

County Borough of Caerphilly

Nelson Community Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

HELD ON THURSDAY 10th January 2013 at 7.00 pm

Present: Cllr. A Gray

Cllr. P Baldwin

Cllr. A Blackman

Cllr. G Davies

Cllr. L Lewis MBE

Cllr. G Mahoney

Cllr. B Miles (from 7.30 pm)

Cllr. S Morgan

Mr A. Hoskins (Clerk)

In attendance: No one

Apologies for absence: Cllr. K Jones

Gwent Police

Declarations of Interest:

Cllr. Baldwin declared a personal interest in matters relating to the Nelson Development Trust and to the Nelson Community Centre Management Committee.

Cllr. Blackman declared a personal interest in matters relating to the Nelson Development Trust and Nelson Community Centre Management Committee. She also declared a personal/prejudicial interest in Applications for Planning Approval and would leave the Chamber during consideration of planning applications if members wished to discuss any application in detail.

Cllr. Davies declared a personal interest in matters relating to the Nelson Development Trust, Nelson Village Partnership and CCBC Standards Committee.

Apologies for Absence:

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. K Jones who was unwell.

1458 Report from the Police representative:

No officer was present.

The Clerk reported that he had received a telephone call from Sergeant Evans apologising for the lack of attendance which was due to a critical incident that was ongoing and involved all officers who would have attended. Sergeant Evans had outlined some items that would have been reported had an officer been in attendance.

The number of reported crimes had fallen as had the number of reported incidents of ASB.

Officers were undertaking plain clothes patrols at night in Nelson.

Detection rate was around 22%.

A number of recent car related crimes at Nelson were thought to have been carried out by persons outside of the village.

The Chairman noted that there had also been a number of house burglaries in the village.

1459. Minutes:

- Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 13th December 2012 were Received and Approved

1460. Matters arising from the Minutes:

Prosiect Gwyrdd: The Clerk reported that he had now received information from Cllr. Blackman which provided background information to enable him to write the letter (agreed at the last meeting) to the Borough Council in support of the Welsh Assembly's Petitions Committee decision regarding the incineration of waste. The Clerk would circulate the information to members. The matter would be included as an Agenda item for the February meeting.

Ty Du Development: the Clerk reported that he contacted Mr Steven Slocombe who had changed roles since he last reported on progress to Council in 2008 and informed the Clerk that Mr John Jones who also attended had retired. Mr Slocombe would inform the Clerk about who was currently undertaking his former role at the Welsh Assembly and the Clerk would then arrange for a further meeting.

1461. Report from the Chairman:

The Chair reported that the Christmas event had started slowly due partly to the change in venue and partly to inclement weather on the night and noted that the 'elves' had contributed well to the success of the event. It was agreed that the school yard was a much safer option than staging the event on the Handball Court. It was noted that the sleigh needed attention to ensure that it remained in a roadworthy state. This would be considered at a meeting of the Activities Sub-Committee to be held at the end of January.

The Clerk would write to Astra Plant, the Junior School and Caretaker to thank them for their assistance in staging the event.

1462. Report from the Clerk:

a. PLANNING:

The following planning applications relating to the Nelson area were received:

1. 12/0899/FULL Mrs Walters Erect hipped roof conservatory to rear at 24 High Street.

It was Resolved that no comment or objection be made regarding the above application for planning approval

For information: the following applications were approved by the County Borough Council:

1. 12/0547/FULL Mr J Griffiths Erect domestic garage at Llanfabon House, Llanfabon Road.

2. 12/0746/FULL Mrs W Roberts Erect conservatory at 1Lon Y Llwyn.

For information: the following applications were refused by the County Borough Council:

1. 12/0833/FULL Ms A Harris Convert garage into a playroom at 2 Cae'r Gelynnen.

b. ACCOUNTS:

The following payments were approved:

1.	Cleaning services (Institute)	Contract period December
2012	£80.47	
2.	Handyman Inside	Refurbishment works
(Institute)	£1817.94	
3.	British Gas Business	Electricity charges
(Institute)	£24.15	
4.	Tyler's Arms	Christmas event
sandwiches	£15.00	
5.	Makro	Christmas event
gifts	£187.86 DC	
6.	Makro	Chairman's
Hospitality	£42.58 DC	
7.	Bob's Fruit & Veg.	Provision of Christmas
Trees	£120.00	
8.	British Gas Business	Electricity charges
(Institute)	£24.37	
9.	Cllr. S Morgan	Reimbursement for purchase of gift for Santa
event	£8.00	

c. CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was received:

1. Stroke Association

Christmas Appeal – request for financial support

The Clerk has sent a Grant Aid Application form

2. GAVO

Voluntary Voice Newsletter

Noted

3. Wales Air Ambulance

10th Anniversary Appeal – request for financial support

The Clerk has sent a Grant Aid Application form

4. CCBC (Helen Morgan)

Council Tax Reduction
Scheme

Noted

5. Cllr. K Jones

Documents for review of Cleaning Regime at the Institute

*The cleaning regime will be reviewed by the Chairman,
Vice Chairman and Clerk together with Cllr. Jones*

6. CCBC

Council Tax Base notification

Agenda item

7. Mazars

Extract from 2011-12 Audit Report

Agenda item

1463. Community Council Precept 2013-14:

The Report from the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer was Received and Noted.

The Clerk's Report outlined the current financial position of the Community Council from which it was noted that the current level of Precept did not adequately cover the Council's outgoings and although the rental of shop premises ensured that the Council received sufficient monies to cover its expenditure, such income could not be guaranteed in the longer term. The Clerk had provided two options for consideration by members.

Cllr. Miles joined the meeting.

Following considerable debate, it was proposed by Cllr. Lewis that the Precept should be increased to the level contained in the Report, to ensure that the Council's annual expenditure was adequately covered. It was proposed by Cllr. Blackman that in view of the continuing financial difficulties being experienced by many residents, the Precept should remain at its current level.

Cllr. Blackman requested that the vote be recorded.

In favour of increasing the Precept in line with the Clerk's Report second option were Cllrs. Lewis, Gray, Morgan, Baldwin and Mahoney.

In favour of the Precept remaining at its present level were Cllrs. Blackman, Davies and Miles.

It was therefore Resolved that the Community Council would increase its precept to £17.27 per Band D Equivalent Dwelling for the financial year 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014. The Clerk would inform the Borough Council of the change.

1464. Review of the Council's Standing Orders:

The Clerk reported that the External Auditor recommended that the Council's Standing Orders should be reviewed and updated as necessary on a regular basis. The last time such a review had been undertaken was during 2004.

The Clerk had downloaded a copy of the NALC Model Standing Orders from the One Voice Wales members area of its website and proposed that these be compared to the Community Council's current Standing Orders to ensure that any required changes could be incorporated.

It was agreed that a small group of members would review the two documents and report back to Council on any proposed changes. The group would consist of the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Clerk, together with Cllrs. Baldwin, Morgan, Mahoney and Miles. The group would meet following the Activities Sub Committee at the end of January.

1466. Proposal to move the Council Chamber to the Community Room:

Cllr. Miles declared a personal interest as an officer of the Chess Club which currently used the Community Room on Thursday evenings.

Cllr. Lewis believed that the location of the Chamber on the upper level was preventing residents with disabilities from attending Council meetings and proposed that it should be relocated to the downstairs Community Room.

Following a lengthy debate on the issues surrounding such a move it was proposed by Cllr. Mahoney that the Chamber should remain in its present location, but if any residents wished to attend a meeting and were unable to access the upstairs room, the Council would hold that meeting in the Community Room subject to its availability. Six members supported this proposal which was carried.

1467. Nelson Boys and Girls Club:

The Chairman reported that the Surveyor's report was still awaited as was the revised Business Plan. A date for the next meeting of the Nelson Development Trust had provisionally been set subject to receipt of these documents. It was noted that there was now £200 in the NDT bank account.

1468. Snooker Hall (Proposed Boxing Club):

The Clerk reported that he had contacted Mr Bebb regarding a date on which to meet and sign the Licence Agreement. Following this the snooker tables would be disposed of.

Cllr. Lewis would inform the Clerk of contact information for the company that was employed to refurbish the tables to see if they expressed an interest in them. Cllr. Baldwin would check with the Head Teacher at Lewis School to ask if they would wish to have one and also contact a local resident who expressed an interest in acquiring one.

Otherwise, Cllr. Morgan agreed to place the tables on his E-Bay account to see if there was any interest in purchasing them.

1469. Refurbishment works at the Institute:

The Clerk reported that there only remained outstanding the fixing of notice boards and he was awaiting quotations for further works including heating controls.

There had been an issue with water on the carpet and it was not known where this had come from. The Clerk had checked with the cleaner and the contractor but neither had any knowledge of the source. The dampness would be monitored in case there was a leak in the water or heating systems.

It was agreed that the replacement of the cupboard units in the Chamber would remain on hold.

1470. Nelson RFC 'Next Fixture' Sign:

Cllr. Morgan reported that Nelson RFC had now erected the sign without financial assistance from the Community Council. The Clerk reminded him that the Club could make a retrospective application for grant assistance if it so wished.

1471. Bryn Compost – Planning Inspector’s Adjournment:

The Clerk had contacted an officer at the Planning Inspectorate who confirmed that a further written response could be taken to the inquiry and the Inspector asked to accept it for consideration.

Following debate, it was agreed that circumstances had changed since the Community Council last considered the planning application and Resolved to object to the application on grounds of increased volume of traffic through the village, potential air pollution and the industrialisation of the countryside.

The Clerk would draft a letter to be submitted to the Inspector at the Inquiry. Cllr. Davies agreed to do this on behalf of the Council.

1472. Reports from Nominated Members of External Organisations:

The Clerk reported that no minutes had been received from any organisations.

Cllr. Baldwin reported that external refurbishment works had been completed at the Community Centre and work on the windows to improve heat insulation was ongoing. A number of new and existing groups had expressed an interest in using the Centre. She noted that there had been squirrels in the attic and not rats as was first thought. These had now been removed.

1473. Questions/Comments from members of the public present:

No members of the public were present.

Meeting Closed at 8.30 pm

Min/Jan/13