

## **Nelson Community Council**

Ordinary Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2025 beginning at 7:00pm at Nelson Institute

Present:

Cllr G Davies (Chair)  
Mr L John (Clerk)  
Cllr E ap Llwyd Dafydd  
Cllr S Morgan  
Cllr K Allen  
Cllr B Miles  
Cllr L Dufty

Also present:  
PCSO: L McKean; N Bateman

**1 To Receive apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr R Powell.

**2 To Receive a Report from the Community Police Representative**

Apologies were given for a report not being provided. Key staff absences were noted.

The following was also noted:

- There were 16 crimes reported in Nelson in January
- There were 6 reports of anti-social behaviour
- Police surgeries have been taking place with concerns feedback.

Members commented that the headteacher of Llancaeath Junior School reported a spate of poor behaviour by pupils outside of school and asked if the police could be present when they were spoken to. It was noted that all schools have a designated contact that schools should be aware of. PCSOs agreed to help organise.

Concerns with off-road bikes at Maes Mabon were mentioned by members. The police, present asked for the public to report it with descriptions or photos. It was confirmed that people can report anonymously through 101 or through Facebook especially if they live near to someone who owns the bikes.

A road traffic accident at Ashgrove Terrace was referenced where several cars were damaged. It is suspected that it was related to substance misuse.

Concerns about contractors leaving the site in Llanfabon driving too fast and not respecting the road. It was advised to invite S Coombes to the meeting that the Council are having with Welsh Power next week.

A recent accident near Ashgrove Terrace and the bus station was referred to. PCSOs present agreed to request an update for members.

An abandoned car was referenced but it is thought this has now been removed.

Members referred to fast-moving traffic in Llanfabon believed to be contractors. PCSOs noted that in similar contexts, the police have been involved in discussing concerns with companies and regular monitoring.

Members commented that white road lines have been added to Heol Fawr. The police agreed to seek an update about the project.

Members added that there is a proposal to remove Community Safety Wardens.

- 3 To consider questions from members of the public/reports from members**  
Cllr B Miles gave feedback on a recent informal consultation with the community relating to the recent Active Travel proposal. There has been agreement in principle to take the proposal to stage 2. However, the public seemed to be unaware that the money was ring-fenced and could only be spent in this area. An informal consultation revealed that many were still against it and suggesting the money should be spent elsewhere. Some are still not clear that the money available (Active Travel funding) cannot be spent on other projects.

A member noted that there are many positives to the project that will support the slowing down of traffic. It is suggested that objections relating to the project are linked to driver behaviour and cycle lanes can be used by pedestrians.

It was confirmed that CCBC fund the related formal consultations.

The Council resolved to support the proposal to move the consultation to stage 2.

- 4 To receive an update on Bute Energy**

Bute Energy were due to provide an update but were not present.

- 5 To receive an update relating to Nelson Institute.**

Members noted that contractors are due to commence investigative work at the building next week.

- 6 To Receive an update on agreed actions**

See *actions*.

Members noted that the defibrillator was now operational on Shingrig Road. The clerk agreed to confirm location is marked on the defibrillator.

A member referred to a lease for the Boys and Girls club that was signed by trustees which included some of the Community Councillors. Subsequent release papers were signed recently yet CCBC has made contact again about the lease which, it suggested, raises concerns about how leases managed are CCBC.

- 7 To Receive and approve minutes:**

Ordinary meeting 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025

The minutes of the meeting were approved as an accurate record.

Matters Arising:

- Ann Gray had contacted the Chair to relay her gratitude for recently received flowers. Members agreed to arrange an evening meal on a Friday, at the Hollybush Inn.
- Cenotaph paving: It is thought there are no current outstanding actions.
- Wern Park grant: Cllr Miles confirmed she had spoken with CCBC and it is progressing following delays relating to legal processes.

- Bryn Group. It was noted that planning was recently requested on 24/12/24. A member commented that the timing is difficult for residents and it was provided on the weekly planning sheet late. It was noted that it was passed with 3 abstentions which a member thought was disappointing.
- It was noted that children's sports clubs had received the selection boxes as agreed.
- Members were reminded that a vacancy still exists and the related process.

## **8 To receive a report from the Chair**

There was no further information to consider.

## **9 To receive a report from the Clerk**

The Clerk provided a verbal report. The following was noted: -

- Members noted details of correspondence available online [here](#)
- Finance available [here](#). Members resolved for the payments to be made in the period.

It was clarified that expenses for the sim card for Cllr Davies is purchased and claimed for, by Cllr Miles.

- Planning. These were considered.

A member suggested that the volume of applications and subsequent processes from the Bryn Group is confusing for the public.

## **10 To consider proposal relating to Nelson Library.**

- Meeting

Cllr Miles reported feedback from an informal meeting where discussion took place about an asset transfer. Some Councillors were present (Cllr Miles, Cllr Dufty, Cllr Allen, Cllr Ap Dafydd, Cllr S Morgan, Cllr A John) as well as members of the Management Committee of the Community Centre.

There was agreement in principle by the Community Centre trustees to support Councillors to request an asset transfer of the library should the decision be made to close it potentially through the establishment of a Community Interest Company.

It was proposed to request a joint expression of interest from the Chairs of Nelson Community Council and Nelson Community Centre. Cllr Miles suggested that CCBC were asking for interested parties to come forward. There is a concern that there is a need to move quickly.

It was noted that the strategy in relation to libraries had already been agreed in relation to the hubs.

Cllr G Davies claimed that she was not invited to the meeting.

Councillors were clear not to pre-empt the consultation and subsequent reports

to CCBC but suggested that if a decision is made to close the library, then it could close on a given date.

It was clarified that stakeholders agreed to hold a public meeting once a decision has made although Cllr Miles would prefer to hold one sooner.

- Motion

Cllr B Miles proposed that the Nelson Community Council agree, in principle, to work with the Community Centre Management Committee to manage the library should a decision be made by CCBC to close the library. The motion was seconded by Cllr Morgan.

Cllr Davies suggested that a decision to support should not be made until a decision on the library has been made by CCBC, and any work prior to this suggests that a decision on the library had been pre-empted, and contrived by the stakeholders involved.

Cllr Morgan intervened to suggest that it was necessary to now hold a vote.

Cllr Davies and Cllr John agreed that the main priority is to keep the library open.

Cllr John added that an alternative plan is required that can be activated quickly should a decision be made to close it.

Cllr Allen referred to the decision to not hold a public meeting on this matter because of the need to not appear contrived which does not necessarily conceal the fact that the plan is contrived.

Cllr Miles listed the activities that take place in the library which are at risk if the library were to close.

Cllr Morgan suggested that the Community Centre Management Committee appear willing to support the takeover of the library building in a similar way to Community Centre without the Nelson Community Council. The work of the Community Centre in supporting community activities whilst improving the facilities in a self-sufficient manner, was noted. It is thought that it has contributed significantly more for the community despite not having a precept like Nelson Community Council.

Cllr Davies countered that Nelson Community Council has contributed within its means questioned the work of Cllr Morgan.

The costs of the library as provided by CCBC were shared and discussed. The largest expense of the library is the librarian. It was suggested that it could cost £12,000 to run the building at current estimates.

Cllr Morgan added that non-domestic rates would not be payable by a community group and suggested that other charges may not be required in the same way.

Cllr Miles shared her experience from a recent visit to a similar building that is run by the community that is managed with annual events to fundraise and a rota of volunteers. It was described as a success story

The motion was passed. Record of votes:

<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>
Cllr Miles, Cllr Morgan, Cllr John, Cllr Dufty, Cllr ap Llwyd Dafydd	Cllr Davies, Cllr Allen

### **Any Other Business**

A member proposed that a Christmas tree be installed in the village. Members reflected on previous challenges to do this, and agreed to have an agenda item on a future Activities meeting.

## Appendix A

Meeting	Action	Resp.	Status	Note
9-Nov-23	Check how old notice board could be removed.	AG	Ongoing	GD to ask Co-op. 18/1 GD confirmed that it can be removed and the Coop manager offered to remove it. Members agreed to proceed. 22/2 Coop have agreed to remove but this has not been done. The clerk agreed to engage a handyman to undertake the work. 23/2 RP agreed to undertake work 14/3 It was confirmed that it has been inspected and will be removed. 11/4 Clerk to engage handyman to remove. 12/4 Visited with the Chair. It was suggested that the board is in very good condition and could be utilised as a secondary board to showcase Council activity. Clerk to consider replacement perspex. Some quotes have been received. AG to enquire about perspex. It was noted that quotes ranged from £60-£90. Members resolved to attempt cleaning of the perspex first. 16/1 Members resolved to purchase new perspex to replace current one. 13/2 The key has been obtained and measurements taken- perspex to be ordered.
14-Mar-24	Ask George at Caerphilly Taxi Association for an update in writing on current position and outstanding costs	RP	Ongoing	Requested, awaiting response from George. The clerk agreed to contact George for an update. George as responded to confirm that he will be in contact. It was noted that there is a Town and Community Council Liaison Committee meeting next week and an update will be requested. 14/6 Spoke with George. Dispute is ongoing. He will attend our meeting on 11th July so that we can make a decision on proceeding. 11/7 GE suffered major medical event last week, will be available to speak next week. Councillors noted that public toilets in Bargoed have recently been re-opened and how they fund it would be interested. It was noted that Bute Energy have agreed to include the facilities in the community benefit if the project starts. 15/8 Trying to make contact with George. 6/9 Still no contact from George. 9/9 George agreed to attend meeting on 12/9 GE attends meeting. See Minutes. 10/10 GE provided an update- a Community Interest Company has been established. A copy of the invoice has been received. It was confirmed that LGA 1972 allows for the Community Council to fund public toilets. Cllrs agreed to fund the invoice amount on the condition that it will be refunded should the dispute be resolved. 2/11 GE awaiting an update from EDF to release toilets to a different supplier. 8/12 GE apologised for the delays that EDF Energy are still creating a delay. It was agreed to advise GE to contact OFGEM

				<p>who had originally suggested to pay and resolve the issue later. 16/1 GE has had progress in resolving the invoice with EDF Energy and is hopeful of installing toilets shortly. 13/2 It was noted that GE reported stone and muck in the toilets when re-opening. The disabled toilet did not have the correct lock mechanism but it is hoped that is resolved now. It was noted that the toilets are to be closed when GE is not available (24/2 to 1/3). Members agreed to ask for volunteers to support, in principle. GD agreed to ask local businesses.</p>
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11-Apr-24	Ask for information about process to install defibrillator on Council land	LJ	Ongoing	<p>I have sought advice from Emma Sullivan, Community Council clerks and Phil Hill. Am awaiting a response. Chris, a colleague of Phil's is away on leave and has tried to make contact with me. The LA have made contact and are to provide a quote for siting a defibrillator. Quote provided of £653. I have asked for some advice of ongoing costs. Members noted a suggestion that it may be possible to site one outside of the junior school. Members discussed promoting the defibrillators in the village and where others could be sited. 4/7/24 Asked other clerks for advice on ongoing energy costs. LA confirmed that they pay energy costs. Members agreed to support the provision of a defibrillator at the Tylers Arms. The clerk agreed to ask CCBC if they could also site an access point near to the Tyler's Arms. Members confirmed the prices for installation The Council agreed to proceed with installation at Bwl Road. 15/8 Post has been installed. 20/8 CCBC have confirmed that there is no availability to connect to supply near Tylers Arms. 27/8 Contact with Jack's Appeal and with electricians for a quote to install. 4/9 Invoice received for defib and cabinet. 9/9 Contact with recommended welders fro bracket to attach to post- awaiting quote/invoice. 10/10 Cllrs agreed to pursue bracket following quote and to contact CCBC to see if there is anywhere near the Tylers' Arms to connect to CCBC supply. 31/10 CCBC confirm that there is no suitable place to connect to the supply in that part of Nelson without considerable expense. 14/11 The clerk agreed to contact G Evans. 29/11 Confirmed with Jack's Appeal the costs- £821 Defib; £575 cabinet. plus cost to install. Taylour's Electric have installed others. The pads need to be renewed every 2.5 years at a cost of £71; The batteries have a 4 year warranty but can last longer and cost £271. If the defib. is used Jack's Appeal will replace pads free of charge. There is minimum energy usage. Left message for G Evans. 16/1 CCBC no longer allow connect to supply; Welsh Power have agreed to fund Defib but some dispute on where it could be sited as Fairview House has been suggested; Cabinet to be installed 17/1. Clerk to ask Llanfabon Church if that is a potential site. 26/1 Email to Father Gareth; defib cannot be installed on the building. Awaiting feedback if there is interest to site away from building 13/2 GD to contact Tylers.</p>
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18-Apr-24	Seek quotes to provide new condition survey for building	LJ	Ongoing	Have contacted near;approx.20 suppliers as recommended by chartered body. Will chase and provide feedback. LA are also getting back to me to confirm their own schedule of surveying. Members resolved to proceed with survey given the evidence of request for quotes- FHT Building Surveyors, £2,100.00 plus VAT. It was confirmed that the survey will take place w/c 6th July . Clerk agreed to let tenants know that it will be undertaken. Clerk agreed to let Members know more information when known so they can be in attendance if required. 10/7 initial visit took place, will return shortly. Report will be shared soon and surveyor will attend meeting to share contents. 11/7 S Knott attended meeting. Report to follow. 5/9 S Knott to attend meeting. 3/10 Members agreed to request a quote from FHT Surveyors to carry out interim work. 9/11 response from FHT to consider. Lessee at 35 is happy to meet but would prefer a time straight after work. Natalie of Coalfield Regeneration Trust is available to meet and is hopeful to attend meeting on 14/11. CCBC have said they would consider their options if the proposal was made to surrender the building- have asked Cllr SM for guidance. 14/11 See Minutes for actions. 29/11 S Knott is awaiting more information relating to quotes. 9/12 S Knott provided quote. 14/12 Agreement of quote subject to confirmation that it includes investigative work at the front and rear of building. 15/12 S Knott confirmed it only agrees investigative work at rear of building, have left message to discuss it. 16/1 Members agreed to proceed with work. 23/1 Work to be initiated on 21/2. Update in minutes.
13-Jun-24	Research sound systems	AJ	Ongoing	
13-Jun-24	Ask Community Centre if minutes can be shared	LD	Ongoing	11/7 Last meeting was cancelled.
10-Oct-24	Ask Aldi and developers to meet to discuss development	LJ	Ongoing	18/10 Consultants to link with Aldi and get back to me.
14-Nov-24	Nelson chain	AG	Ongoing	AG to confirm names and years. LJ to seek quote from a trophy shop

12-Dec-24	Contact Welsh Power-number of issues inc. relay residents' concerns about preparatory work in Llanfabon.	LJ	Complete	Have left message. 14/1 EaD attended meeting on site. Await feedback. 16/1 Welsh Power have agreed to attend NCC meeting. The clerk to invite to next meeting. A container placed on field is partially blocking view on the road- it has since been turned slightly. They are also due to update residents on where the security cameras face. Old monuments have been located on the Llanfabon site- there is no watching brief. A member has contacted CADW for comment but they claim it does not affect the setting of the listed building. 17/1 Welsh Power have been invited to our meetings. 13/2 WP agreed to attend a meeting.
12-Dec-24	Request support to provide defibrillator/s specifically in Llanfabon	LJ	Ongoing	Have emailed National Grid, Bute Energy and Welsh Power. Welsh Power have agreed to fund a defibrillator. 13/2 Agreed to ask Welsh Power during meeting about siting defibrillator on land. Members agreed to invite Welsh Power to our next full meeting.
16-Jan-25	Chase CCBC regarding Nelson Institute response	SM/LJ	Ongoing	13/2 No response to date. It is understood there is a list of actions to be undertaken before the terms for a potential release could be shared.
16-Jan-25	Change bank mandate	LJ	New	Section 1- LJ; Section 2A- RP, Section 2B- AG, Section 3- GD, EaD 14/2 To complete with RP