County Borough of Caerphilly

## Nelson Community Council

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**HELD ON THURSDAY 9th JANUARY 2014 at 7.00pm**

Present: Cllr. P Baldwin (Chairman)

 Cllr. G Davies

Cllr. A Gray

Cllr. K Jones

Cllr. G Mahoney

Cllr. S Morgan

Mr A. Hoskins (Clerk)

In attendance: Sergeant Carl Morgan (Gwent Police)

 PC Westley Morgan (Gwent Police)

 PCSO Richard Williams (Gwent Police)

Apologies for absence: Cllr. A Blackman and Cllr. L Lewis MBE

*The Chairman expressed condolences to Cllr. Lewis on the recent sad loss of his grand-daughter. The Clerk reported that he had sent a bereavement card to Cllr. Lewis on behalf of members.*

Declarations of Interest:

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

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

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

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

Cllr. Morgan declared a personal interest in any matters relating to the Friends of Wern Park.

Apologies for Absence:

The Clerk reported that Cllr. Blackman had tendered her apologies with no specific reason. Cllr. Lewis had tendered his apologies due to a family bereavement.

**1603 Report from the Police representative:**

Sergeant Morgan explained to members the reasons why officers had not been in attendance included recent changes in personnel and a change to the mail system which redirected all mail the the headquarters in Cwmbran who had not been forwarding it to local officers. He reported that this had now been addressed. The Clerk was also sending invitations to officers by email in addition to a written invitation to the local Inspector.

A report on the calendar year 2013 was tabled and PC Morgan reported:

There were 148 recorded crimes at Nelson – a reduction on the previous year of 8.6%. The majority of which were related to various types of property damage.

There had been 97 ASB incidents at Nelson – a reduction of 25.9% from the 2012 figure. The Ward team had been focussing on ASB, dealing with issues quickly and positively.

There had been no reported Halloween related incidents.

Ward team members had worked closely with CCBC to maximise the action taken, including the use of eviction notices in some instances.

Officers have patrolled the area around Llanfabon Infants School to deal with parking issues and were working with Llancaeach Junior School to build up rapport with the children. Such contact could be invaluable when dealing with issues outside of school.

Two Engagement Days had been held in the community with officers attending and patrolling the village throughout both days. Particular attention was paid to parking issues in Commercial Street and at both schools. This was part of an ongoing programme that encompassed all Wards covered by the team.

PACT Priorities were ASB at the Handball Court, speeding at the junction of Bryncelyn with High Street and dog fouling.

The dates for Police Surgeries and PACT meetings were noted.

Questions/Comments:

ASB: Officers believed that the reduction in ASBs was related to improved engagement and the valuable link to CCBC Housing Policy.

Wheelie Bin thefts: Officers attend following a report of any theft to ensure that it had actually taken place and if confirmed a crime number was allocated to enable the resident to have the bin replaced.

Parking on Heol Fawr: Cllr. Davies was still concerned about vehicles regularly parking on the footpath along Heol Fawr and obstructing its use by pedestrians. Cllr. Morgan reported that is also happened in other locations in the village.

Parking adjacent to pedestrian crossing outside Nelson Fish Bar: Cllr. Gray was concerned about the safety of people crossing at this location when vehicles were persistently parking on the zig-zag lines delineating a no parking area. A site meeting would be arranged with CCBC Highways Officers to explore options relating to a number of issues identified around the village centre roundabout.

It was noted that public facing areas in some police stations were now open again. Nelson police station was open on a Sunday afternoon.

The Chairman thanked the officers for their attendance and report.

**1604. Minutes:**

* Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 11th December 2013 were *Received and Approved*

**1605. Matters arising from the Minutes:**

1591: The Clerk had received a telephone call from the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent’s Office following up the Community Council’s complaint and a telephone call from Sergeant Morgan explaining the reasons for recent non-attendance by officers.

1597: Cllr. Davies reported that the reference to a representative making a presentation on the go2mytown website would be to the CCBC JLC and not to individual councils.

1602: Cllr. Davies noted that the recent dissolution of the Nelson Village Partnership left a number of unanswered questions in relation to its assets and other matters, such as the community events it had established, since the status and remit of the proposed new organisation was not yet known. It was agreed that since these questions could not now be put to the Partnership, the Clerk should write to the CCBC Officer involved to clarify these matters. Members would contact the Clerk regarding matters which needed to be queried.

**1606. Report from the Chairman:**

The Chairman had attended the Christmas concert at Llancaeach Junior School, which was excellent.

She was considering the invitation to attend the Buckingham Palace Garden Party.

The Chairman felt that the Christmas Market had been a success, even though it had been necessary to hold the event indoors. Some members however, expressed a view that by holding it indoors the expected atmosphere had been lost. The income from the stallholders, which amounted to £60, had been donated to the school.

A full appraisal of the Market would be undertaken at the next Activities Sub-Committee meeting. She thanked the members for their teamwork in relation to the event.

She had not been able to attend the Community Carol service event at St John’s Church on Christmas Eve, at which she had agreed to read a lesson, due to illness.

**1607. Report from the Clerk:**

**a. PLANNING:**

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

No applications received

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

1. 13/0754/FULL Mr R Morgan Erect conservatory at Pengelli Farm, Llanfabon Road.

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

None received

1. **ACCOUNTS:**

**The following payments were approved:**

1. D Gray Cleaner Salary (December including arrears) £67.83
2. Llancaeach Junior School Donation re: use of school for Christmas Market £60.00
3. K Rees Repairs to flashing at 33 Commercial Street £320.00
4. K Rees Installation of sign at Institute £30.00
5. British Gas Electricity supply (Institute) £25.70
6. Bob’s Fruit & Veg. Supply and erection of Christmas trees £180.00
7. Makro Supplies for Santa event £145.69 DC
8. Cllr. G Mahoney Reimbursement for items re: Christmas Market £17.10
9. Makro Purchase of gift for R James re: Christmas Market £17.99 DC
10. Elsbury Plant Hire Supply of replacement Christmas figurine £252.00

**c. CORRESPONDENCE:**

**The following correspondence was received:**

1. Heol Fawr Allotments

 Acknowledgement and thanks for grant aid payment. *Noted*

1. The Phoenix Singers

 Acknowledgement and thanks for grant aid payment. *Noted*

1. CCBC

 Council Tax Base notification: Precept 2014/15

*Agenda item*

4. GAVO

 Voluntary Voice newsletter *Noted*

1. One Voice Wales

 Buckingham Palace Garden Parties

 *Passed to Chairman with nomination form for completion*

1. Friends of Llancaiach Fawr

Friends News newslatter *Noted*

1. CCBC (Education)

Consultation re: new secondary school for Islwyn West *Noted*

1. Stroke Association Wales

Request for financial assistance

 *The Chairman had made a donation to this*

 *Association at a recent charity concert*

1. Ombudsman

 Code of Conduct complaint: Cllr. L Lewis

 *Agenda item*

 *The response was copied to members in confidence*

1. Cllr. S Morgan (by email)

 Outcomes re: Prosiect Gwyrdd *Noted*

1. Elsbury Plant Hire

 Replacement figurine

 *The Clerk had authorised the replacement on behalf of council*

1. Wayne David MP

 E-Christmas card *Noted*

1. British Telecom

 Registration details for on-line account billing

 *The Clerk had registered for online billing, avert additional charges*

1. One Voice Wales

 Outline of training courses *Noted*

 *A full list of courses was available online*

1. WLGA/OVW

 Letter re: Local Council Partnerships *Noted*

1. LCAS

LCAS Bulletin *Noted*

1. Anouska Beaumont

Dissolution of Nelson Village Partnership

**1608. Community Council Precept 2014-2015:**

The Clerk’s Report to Council on its financial position was noted.

It was *Resolved* that the Community Council Precept would remain at its current level of £17.27 per Band D Equivalent Dwelling for the financial year 2014-2015.

**1609. CCBC Local Development Plan:**

Cllr. Morgan was seeking input from members from which he would compile a set of proposals to be submitted to the Borough Council. He asked members to provide feedback before the next full meeting.

A copy of the Draft LDP was circulating between members. *Agenda item for February meeting.*

**1610. go2mytown Website:**

It was noted that a presentation on this was to be made to the next CCBC JLC meeting. *Agenda item for February meeting.*

It was suggested that the Community Council could consider producing a guide to local businesses and voluntary organisations, clubs and societies. This would be considered by the Activities Sub-Committee.

**1611. Complaints to the Ombudsman against two members:**

Members were pleased to note that the Ombudsman had found both complaints to be unfounded. The members concerned were therefore fully exonerated with no case to answer.

**1612. Format of ‘Questions/Comments from members of the public present:**

Cllr. Morgan felt that the wording of this item on the Agenda might raise expectations that questions would be answered by the Council at the time of asking.

The Clerk commented that historically, if he or any member was able to answer a question on the night on a matter of fact or information, then this would be done. If a matter required consideration by council it would be considered (if agreed) as an agenda item at the following meeting.

It was agreed that the word ‘Consider’ in the agenda item should be replaced by the word ‘Receive’.

**1613. Nelson Boys and Girls Club progress:**

There was nothing further to report.

A copy of the Business Plan (in confidence) was circulating among members.

**1614. Reports from Nominated Members of External Organisations:**

Cllr. Baldwin reported that the Community Centre Management Committee was considering setting up a luncheon club at the Centre.

**1615 Questions/Comments from members of the public present:**

There were no members of the public present.

*Meeting Closed at 8.50 pm*

Min/Jan/2014