

# Ogmore Valley Community Council Cyngor Cymuned Cwm Ogwr



## Full Council Meeting

Cyfarfod Llawn y Cyngor

**Tuesday 26 January 2021, 6.30 pm at Zoom**  
Dydd Mawrth 26 Ionawr 2021, 6.30 pm yng Zoom

### Minutes

#### In Attendance

**Cllr Dhanisha Patel (Chair)**  
**Cllr Andrew Davies**  
**Cllr Gareth Prescott**  
**Cllr Margaret Lloyd**  
**Cllr Andrew McKay**  
**Cllr Richard Shakeshaft**

**Scott Allin – Clerk**  
**Laura Williams – RFO and Assistant Clerk**

**Sara Green – JustSolutions (for items up to 379)**

#### **376 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies notified are as follows:-

- Cllr Lee-Anne Hill - unwell
- Cllr Geunor Evans – resigned
- Cllr Janet Harris – family commitments
- Cllr Angela Jones – work commitments
- Cllr Ryan Mock – work commitments
- Cllr Hywel Williams – other commitments

In the absence of the Chair due to ill health, the Vice Chair would Chair the meeting. David Williams was not present. The Clerk had confirmed that David Williams would be able to attend and would check the reasons for his continued non-attendance.

It was disappointing that Cllr Geunor Evans had resigned after many years but the Council thanked her for her long and effective service on behalf of the Evanstown community. It was noted that Cllr Evans felt now was the right time to move on and allow others to continue to work for Evanstown. The Clerk would ring Cllr Evans to thank her for her service over her years as a Community Councillor and to check whether her inability to access virtual meetings was a factor in her decision.

**Resolved – The Chair accepted the resignation of Cllr Geunor Evans.**

### **377 PCSO James Rowland**

Apologies were received from the PCSO but he had prepared a report for the Council which was discussed. It was disappointing to note the increase in incidents in both Ogmores Vale and Nantymoel since the equivalent period last year although it was good to see the incidents fall in Blackmill. It was noted that there was a large gap between the types of incidents and the total which it appears was due to Missing Persons.

**Resolved – The Clerk to ask the PCSO:-**

- **Why the increase in incidents year on year in Nantymoel and Ogmores Vale?**
- **Whether it is possible to break-down the Missing Person figure any further as it is a large balancing figure in the incidents?**

### **378 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.

### **379 Strategy for Developing ‘The Planka’ – Presentation from Sara Green from JustSolutions**

The aims of the project were to:-

- ensure that sporting and community activities are protected for future generations and in a sustainable manner;
- address the issues of cost alongside improving and maintaining the assets;
- enable different collaborative models to operate assets under new fit for purpose governance arrangements.

It was proposed that a Working and Advisory Group of Councillors would be formed that had the following Terms of Reference:-

- to support the work of the consultants in developing a future strategy for consultation;
- to provide an informed and objective source of local knowledge, information, contacts and advice;
- to sense-check information gathered and analysed by the consultants and advise of any gaps and wrong interpretations;
- to keep local colleagues and others informed of progress and support the presentation of findings.

Following questions from Councillors, it was confirmed that JustSolutions had undertaken similar projects previously throughout the UK and that a series of options with costs and benefits would be prepared for Councillors to decide the preferred way forward.

**Resolved – The Council’s Policy and Strategy Group would take forward the activities of the Working and Advisory Group in the first instance with other stakeholders being added as required.**

**380 Ogmore Community Council 5 Year Strategy and SMART Action Plan – update of project**

This project will now be discussed at the February 2021 Council meeting

**381 Ogmore Washeries Options Appraisal**

An update from Mark Blackmore at BCBC had been sent out via email to all Councillors. This noted that at the start of February 2021 there would further scrub clearance to open up the path above the community route and reclaim the area beneath the stone wall toward the woodland to create an area for picnics etc.

A landscape architect is making a plan for whole site including a wildlife area and when this is finalised it will be shared with the community via the Facebook page. Covid recovery funding has been obtained and this will be used to replace the bridge or depending on time further work on paths and benches. The Clerk would check to see whether the plans for the site could be shared with the community via Facebook

The Suryiah Evans report will now be discussed at the February 2021 Council meeting.

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

Declarations were updated at the Council AGM and recorded on the Council's website. Cllr Patel queried whether her declaration of interest under Coleg

Cymunedol Y Dderwen was as an LEA Representative and a Community Councillor. The Clerk would check.

Cllr Lloyd noted that she would like to include as a declaration that she was working with Ogmores Priide.

## **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR APPROVAL**

### **383 Approval of Minutes and Recommendations (a) AGM minutes 15 December 2020**

**Approved**

**(b) Full Council 15 December 2020**

**Approved**

**(c) Personnel Committee minutes 17 December 2020**

**Approved**

### **384 Matters Arising from previous meeting**

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

### **385 Wales Audit Office**

It was noted that a confidential draft had recently been received from the Wales Audit Office. The contents of the draft report would be discussed for accuracy and an agreed response at the next Finance & General Committee.

It was also noted that the timetable for a response to the report is 10 February 2021 which was very short and it was agreed an extension to this timetable should be requested.

**Resolved – Clerk to organise a Finance & General Committee and request an extension to the deadline.**

### **386 Finances**

**(a) formal approval of payments January 2021**

**Approved**

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

**Approved**

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

**Approved**

**387 To consider Correspondence**

No correspondence that requires consideration that is not otherwise on the agenda.

**388 To consider applications for donations and grants**

It was noted that there was a general increase in 'round robin' email requests for donations from various charities. The Council was conscious that all these charities were undertaking extremely valuable work but that the Council had limited resources and would focus its support for those charities that could evidence specific activities of direct benefit to the Ogmore Valley residents.

**(a) Wales Air Ambulance**

It was noted that the request was for a contribution towards the costs of keeping the four Wales Air Ambulance helicopters flying.

**Resolved – To donate £50 to the Wales Air Ambulance.**

**(b) Cancer Information and Support Services**

It was noted that this charity provides information, counselling and emotional support to cancer patients, their carers, families and friends.

**Resolved – To donate £50 to the Cancer Information and Support Service**

**389 Storage Facilities**

The Council is currently spending £103 per month to hire a container to store equipment required for the Keep Wales Tidy project at the Planka. The Council is also approached by community groups on an ad hoc basis regarding storage facilities.

It was noted that the cost of buying a storage container is around £2,000 and there are also issues around the location and security of a container as well as who will be the keyholder.

**Resolved - To review the costs and benefits of buying rather than renting storage facilities for the Council.**

### **390 Christmas Lights**

A paper outlining feedback to date from Councillors and the Community on the 2020 Christmas lights was discussed to inform preparations for 2021.

It was noted that in some areas the feedback had been positive while in other areas there was still further improvements to be made.

Suggestions for improvements included:-

- 'Best Christmas Lights Street' award;
- leaflet houses in the immediate vicinity of trees being installed so that contractor access issues can be eased;
- bring forward the installation date;
- Councillors inspection after installation so issues are reported and fixed early.

It was noted that further feedback would be welcomed.

**Resolved – All Councillors to provide further written feedback.**

### **391 Advisory Group proposals on Pant-y-Wal Wind Farm Funding**

#### **(a) Update on current year**

The proposed applications were currently with Pennant Walters for approval.

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

It was noted that last year Pennant Walters supported a grant of £10,535 to the Men's Shed. However, since then 3 of the 4 trustees of the Men's Shed resigned while sadly the 4th trustee passed away which meant that the activities which the grant was provided for have not taken place. A new set of trustees had taken over the Men's Shed and have rebranded it a 'Mixture of Men' but it has the same aims as the Men's Shed and its Charity Commission registration remains the same.

**Resolved – To request the trustees of the Men's Shed to rewrite the application ensuring that:**

- **the governance complying with Charity Commission guidance;**
- **clarity of use of grant between Men's Shed, Hen's Shed and Welfare Hall.**

#### **(c) Evanstown**

It was noted that Evanstown receives a separate grant of K£60 per annum from Pennant Walters. The Community Council does not get involved in recommending which applications to Evanstown organisations should be supported.

Over the last few years, Pennant Walters has provided support funding for a number of schemes in Evanstown including the Abercerdin Primary School, Gilfach Goch RFC and Gilfach Goch bowling club (both located in Evanstown) and Little Fingers Kidz Club.

It was also noted that funds had been allocated to the Community Centre as well as the Community Association but the schemes had stalled. The Clerk would liaise with Cllrs Ryan Mock and Hywel Williams regarding how to restart these schemes.

## **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AND UPDATE**

### **392 Silver Band Open Top Bus Tour**

Despite the poor weather, the feedback on the first weekend was very positive with a good turnout in many places. The second weekend tour was cancelled due to the increased Covid restrictions.

It was noted that it would be a nice idea, if possible, to do another tour in the Summer.

It was also agreed that the contribution to the Ogmores Vale Silver Band would remain at £210 despite the second tour being cancelled due to Covid restrictions.

**Resolved – To make this an annual Christmas event depending on resources.**

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

Waiting for response from BCBC.

### **394 Cycle Track Signage**

Waiting for response from BCBC.

### **395 To consider matters in relation to Blackmill Youth & Community Centre**

It was noted that the Centre remain closed while the current Covid restrictions are around.

The Management Committee has been notified that Councillors Hywel Williams and Andy McKay will represent to Community Council. The discussions on a lease have started.

Construction is underway on the physical improvements to the building which are planned to be completed by the Spring.

**396 Recruitment and staffing**  
**(a) Appointment of RFO/Assistant Clerk**

The temporary RFO/Assistant Clerk, Laura Williams, has been permanently appointed following an open recruitment process. The Personnel Committee will finalise the contract and bring to Full Council after ensuring the contract complies with One Voice Wales standard contracts.

**397 Keep Wales Tidy Packages**

The final parts of this project would be completed in the Spring. This item can be removed from the Agenda.

**398 TiksPak Dog bag dispenser scheme**

Waiting for response from BCBC. This item can be removed from the Agenda.

**399 Provision of Community flowers**

Positive comments had been received regarding the community flowers. It was also noted that the Fire Station will be planting its own daffodils and keeping the area in front tidy. This item can be removed from the Agenda.

**400 Closure of Road in Blackmill**

It was advised that someone had put up a home-made sign blocking an access road in Glynogwr making it inaccessible to emergency vehicles. This will be reported to BCBC.

**401 Removal of Stye in Pantyrawel**

It was advised that a stye had been removed in Pantyrawel which made a right of way inaccessible. This would be followed up with BCBC by the Clerk.

**402 Movement of Bus Shelter**

BCBC has been approached regarding siting a new bus shelter at the crossing near the derelict garage.

**403 To receive a Report from the Clerk**  
**(a) Councillor Vacancies**

Following, the resignation of Cllr Geunor Evans there are now only 12 Councillors.

The advice from One Voice Wales is the process is as follows:-

- declare the vacancies at a Council meeting;
- report the vacancies to the Elections Officer at BCBC who will advertise the posts and see if there is a requirement for a byelection;
- if no-one comes forward then there can be co-option;
- OVCC then advertises the post on its website to see who is available.

**Resolved – Clerk to liaise with BCBC on progressing.**

**(b) Mountain View, Lewistown – clean up**

Cllr McKay noted the need for more volunteer groups to undertake a general clean-up of the valley. There were also various hot spots where activity in terms of litter picking and enforcement should be concentrated.

It was noted that the 'Love It Don't Trash It' aims at educating young people about the topic as well as get them to encourage older generations not to drop litter/fly tip.

Cllr Margaret Lloyd noted that she would ask Ogmores Priide whether they could go to Mountain View to help.

**(c) Recognition of Community Service**

Ann James a prominent member of the community who spent significant time clearing up litter passed away recently and a number of residents have asked whether the Community Council could provide a posthumous recognition for her community service.

Councillors were saddened by Ann James's passing and thought a recognition was something that it should explore by identifying the criteria by which someone would be recognised.

**Resolved – Clerk to review the Recognition schemes of other Councils where they exist and bring back a paper.**

**(d) Glynogwr Church – late proposal for a Community Facility Development**

The Clerk apologised that this was a late proposal but it had only been received the previous evening. Glynogwr Church has made an application for funding to install a community facility including kitchen and toilets, as at present there is no such facility in Glynogwr. fridge etc. Other partners include Reach, BCBC as well as BAVO. There is no financial impact on the Council but the application would benefit from the Council being included as a partner in order to identify activities at other community centres such as Blackmill aren't duplicated while also providing another link to understand community priorities.

Cllr McKay fully supported the proposal which, if successful, would provide an excellent community facility which would complement others around the valley.

**Resolved – That the Community Council fully supported the proposal.**

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

Cllr Lloyd noted that the issue of whether Covid vaccinations would be supplied at the Halo Centre had been raised with her. It was noted that the Halo Centre could be unable to open at the moment due to safety concerns over the boiler.

**405 To consider any Planning Applications and issues  
(a) Upper Ogmore Valley Windfarm**

It was noted that following a meeting attended by the Vice Chair and Clerk of the Council with RES (the windfarm provider) that if the application was approved RES was looking to provide in-kind support rather than a specific Community Fund. It was noted the Council would prefer a Community Fund similar to the Pennant Walters fund but that if a fund was not possible the Council would identify a list of projects that could benefit from in-kind help.

It was noted that the link would be included on the Council's website again.

**Resolved – The Clerk to report the Council's preference for a Community Support Fund to the Planning Inspector.**

**406 To confirm the date, time and venue of forthcoming meetings:  
- Full Council Meeting Tuesday 23 February 2021, 6.30 pm via Zoom.**

**Approved**

The meeting closed at 9.45pm

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**Signature of the Chairperson, Cllr Dhanisha Patel**

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**Date**

*Scott Allin*

**Clerk of the Council**