with Geraint and was awaiting a response.

Seating, grit bins etc – met with zone supervisor, very minor adjustments to current list. Informed

Andrew of the changes. Andrew will forward me a copy when amended which I will use as a working

document and log with NPTCBC.[NOTED] At meeting, County Cllr. Harris further advised that she believed there was a small amount of money available now.

Rail of Excellence – Peter asked if I had an update, so I will share what I shared with Peter.

Application has not gone to planning yet, but shouldn’t be much longer. Powys are the main body

for this project working with NPTCBC. Both planning departments need to meet to discuss the

details of the project. We have been led to believe most of the materials needed for the project will

travel by rail, so there should not be a major disruption to the roads. Cllr Hunt is chair of the

committee that this will be brought before and is keeping me updated with developments. I know

he has asked the question re lorries travelling through the Dulais Valley, and he has been assured

the majority of any materials by road will travel the A465 to Glyn-Neath and down.[NOTED]

Cefn Coed – still waiting for a report to be brought in front of the relevant committee, I have also

asked for a report to be brought to Education, skills and culture which is the committee I sit on, as it

does come under our banner as well.[NOTED]

County Cllr. Harris advised that she would be attending a meeting Tuesday with cabinet, and invited any other questions. Reported that she will be working hard with fellow independents for something to go to the meeting Tueday. Reiterated that the meeting is for information only. County Cllr. Harris reported the potential to create an online petition to further show support from the public.

A brief discussion regarding the report that CEO Karen Jones had circulated late afternoon today followed. Cllr. Shopland advised that he had had discussions with County Cllr. Harris and County Cllr. Hunt during the day.

County Cllr. Harris reported that she would be pushing to get representation with this issue along with Cllr. Shopland. Cllr. Keir asked to ensure that Crynant Community Council would receive representation. County Cllr. Harris stated that she would be making sure that there would be representation from all areas including Seven Sisters and Banwen.

Speed scoping – all six volunteers have passed vetting, and training will commence next week. [NOTED]

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

Cllr. Shopland advised council that he had spoken with a resident in regards to the Memorial Plaque correspondence and felt that the resident was very happy with actions. Cllr. Shopland also spoke regarding school trips with respect to the suggestion that the school could take children along the forestry walks. Cllr. Shopland advised council that no school trips are currently taking place.

Cllr. Hayes suggested an initiative from the Community Council for taking the children along the route. Cllr. Keir asked whether Cllr. Hayes would be prepared to take this forwards. Cllr. Hayes agreed.

**723: Planning Application P2021/0476**

Council agreed to add the observation that they would like SUDS to be considered.

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

Resolved: That the following payments made:

Wages as per contract £2619

Water rates: £17.23

D Williams & Sons Strimmer Service – £44.46

Mower – £167.98: New purchase

Laker Electrical – £875 – Electrical Inspection Report on Distribution Boards. Next report due in 2024

Finance committee meeting ratified recommended annual insurance providers of Pen Underwriting Limited of £2,624.76

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

Cllr Farthing reported that work had started for the outdoor gym. He expressed concern on the fall for the run off on one corner of the ground area. Cllr. Keir suggested site visit in conjunction with the rugby club. Cllr. Lewis asked what the contractor position on this was and Cllr. Farthing advised that the contractor did not recommend this course of action. The Contractor had recommended to make the area a much longer and narrower strip but it was felt that this wouldn’t be achievable as it would restrict vehicular access to the pitches. Cllr Farthing reported that the Asset Committee had decided to shorten the area. Cllr. Lewis suggested that the job should be put on hold to which Cllr. Farthing agreed. Cllr. Farthing advised that there would be an Asset Committee meeting next Thursday in order to look at this issue.

Cllr Lewis asked what the cost of moving the foundation would be and Cllr. Farthing advised that it would depend upon the site decision and the location the site may be moved to. Cllr. Lewis asked if this missed problem would cost the council and the project more money. Cllr. Farthing confirmed that it inevitably would.

Cllr Hayes asked whether there had been any consultation for the community for this project, where Cllr Farthing confirmed that there had only been Community Council engagement.

**ACTION:** Asset Committee to invite rugby club representatives to meeting and walk through.

Cllr. Keir provided an update on the pump track to explain that the contractors had contacted him to provide information on the cost increases. Cllr Keir has asked for them to bring a more realistic price and will update the Asset Committee on Thursday

Cllr. Keir relayed the information that Cllr. Waldron had been successful in her bid for LEADER funding with respect of the Forestry.

**726: To consider the following consultation – From Tilhill Forestry Limited, Glastir Woodland Creation site at Bryn Rhyg, Crynant.**

The Clerk reported that Cllr Waldron had requested further information from Tilhill Forestry Limited asked whether Cllr Harris had also received any information. Cllr Harris confirmed that she had not heard anything with regards to this.

The Clerk relayed that observations so far included: We would welcome any tree planting and would support the Welsh Government objectives. We would prefer broadleaf woodland as opposed to the conifers in the proposal. It was explained that Cllr Waldron wouldn’t have to declare an interest as this is a public consultation but an interest had been duly received.

**ACTION:** Request Cllr Waldron provides the response to be submitted before 4th June. Clerk to share the response with Members.

**727: Correspondence: a) Request for information Non Domestic rating re Maes yr Hendre Cemetery b) Letter received from NPT regarding concern raised with them of a tree blocking the stream to the rear of Bronallt Flats c) Concern raised by the home owner regarding the deteriorating condition of the lane to the rear of Main Road, Crynant**

1. The Clerk explained that this was an information request seeking to confirm capacity for the coming years. **ACTION:** Cllr Michael and the Clerk to submit request informaiton.
2. The Clerk has received a suggestion from NPT to write directly to the land owners. **ACTION**: Community Council to write to land owners directly.
3. Cllr Keir and Cllr Rundle had visited the site and the Clerk now working with Officers of NPT. Proposal of sending out information to residents about advice being sought. **ACTION:** Letter to be sent to residents

**728: Any other business.**

**(a) Cllr. Shopland - Global Centre of Rail Excellence. The site at Nant Helen now at third and final application stage, to consider any necessary actions to be undertaken by Community Council. https://gov.wales/global-centre-rail-excellence-wales**

1. Cllr. Shopland explained concerns regarding traffic increase when GCRE goes ahead and potentially into the years after the project has started and reported he understood that the planning committee would consult with the Community Council when planning applicaiton was agreed.

Cllr. Lewis advised that he had read the report recently and relayed information regarding planned traffic works and clarified that initial proposals for the works were available online.

Cllr. Hayes asked if there were terms of references for the subcommittees and groups. Cllr Keir confirmed that they were and would be sent through if not yet received. **ACTION**: Clerk to send copies of Terms of Reference.

Cllr. Farthing asked about progress with the opening of the Community Centre building where Cllr. Keir provided an update and explained the current operating structure and ongoing talks regarding clubs and groups. Cllr. Keir reported on some of the challenges with the current Covid regulations, especially in terms of occupancy of rooms.

Cllr. Hayes recommended considering linking with other community centres and noted that the community is deeply affected with this Covid pandemic.

The Clerk shared that she had been able to speak to the Dulais Valley Primary Care Centre regarding a letter that had been circulated on social media. The Clerk noted that there was no notice of this on the website for the surgery and has asked the surgery to notify the Community Council of public correspondence. Cllr. Hayes expressed her thanks to the Clerk for this action.

**Meeting closed at 19:19**