

County Borough of Caerphilly

Nelson Community Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

HELD ON THURSDAY 17th OCTOBER 2013 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllr. P Baldwin (Chairman)

Cllr. A Blackman

Cllr. G Davies

Cllr. K Jones

Cllr. A Gray

Cllr. L Lewis MBE

Cllr. G Mahoney

Cllr. B Miles

Cllr. S Morgan

Mr A. Hoskins (Clerk)

In attendance: Members of the public

Apologies for absence: None

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 Community Centre Management Committee. She also declared a personal/prejudicial interest in the Clerk's Report item 'Applications for Planning Approval' and would leave the Chamber during consideration if members wished to discuss any of the applications.

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

Cllr. Gray declared a personal interest in matters relating to the Nelson Development Trust.

Cllr. Jones declared a personal interest in matters relating to the Nelson Development Trust.

Cllr. Morgan declared a personal interest in matters relating to the Nelson Village Partnership and the Friends of Wern Park.

Apologies for Absence:

None received.

Cllr. Blackman withdrew Agenda item (10) regarding a Notice of Motion to CCBC because in her view, for members to discuss the matter would require a Dispensation from the CCBC Standards Committee.

Cllr. Miles moved that due to the confidential nature of the business, items CR/c/4 and Agenda item 9 be deferred to the end of the meeting as members of the public would need to be excluded during discussion of the matters. This action was endorsed by all members present.

1564 Report from the Police representative:

The Clerk had received no apologies or monthly report.

Cllr. Mahoney reported that action had been taken as requested regarding parking near the Llwynceilyn Allotment entrance.

1565. Minutes:

· Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 19th September 2013 were Received and Approved the following amendments:

o 1551 Cllr. Davies' complaint was with regard to the Nelson Hand Car Wash and not heavy plant vehicles at Heol Fawr.

1566. Matters arising from the Minutes:

1553: Cllr. Morgan reported that the School Transport plan was still being preparation.

1554: Cllr. Gray reported that the donation agreed at the last meeting had been passed to Mr Knight who was very appreciative of the gesture.

CR/c/33: The Clerk reported that he had not yet written to Mrs Beaumont regarding the Community Room. This would be auctioned shortly.

1567. Report from the Chairman:

The Chairman had attended the concert at St John's Church, given in aid of 'Save the Children' by Côr Rhosyn. She had made a donation of £100 from her allowance. The concert was of a superb

standard. She had asked the choir if they would lead the carol singing at the Community Council Christmas event and they had agreed.

She had also attended the Welsh Guards' march past at Bargoed, which had be a spectacular event.

She had attended the opening of the Memorial Garden at Senghenydd and had laid a floral arrangement at the memorial (cost of £20.00 to be paid from the Chairman's allowance for attending community events). The Community Councilpaviour had been laid in memory of Mr Fred Parsons of Long Row and Cllr. Baldwin had sponsored a paviour in memory of Mr William Beth of Springfield, both of whom had been killed in the disaster. She asked that a letter be sent to Mr Jack Humphries congratulating him on a very well organised and memorable event. This was fully supported by members.

She also reported that she had been asked to read a lesson at St John's on Remembrance Sunday and on Christmas Eve. She had agreed to do this.

The Clerk reported that it had come to his attention that the bugler who played at the Remembrance Day service was paid a fee and expenses, the cost of which was currently paid for by St John's Church. He asked whether this should be paid for by the Community Council as the service was a public and community event. The Chairman agreed that this could be paid from her allowance for supporting events.

1568. Report from the Clerk:

a. PLANNING:

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

1. 13/0591/FULL Mr J Rees Erect second storey extension above existing garage for bedroom with en-suite and front porch at 28 Hawthorn Road.

2. 13/0692/ADV Nelson Community Council Erect sign at The Institute, 39 Commercial Street.

It was Resolved that no objection or comment be made regarding the above applications.

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

1. 13/0557/FULL Mr & Mrs S Rees Erect two-storey extension to front of dwelling and conservatory extension at 2 Rose Cottages, High Street.

2. 13/0591/FULL Mr J Rees Erect second storey extension above existing garage for bedroom with en-suite and front porch at 28 Hawthorn Road.

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

1. 13/0575/OUT Mrs S Price Erect detached bungalow at Land Rear of Llwynhelynn Terrace and Heol Morien.

b. ACCOUNTS:

The following payments were approved:

1.	CCBC	Trade refuse collection	£68.50
2.	Pro-Copy Limited	Copier charges (July/August/September)	£116.09

3.	British Gas	Electricity charges (Institute)	£27.92
4.	Mazars	Audit fee FYE 31 st March 2013	£372.00
5.	Nelson Community Centre	Rental charge for use by the Play Scheme	£500.00
6.	Louise Owen	Photographs of the Annual Community Show	£11.75

c. CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was received:

1. CCBC

Request for information on planned events

The Clerk would respond.

2. One Voice Wales

Confirmation of renewal of membership and request for representative details

The Clerk had confirmed contact information

3. Elsbury

Confirmation that charges for festive lighting remain at 2012 level

The Clerk had confirmed that the installation should proceed

4. Public Services Ombudsman for Wales

Letter re: Code of Conduct complaints against two members

Confidential

For information

5. Cllr. Kerry Jones

New address, email and telephone details

The Clerk had updated the Member list

6. Mazars

Audit Certificate and Report for FYE 31st March 2013

Agenda item

7. Mrs Anne Blackman

Receipt for donation to Community Centre for loan of tables

8. Anouska Beaumont

Complaint of maladministration by Nelson Community Council

Confidential

Agenda item

9. Friends of Llancaiach Fawr

Notice of AGM on 9th October 2013

Noted

10. Cllr. Anne Blackman

Notice of Motion to CCBC

Agenda item

11. Trinity Fields School

Acknowledgement of donation

Noted

For information

12. Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod

Request for financial assistance

The Clerk had sent a Grant Aid application form

13. Nelson Community Centre Management Committee

Minutes of meeting held on 10th September 2013

Agenda item

14. Bobath Children's Therapy Centre

Request for financial assistance

The Clerk had sent a Grant Aid application form

15. CCBC (Mark Williams)

Five man cleansing team

Noted

For information

16. CCBC (Robert Campbell)

Notices re: road closure for Remembrance Day parade and Service

The Clerk had added his contact information

The notices will be posted in local shops and notice boards before the event

1569. Town Centre Management Committee for Nelson:

Cllr. Blackman described what a Town Centre Management Committee might consist of and what its role could be. It would be made up of Ward Members, some community councillors, Traders and voluntary group representatives. It would be involved in planning for the future among other things, as the new LDP would shortly be the subject of consultation by CCBC.

Cllr. Baldwin reported that the means of setting up of such a committee lay with the Local Ward member who should make the proposal to the Borough Council.

It was Resolved that the Community Council would not consider supporting this until it had been taken to the Borough Council by the member.

It was noted by Cllr. Davies that there was a 'Go to Your Town' section on the CCBC website and that local traders in Nelson appeared to be unaware of it. It was proposed that letters should be distributed to local businesses informing them of the site. The Clerk would draft a letter.

1570. Audit Certificate and Report for the Financial Year ending 31st March 2013:

The Clerk reported that no issues had been identified by the auditor with respect to the Annual Return and Accounts for the year 2011-12. The Clerk had noted that the current method of recording depreciating asset values was not in accordance with recommendations. In future asset values would be recorded as purchase cost or replacement value

The Annual Return, Certified Accounts and Annual Governance Statement for the year ending 31st March 2013 were Approved.

1571. Christmas Market:

The Clerk reported that he had received 14 expressions of interest from traders to date. These did not include any Nelson traders. It was Resolved that the event would go ahead on Saturday 14th December from 1.00 pm to 4.00 pm and that Santa would arrive at approximately 4.30 pm. Traders would need to remain on site until that event was over before leaving.

Cllr. Davies would inform Nelson traders to ask if they wished to take part on the day.

The Chairman reported that she had spoken with Côr Rhosyn at the concert and they had agreed to lead the carol singing at the event. It was agreed that the Junior School choir should be invited to take part if they wished.

Publicity for the event was of the utmost importance and should include the Christmas Newsletter front page, flyers, posters and word of mouth. The local churches and chapels would be asked to announce the event at their services. Members (elves) would visit the schools prior to the event to publicise it.

It was agreed that the previously formed organising committee would meet shortly and that the Lead and Deputy Lead members should be given delegated powers in respect of publicity for the event.

1572. Christmas Newsletter:

The Clerk requested contributions for the Newsletter in addition to the usual content from members. The main item for the front of the Newsletter would be the Christmas Market.

1573. Nelson Boys and Girls Club progress:

Cllr. Gray reported that the NDT would be meeting during the following week and that the Business Plan would be submitted to CCBC within ten days.

1574. Reports from Nominated Members of External Organisations:

Minutes from a recent Community Centre Management Committee were noted. It was reported that a grant was being sought to fund further improvements to a number of areas within the Centre.

Cllr. Davies asked if NVP minutes were being sent to the Community Council. The Clerk replied that the last minutes received from the NVP were for the meeting held in June 2013. Another Councillor, also a member of the NVP had passed on a copy of the most recent minutes received. Cllr. Davies expressed concern about the content of the minutes and felt that some minutes distorted the discussion which had taken place. It was Resolved that Cllr. Davies requests that the inaccuracies and misinformation are corrected at the next meeting of the Partnership and request that the Secretary would ensure that the minutes and Agenda are copied or emailed to the Clerk for circulation to the council members.

Cllr. Mahoney reported that standard of teaching at Llanfabon Infants School were the highest of any school in Wales according to a recent report. A letter would be sent to the Head congratulating her on this achievement. The school was an exemplar in this respect, setting a standard to be achieved by other schools. He also reported that a new caretaker had been appointed. An item would also be included in the next Newsletter.

Cllr. Gray reported that the Annual Meeting had been held at the Junior Scholl and that she had been re-elected as Chair of Governors. The Governors had received a Bronze Award.

Cllr. Lewis proposed that a letter be sent to the Head of Lewis School wishing he a speedy recovery from her illness. This was agreed.

Cllr. Davies reported that the new constitution adopted by the Borough Council contained sections relevant to the Standards Committee and to Community/Town Councils.

It was reported that the Community Centre Management Committee had met with GAVO regarding obtaining a grant for planned works. The application needed to be submitted by 22nd October, but Mr Steve Hawkins did not have the required information to hand at the meeting. Cllr. Baldwin would be taking the matter forward as Chairman of that committee.

1575 Questions/Comments from members of the public present:

Members of the public asked why the Community Centre was not being used as a venue for the Santa event and some of the other community events. Members replied that the event was being held together with the Christmas Market which was taking place in the school yard. It was also needed to be in the commercial centre of the village as some of the local shops were also getting involved.

Cllr. Mahoney stated that the Community Centre would be considered as a venue for events when planning for them. It was noted that Community events were given priority over other bookings.

Members of the public were asked to leave due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.

One member of the public who had raised the above matter made an abusive personal comment to one of the Council members as they left the meeting.

Cllr. Morgan asked that the format of public questions/comments be reviewed as an agenda item at the next meeting.

1576. Code of Conduct complaints against two Community Council members:

The Clerk reported that it was for the members to whom the complaints had been made to respond to the Ombudsman if they so wished. The complaints were Noted.

1577. Complaint of Maladministration against the Community Council:

Following a short discussion on the issues raised by the complainant, it was Resolved that the Clerk should prepare a response to the questions and allegations, in consultation with relevant individual members, then report this back to Council.

It was noted that the Community Council did not have a complaints procedure. The Clerk would look into this and consider the need for one in line with other Local Authority complaints procedures.

Meeting Closed at 9.10 pm

Min/Oct/13