

County Borough of Caerphilly

Nelson Community Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 8th January 2015 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllr. K Jones (Chairman)
Cllr. P Baldwin
Cllr. A Blackman
Cllr. G Davies
Cllr. A Gray
Cllr. L Lewis MBE
Cllr. G Mahoney (from 7.10 pm)
Cllr. B Miles (from 7.15 pm)
Cllr. S Morgan

Mr A. Hoskins (Clerk)

In attendance: Sgt. Sarah Greening (Gwent Police)
PCSO Richard Williams (Gwent Police)

Apologies for Absence: None

Declarations of Interest:

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

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

Apologies for Absence:

There were no apologies for absence.

1731. Report from the Police representative:

Sgt. Greening tabled a written report, the content of which was noted.

PCSO Richard Williams would be meeting with the Head at Llafabon Infants to discuss the ongoing parking issues there.

Questions/Comments from members:

Cllr. Davies regarding mountain bikers at Llanfabon around Sunday lunchtime.

Cllr. Mahoney thanked officers for resolving the parking issues at the junction from Llywncelyn Terrace into Trafalgar Park.

The Chairman thanked the officers for their attendance and report.

1732. Minutes:

- Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 11th December 2014 were Received and Approved subject to the inclusion of a Declaration of Interest from Cllr. Jones

1733. Matters arising from the Minutes:

1720. Matters Arising: Cllr. Blackman explained that local members only receive the same information as the Clerk and all planning applications are listed on the CCBC website. Members who are not on the Planning Committee are not informed about matters coming before the committee.

1722. Clerk's Report (Accounts): Cllr. Morgan would arrange the agreed meeting with a local heating contractor.

1734. Report from the Chairman:

The Chairman thanked members for their active participation in the Christmas Event which had been more successful this year. Positive feedback was received from residents on the new Santa's Grotto arrangement. She had made a donation of £50 to the choir and had presented the gift voucher to Ron James which had been well received. Consideration should be given to the date for this event, as on this occasion it was the last shopping weekend before Christmas Day. Thought might also be given to additional advertising.

She had not been able to attend an event in the Nelson RFC to raise funds in support of an asbestos awareness charity in relation to a local member and resident who was now terminally ill. She had however, made a donation of £50 to the charity on behalf of the Community Council.

The Chain of Office was available to be engraved with the names of past Chairpersons. Consideration would be given on how to include dates for those members who had occupied the office on more than one occasion.

A book had recently been published which contained 100 letters relating to WW1 and included a letter submitted by a local resident. She proposed that the Community Council should purchase some copies of the book for the resident to sign, which would be deposited in the Nelson Library.

1735. Report from the Clerk:

a. PLANNING:

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

None received

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

1. 14/0614/ADV	AEW Architects	Erect 1 no. internally illuminated fascia text sign with non-illuminated white underline, 2 no. Internally illuminated fascia tile
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logo signs and 1 no. internally illuminated projecting sign, at Gwent Constabulary Nelson Police Station, Dynevor Terrace.

2. 14/0754/NCC Dylan Jones Retail Vary condition 8 of planning consent 14/0210/COU to reduce the maximum length of delivery vehicles and remove condition 9 at Gwent Constabulary Nelson Police Station, Dynevor Terrace.

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

None received

b. ACCOUNTS:

The following payments were approved:

1.	D Gray	Cleaner Salary (January)	£68.03
2.	British Gas	Electricity charges (quarter)	£52.97
3.	Ron James	Payment for support at Christmas Event	£60.00
4.	Paul Evans	Delivery of Christmas Newsletters	£105.00
5.	Argos	Gift Voucher re: R James	£100.00 DC
6.	Makro	Gifts for Christmas Event	£171.00 DC
7.	University of South Wales	Printing of Show Programme and Newsletter	£419.10

c. CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was received:

1. CCBC (Helen Morgan)
Dates of JNC meetings *Noted*
2. CCBC
Council Tax Base Notification for Precept 2015/16
Agenda item
3. Welsh Government
Section 137 Expenditure – Limit for 2015-16 *Noted*
4. Chris Maskell
Feedback on Nelson Public Toilets
Agenda item
5. Irene Miles
Feedback on Nelson Public Toilets
Agenda item

6. Mark S Williams (CCBC)
Reply to letter re: Nelson Public Toilets
Agenda item
7. Wales Government
Accounting Guidance for Councils - Budgeting
Agenda item
8. CCBC (Helen Morgan)
CCBC Budget Consultation
Agenda item
9. CCBC
Report to Cabinet re: Draft Savings Proposals for 2015/16
Agenda item
10. Anne Blackman
Copies of emails re: item deferred from previous meeting
Agenda item
11. Nelson Business
Expression of interest in renting Shop Premises at 35 Commercial Street
Agenda item (Confidential)
12. NALC/SLCC
2014-2016 National Salary Award
Agenda item (Confidential)

1736. Public Toilets at Nelson – Lease Agreement:

The Clerk had informed Mr Mark S Williams that a consultation exercise on whether the Community Council should take over responsibility for running the toilets was being undertaken.

An item was included in the Christmas Newsletter indicating the likely increase in Precept if the Community Council were to re-open the toilets and seeking feedback from residents. Feedback could be by email to the Clerk or by telephone to any of the Members.

The Clerk reported that he had received only two responses by email – one in favour of re-opening the toilets and the other suggesting use of existing toilets in other premises in Nelson. Cllr. Davies reported that she had been spoken to by a number of residents who expressed the view that they would not support such an increase in support of re-opening the toilets.

Overall, the exercise suggested that there was little support from the community for the Community Council to take over responsibility for and re-open the public toilets at Nelson.

The Clerk reported that he was still awaiting a reply from the Older People's Commissioner for Wales on the consultation process followed by the Borough Council.

It was Resolved that the Clerk should write to Mr Williams, indicating that the Community Council were not prepared to take over the premises on a lease basis, but that no action be taken regarding disposal or demolition until a response had been received from the Older People's Commissioner and Council had decided whether any further action could be taken.

Cllr. Morgan requested that the provision of a sign at the Bus Station indicating the availability of the toilet facility in the Library be an Agenda item at the next full meeting of Council.

1737. Determination of the Precept 2015-16:

The Clerk had prepared alternative budget proposals, with and without the inclusion of the public toilets should the Council have decided to take over responsibility for these.

In view of the decision under item 1736 not to take over responsibility for the toilets, it was Resolved that the Community Council Precept should remain unchanged for 2015-16.

1738. Governance and Accountability for Local Councils:

The Clerk drew member's attention to recent changes in the guidance. He believed that the current budgeting process was sufficient to comply with the requirements, although the Internal Audit process might need to be reviewed in the light of the new guidance. This could be considered at a future meeting.

1739. CCBC Consultation on Budgetary Savings 2015-16:

Members considered the consultation documents on proposed savings and were pleased that the process had been improved when compared to the process that was followed during the previous round of savings.

Members' main concern was with the proposal to reduce the highways reactive maintenance budget by 4%. In view of the number of existing serious defects in many roads throughout the Borough which were not currently being addressed in a timely manner, members felt that this important function needed to be maintained or enhanced rather than be cut back. The Clerk would respond.

1740. Reports from Nominated Members of External Organisations:

The Clerk reported that minutes of a recent meeting of the Community Centre Management Committee had been received but could not be considered at the meeting. He had however, copied an extract from those minutes which related to the issue of the grant and the damage. Cllr. Blackman confirmed that the damage had recently been repaired at the expense of the Borough Council, so the grant would now be paid.

Cllr. Gray reported that the Christmas performances at the Junior School had been of an excellent standard.

Cllr. Davies reported that a meeting of the Officers of Nelson Development Trust was being held immediately following the Community Council Meeting to sign the Lease Agreement on the premises. The Trust had two years in which to prepare plans and obtain funding for the project.

1741. Questions/Comments from members of the public present:

No members of the public were present.

Members of the public would have needed to be excluded from the meeting by resolution during the consideration of the following items due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed. A resolution was not required however, as no members of the public were present.

1742. Letting of Shop Premises at 35 Commercial Street:

The Clerk reported that he had received one expression of interest from a local business person who wished enter into a lease agreement on the property. Members were happy with the applicant and proposed use of the premises and asked the Clerk to take the matter forward. Members wished a reference to the security arrangements: that any security shutter should be fitted internally by the tenant, be included in the Lease Agreement. It was also noted that the existing security shutter should be removed by the owner.

1743. Appointment of New Clerk (update on progress):

The Clerk reported that he had received six applications for the position of 'Clerk and RFO to the Nelson Community Council'. It was Resolved that a meeting of the Appointments Sub-Committee be held on 13th January 2015 to consider the applications and to shortlist applicants for interview if required. Cllrs. Baldwin and Miles were nominated as reserve members should any member of the Sub-Committee be unavailable to attend.

1744. Annual Salary Increase for Local Council Clerks:

The Clerk reported that a recommendation had been made by the Joint National Council, for an increase in salary for Local Council Clerks for the period 1st January 2015 to 31st December 2016, together with a one-off non-consolidated payment due in December 2014, as per the Clerk's Report to Council.

It was Resolved that the recommendation of the JNC be adopted and the award be implemented.

Meeting Closed at 8.25 pm

Min/Jan/2015