

# Ogmore Valley Community Council

## Cyngor Cymuned Cwm Ogwr



### Full Council Meeting

Cyfarfod Llawn y Cyngor

**Tuesday 24 November 2020, 6.30 pm at Zoom**  
Dydd Mawrth 24 Tachwedd 2020, 6.30 pm yng Zoom

Minutes

In Attendance

Cllr Lee-Anne Hill (Chair)  
Cllr Dhanisha Patel (Vice-Chair)  
Cllr Andrew Davies  
Cllr Janet Harris  
Cllr Angela Jones  
Cllr Margaret Lloyd  
Cllr Andrew McKay  
Cllr Ryan Mock  
Cllr Richard Shakeshaft  
Cllr Hywel Williams

Scott Allin – Clerk

James Rowlands – PCSO (for items up to 338)  
Suryiah Evans – Ncompass (for items up to 341)

#### **337 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies notified are as follows:-

- Cllr Geunor Evans who sends best wishes for Christmas to everyone
- Laura Williams – Temporary RFO and Assistant Clerk

David Williams and Gareth Prescott were also not present. The Clerk would check their non-attendance.

### **338 PCSO James Rowlands**

The PCSO provided an update of the recent crime figures for November 2020 to this meeting. In summary:-

Ogmore Vale – 38 (45 in October; 68 in September) reported incidents of crime

Nantymoel – 44 (46; 56) reported incidents of crime

Blackmill – 24 (26; 41) reported incidents of crime

The following specific issues were discussed:-

- Antisocial behaviour at a derelict building near the fire station in Ogmore Vale. PCSO reported that the building would be demolished by BCBC once resources were available.
- Speeding – PCSO noted that speed surveys had been held in Lewistown which would act as a deterrent although it was also noted that speeding drivers were being warned by other drivers of the location of the cameras. Cllr Shakeshaft noted the need for some speed monitoring in North Road especially later at night. PCSO would monitor this.
- Parking at Blackmill – It was noted that parking issues had been reported again at Blackmill. PCSO would monitor.
- Fly-tipping in Evanstown – It was noted that fly-tipping was BCBC responsibility and that there was it could be reported through the BCBC website. Cllr Williams asked Cllr Mock to report any incidence to him and he would also follow up.

### **339 Public Address (an opportunity for members of the public to bring any issues to the attention of the council) TEN MINUTES SESSION ONLY**

No members of the public were present.

### **340 Ogmore Community Council 5 Year Strategy and SMART Action Plan**

It was noted that the Working Group met on 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> November 2020 to discuss the preliminary findings of the survey. Gareth Kiddie will complete the report by the end of December 2020 and present it to the January 2021 Council meeting. The preliminary results had identified six main themes:-

- 1 – Improving community facilities
- 2 – Supporting neighbourhood initiatives
- 3 – Growing community food projects
- 4 – Increasing education, training and job support opportunities
- 5 – Celebrating local heritage, culture and the environment
- 6 – Facilitating energy efficiency and home maintenance

These themes would be developed and eventually become the strategic objectives of the Council with each theme being supported by underlying projects e.g. Washeries would come under 'celebrating local heritage and the environment'. There is also a need for a Communications Strategy via Website, Facebook, Community Noticeboards, and public meetings/face to face.

**341 Ogmore Washeries Options Appraisal**  
**(a) Update from Suryiah Evans**  
**(b) NLHF update**

Suryiah Evans provided an overview of the survey work completed to date and noted that the final report would be completed by the end of December 2020. It was agreed that a separate meeting of the Council would be arranged for 8 December 2020 to undertake a SWOT analysis of the options.

**Resolved – Clerk to organise a meeting on the Washeries for 8 December 2020**

Mark Blakemore's team had been clearing scrub and opening up the site to allow a more biodiverse habitat to develop. This has also opened up the site for better access, reduction of antisocial behaviour and to make people feel safer.

BCBC are now looking to tender for a contractor to undertake work to:

- path rationalisation across the whole site;
- the creation of a distinct wildlife area;
- gateway signage.

Cllr Patel volunteered to review the tender together with BCBC officers

There has also been a recent survey undertaken by Liam Olds which noted 177 species of invertebrate were identified including 10 considered to be of 'conservation interest', meaning they are either locally, nationally, or globally rare or scarce.

A National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) grant of £4,700 had been awarded to the Council to fund a 'Conservation and Well-being circular route identifying historical features and local fauna. T

**342 Declarations of Interest in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct**  
**& Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992**

Cllr Ryan Mock noted he was a Committee member of Evanstown Community Centre. Other declarations were recorded on the Council's website. Cllr McKay noted that he had a personal interest in a planning application and would remove himself if there were any discussions on the issue.

## **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL**

### **343 Approval of Minutes and Recommendations (a) Full Council Meeting minutes 27 October 2020**

**Approved**

### **(b) Personnel Committee minutes 3 November 2020**

**Approved**

### **344 Matters Arising from previous meeting**

No items were raised that were not already on the agenda.

### **345 Annual Accounts – 2019/20**

It was noted that the 2019/20 annual accounts had been available for inspection by any interested person during the period 2-27 November 2020 but that no-one had contacted the Clerk to access the records. The Annual Accounts and supporting documents would then be forwarded to the external auditors to complete the audit on 30 November 2020.

### **346 Budget and Precept for 2021/22**

There was discussion about whether an increase in the precept should be requested since there were a number of new projects planned for 2021/22. However, it was agreed that as there would be some underspend from 2020/21 as a result of Covid delaying projects it would be more appropriate to keep the precept request at the 2020/21 level.

It was also noted that since the Budget was drafted, BCBC had formally requested the precept for 2021/22. The net equivalent tax base for the Ogmere Valley was reported as 2,576.49 which, by using the same cost per month as 2020/21 of £3, would give a total precept of £92,753 against the £93,796 assumed. The shortfall of £1,043 would be taken from the Community Plan funds for 2021/22.

**Resolved – To approve the adjusted 2021/22 budget and precept request.**

### **347 Finances (a) formal approval of payments November 2020**

**Approved**

**(b) formal approval of the bank reconciliation**

**Approved**

**(c) expenditure against the budget end of November 2020**

**Approved**

**(d) potential Uses of Community Fund**

It was noted that:-

- there were a number of planned projects for the next year, such as the Ogmere Vale Washeries improvements;
- the agreement to hold the precept at its 2020/21; and
- a new Community Council 5-year strategic plan would be completed in early 2021.

It would therefore be prudent to carry forward the unspent Community Fund to 2021/22 so that it could be prioritised against the Council's strategic aims.

**(e) councillor's allowances**

It was noted that the advice from One Voice Wales (OVW) was that the payment of £150 per councillor should be taxable and paid through PAYE. This had also been checked with HMRC.

OVW are lobbying HMRC to make the allowance non-taxable on the basis that it covers the extra costs of being a councillor but until HMRC agrees this the Community Council would follow the current rules.

Councillors were reminded that they could claim reasonable expenses for travel etc which was not taxable.

**Resolved – Councillor allowances would be paid through PAYE.**

**348 To consider Correspondence (no decisions to be made on this item)**

No correspondence

**349 To consider applications for donations and grants  
(a) Update on Blackmill BRAVOs/TRA Grant request**

Blackmill BRAVOs had received confirmation from their insurers that the use of hand powered tools is already included as standard in their Public and Employers liability insurance. The only additional training that would be a requirement is if groups used chainsaws when the appropriate training records must be kept and Protective equipment worn. However, the tools being used by BRAVOs are battery operated hedge trimmer and strimmer. The grant request could therefore be confirmed.

## **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AND UPDATE**

### **350 Remembrance bench**

The Council has received a request for a Memorial Bench in Evanstown at the top of Coronation Road to commemorate the former chairperson of Evanstown Little Fingers Kidz club which has raised the funding. BCBC have also been approached to get their approval.

It was agreed that the Council fully supports this request on the assumption that BCBC provide its approval.

### **351 Blackmill railings on corner of junction and signage**

The Clerk has been liaising with BCBC and provided a google map of the hand rail which will be attached to the wall which would mean no issues with traffic visibility.

### **352 Bridgend District Ramblers Association**

The Clerk had contacted Bridgend and District Ramblers Footpath Improvement Project. At the moment because of all the restrictions, their project is on the "back burner". Cllr McKay suggested a project in Glynogwr opening up an old 'right of way' that had become overgrown would be worth exploring when this project starts again. Cllr McKay would provide the Clerk with details.

This item will be removed from the next agenda.

### **353 Advisory Group proposals on Pant-y-Wal Wind Farm Funding (a) Update on current year**

It was noted that the Council's Advisory Committee had met twice to review the applications. The total applications currently exceed the K£100 limit but there is a meeting in BCBC on 7 December 2020 which will provide some further clarity on one of the bids. The Clerk will liaise with the Windfarm following the BCBC meeting.

### **(b) Previous grant to Ogmore Men's Shed.**

An email had been received from Chery Dowd requesting that the £10,535 funding provided to the Men's Shed earlier this year could be moved to a newly formed organisation undertaking similar activities. The funds would still be used for supplies and equipment including cooking equipment, rent, models, laptop, printers, cameras etc. While being supportive in principle, the Council requested some further information to understand which organisation would the funding now be controlled by, how this new organisation was constituted including who are the trustees, what are its aims, where is it located etc?

**Resolved – To request further information through the completion of the 2020 Windfarm application form.**

### **354 Cycle Track Signage**

This is with BCBC to action. Signage to ensure users are respectful of each other.

### **355 To consider matters in relation to Blackmill Youth & Community Centre (a) Improvements**

The contractor would be undertaking the work on the new windows, doors etc in early 2021.

### **(b) Covid Risk Assessment/Permission to re-open**

There has been recently published revised government guidance which allows 15 people to meet indoors with reasonable measures including social distancing, signage, hand sanitation, face coverings, contact details, no cash, cleaning, and that all external hires should risk assess prior to use.

**Resolved – To approve re-opening BYCC with appropriate protective measures but to restrict hires until experience has indicated the Centre can be operated safely.**

### **(c) Responsibilities of ownership and management**

A draft lease between OVCC and BYCC has been shared with the Management Committee and will be discussed further. Two members of the Council will be appointed to the BYCC Management Committee at the AGM.

**356 Recruitment and staffing**  
**(a) Appointment of RFO**

The Personnel Committee will meet on 1 December 2020 to review the applications from the second round of job adverts.

**357 Christmas Lights**

It was noted that the solar powered trees were operating from 24 November between 5pm and 10pm. Contractors were checking the Christmas lights in Glyn Ogwr.

Cllr Mock raised a number of issues regarding the decorations in Evanstown including:-

- some Christmas trees decorating the Community Centre had not been removed since last year;
- to fully understand the contractors' advice on why a tree could not be sited outside the Community Centre due to the overhead cables;
- there were some solar powered trees missing.

It was agreed that the Clerk would check the ownership of the tree as well as revisiting the contractors' advice for future years.

**Resolved – The Clerk would arrange a visit to Evanstown with Cllr Mock to review Christmas decorations for 2021**

**358 Keep Wales Tidy Packages**

Update to be deferred until next Council meeting.

**359 TiksPak Dog bag dispenser scheme**

Update to be deferred until next Council meeting.

**360 Provision of Community flowers**

Update to be deferred until next Council meeting.

**361 Remembrance – feedback**

It was noted that there had been a complaint from a local veteran that some of the poppies had been hung the wrong way on lampposts in Blackmill and Ogmor Vale. The Clerk had apologised on behalf of the Council and would ensure the poppies were correct next year.

**362 Evanstown Community Centre**

This item can now be removed from next agenda

**363 Replacement of Locks on Memorial Shelter**

This item can now be removed from next agenda

**364 To receive a Report from the Clerk  
(a) Use of Zoom – Annex H**

It was agreed that the Council would not upgrade Zoom but in future would use the Chair’s Zoom account to organise future meetings.

**365 To receive Reports from Members of the Council**

Update to be deferred until next Council meeting.

**366 To consider any Planning Applications and issues**

It was noted by Cllr Patel that there was an increase in house building in areas such as Sunnyside which needed to be monitored for its impact on the community.

- 367 To confirm the date, time and venue of forthcoming meetings:**
- AGM – 15 December 2020, 6.30pm via Zoom
  - Full Council Meeting Tuesday 26 January 2021, 6.30 pm via Zoom

It was agreed that given the ongoing government advice to work from home where possible, the AGM and January 2021 Council meeting would continue to be held via Zoom.

The meeting ended at 9.20pm.

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**Signature of the Chairperson, Cllr Lee-Anne Hill**

**Date**

*Scott Allin*  
Clerk of the Council