

Nelson Community Council

Ordinary Meeting held on 13th April 2023 beginning at 7:00 pm at Nelson Institute

Present: Cllr. G Davies
Cllr. A Gray
Cllr. L Duffy- Chair
Mr. L John (Clerk)

Also Present: Police- H Widlake, V Williams

No declarations of interest were received.

1 To Receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr. B Miles, Cllr A John. Cllr. S Morgan, Cllr. E ap Llwyd Dafydd and Cllr. R Powell.

2 To Receive a Report from the Community Police Representative

Members noted receipt of the report. The following was noted:

- It was noted that there were 38 crimes in Nelson, the main issue appears to be vehicle crime. Some of the reported crimes were referred to.
- Residential burglaries have resulted in an arrest.
- No reports of anti-social behaviour had been received.
- The new Community Police officers were welcomed to the area.

It was confirmed that the NPT team were covering the following wards Ystrad Mynach, Hengoed, Maesycwmmmer and Nelson.

Safety packs for the elderly were discussed. Some of the contents could include warning notices and is based on trends in crime and funding. They will be delivered to victims rather than be available in police surgeries.

Members of the public asked if a rural officer could be available to help deter *lamping*- an act to encourage dog attacks on other animals that is becoming a regular occurrence. Members of the public also added that they had been lobbying to obtain more monitoring of illegal acts in rural areas and it would appear that nothing has been done. A narrative of the attempts to contact representatives and authorities to resolve these issues including dangerous speeds was provided.

Members commented that there used to be regular patrols to monitor illegal off-road bikers.

The police commented that they would need to seek advice from the Rural Crime team and agreed to provide feedback to them.

Members commented on the introduction of 20mph zones on main roads which is due in September.

Members agreed to make contact with H David MS to offer support for further investigation in relation to *lamping* and speed concerns raised by Mr G Richards. of Llanfabon. Members discussed the potential of seeking advice from the Active Travel following a recent meeting.

- 3 To Receive an update on agreed actions**
An update was received in relation the actions as per actions sheet. See Appendix A.
- 4 To Receive and approve minutes:**
a. Ordinary meeting on 16th March 2023
The minutes of the meeting were approved.
- Matters arising:**
9. The clerk agreed to ask the cleaner for the list of products in use for Cllr Jenkins.
- 5 To receive a report from the Chair**
There was no report to share.
- 6 To receive a report from the Clerk**
The Clerk provided a verbal report. The following was noted: -
a Details of correspondence available online [here](#)
b Finance available [here](#)
- The members resolved for the payments to be made in the period.
- c Members noted planning applications submitted during the period.
- d Reports
Members noted the report of the Clerk related to the Independent Remuneration Panel and that Members were able to opt out of payments.
- 7 To consider any actions following an update on Toilet Facilities**
There was no further update. It was noted that the lack of facilities has been noted at CCBC meetings.
- 8 To consider actions relating to a new defibrillator**
Members acknowledged that Phil Hill would be attending the next meeting to discuss the strategy.
- 9 To consider actions in relation to Nelson Institute:**
- a. Contact with CCBC re: exterior wall
An update had been provided within the Actions.
- b. Security and change of door locks
An update had been provided within the Actions.
- c. Lease

Members agreed to request information through the Freedom of Information Act for a chronology of ownership to include owner/tenant, purchase amount and date and the related tenancy agreements.

10 To receive any questions from members of the public/report by Members

Residents in attendance raised concerns about the following:

- Noise pollution

Residents shared incidents of noise pollution relating to the substation in Llanfabon. It is claimed that there have been changes during the last 40 years to the substation in terms of size, lighting and noise. It was suggested this will increase with the new proposed wind farm development. It was claimed that permitted planning development means that the National Grid can develop the site without permission and that has increased noise pollution noticeable especially at night.

- Drainage issues. A further history of challenges relating to an increase in water flow from infrastructure changes which is likely to increase with the development of the wind farm was shared. It is claimed that NRW have confirmed that drainage issues have been resolved but it appears that it has not.
- Concerns for wildlife. There are also concerns relating to wildlife and how they will be affected directly by turbines themselves in the proposed new windfarm development.
- The planning process for the proposed new windfarm development. Members discussed the land that it is proposed will be utilised by the wind farm. Residents raised concerns about the proposal and how permission has been granted as it would appear that land has already been purchased.
- Infrastructure to transport energy to the National Grid. Members raised concerns about how the electricity would be transported to the National Grid with new infrastructure not outlined in planning being needed potentially.
- Health concerns. Members asked about the impact of electromagnetism on health. It was noted that it had been monitored and suggested it was not a concern because it was comparable with the impact of a microwave. However, it was noted that the electromagnetism emitted by the substation is continuous and concerns remain.

The following was also noted:

- recent surveying activities have been questioned as those undertaking the activity were unable to explain why they were taking place.
- It is claimed that CCBC leaders have suggested that plans are already approved and Welsh Government appear uninterested in concerns. It was also suggested that landowners have been offered financial support to support planning applications.
- It was claimed that there may not be a return on investment on CCBC as currently suggested.
- Members discussed the processing of registering land and how the public can acquire the knowledge as the transfer of ownership is not transparent.

Residents asked for support from the Community Council.

Residents added that a petition has been acquired but there are concerns that members of the public are not aware of consultation processes and the implications of the site which includes the condenser and a rumoured battery park.

Members advised residents to demand H David's presence to understand the concern and raise questions at the Senedd. All parties discussed the need for greater publicity- attempts to raise the issue with the press were noted but there appears to be a lack of interest. It was suggested to make contact with ITV Wales who appear to have increased concerns about the environment.

Members resolved to host a Community meeting to discuss resident concerns and agree any actions. It was agreed for the Clerk to contact stakeholders and the school to agree date and venue.

Bryn Liaison Group

Members were reminded of contact from the Group to Cllr George about continuity of members, It was confirmed that he has responded and has agreed to maintain resident membership to the Group for subsequent meetings to ensure continuity.

CCBC Liaison

The following feedback was noted:

- A breakdown of the issued fines by Caerphilly Ward by civil parking were provided.
- Vacancies exist for Community wardens. Concerns about parking around schools was discussed.
- A discussion was held about funding for street lighting in a specific street in Caerphilly that was funded by Heddlu Gwent.
- Boundary Commission: Members were reminded of the end of the consultation period on 18th May 2023 which will reduce the number of County Councillors.

Signed.....
CHAIRMAN

Grant Aid
£200

Action	Resp.	Status	Note
Prepare report on Independent Remuneration report	LJ	Complete	On agenda for April meeting.

Forward correspondence sent re: planning application	LJ	Complete	A formal comment was made in objection using the planning portal https://planningonline.caerphilly.gov.uk/ but cannot find evidence. I will speak with the Planning team to understand process and back up with email for future comments.
Commission new locks for internal downstairs doors	LJ	Complete	Formal quote received; payment made. Awaiting date for works. Work completed.
Numbers to be included on Meeting minutes	LJ	Complete	
Support to maintain toilet facilities to be requested from Bute Energy	RP		
Invite Phil Hill of OVW to attend meeting of Council to discuss defibrillator strategy and training.	LJ	Complete	Phil has agreed to attend the May meeting.
Contact tenants of 33 and 37 Commercial St to inform them that legal advice may be sought regarding the tenancy and related liability of the building.	LJ	On hold	Awaiting agreement to proceed with legal action before actioning.
Contact CCBC Legal team to ask for history of ownership of Nelson Institute.	LJ	Complete	Mark James Estates Manager has provided the following advice: ownership information is as per Land Registry; advises we seek legal advice. Propose we request Freedom of Information and agree specifics of request at our meeting.
Contact CCBC regarding the potential flytipping behind the old police station	LJ	Complete	Completed online using https://eforms.caerphilly.gov.uk/forms/webCAPSITIP101.aspx Please encourage residents to report too.
Contact Cllr Nigel George to demand representation of Nelson Community Council on the Bryn Liaison Group	LJ	Ongoing	Cllr George has confirmed that the Terms of Reference is the responsibility of the Cabinet. I have asked him if he can consider amending them.
Review risk assessments in place at Nelson Institute	BJ		
Seek an update on dispute to remedy damp issue on side wall	LJ		Confirmation that CCBC adopted the land in 2012. Meeting is being arranged between Alun Ford and David Haines. DH to attend site Thursday 20th April and will update on works to be completed.
Seek views and demand from residents on defibrillator training	BM	Complete	