

Ogmore Valley Community Council Cyngor Cymuned Cwm Ogwr



Full Council Meeting

Cyfarfod Llawn y Cyngor

**Tuesday 9 January 2024, 6.30 pm at Evanstown Pavillion, Gilfach
Goch Bowls Club**

Dydd Mawrth 9 Ionawr 2024, 6:30PM ar Evanstown Pavillion, Clwb
Bowlio Gilfach Goch

MINUTES

In Attendance

Cllr David Newman (Chair)

Cllr Craig Batchelor Howells (Vice Chair)

Cllr David Pound

Cllr Sheryl Wasley

Cllr Hywel Williams

Niamh Gwilym – Clerk

110 Apologies for Absence

There were the following apologies from Councillors:-

Cllr Geoff Sheriff – scheduling conflict

Cllr Angela Jones – work commitments

Cllr Dhanisha Patel – apologies given at last meeting.

Cllr Margaret Jones – personal commitments

RFO, Scott Allin – preagreed no requirement to attend

Evanstown Warden, Gareth Owens – personal commitments

Ogmore Valley Warden, Ashleigh Davies – family illness

Resolved: Members unanimously accepted the apologies for absence.

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

Members of the public consisted of; Marie, a volunteer for Keep Nantymoel Tidy and Keep Wales Tidy; Ruth, a resident of Nantymoel; Sarah a representative of the Mynydd Y Gaer Action Group; Richard Morgan, the Chair of Mynydd Y Gaer Action Group; Sheryl, a representative of Mynydd Y Gaer Action Group and Darren James from item 111, representing Ogmores Vale RFC.

Ruth raised concerns of the Christmas lights from Blackmill to Nantymoel. Ruth also raised concerns about location of lights regarding issues with contractors. Clerk ratified concerns and apologised for the misinformation that the Clerk gave, the Clerk clarified that the issues were the cost of the lights and that it was agreed by the OVCC that half would be put up this year and half next year. Ruth raised further concerns over the distribution of lights and where the solar lights had gone. Cllr Pound replied to Ruth, explaining the background and history of the lights. Cllr Pound confirmed that the distribution of the problem is a concern which will be discussed later in the agenda.

Richard representing Mynydd Y Gaer action group (MYGAG) introduced himself as acting against the wind turbines at Mynydd Y Gaer. He explained that the group was set up recently and raised some questions.

Richard asked if questions been sent to Cenin from OVCC and have OVCC had a response. If so, could MYGAG share those answers. Richard also raised concerns of damage caused by Cenin to the environment already and asked for advice as to how we approach the issue.

Cllr Pound asked for the MYGAG send a formal notice to the OVCC. Chairman confirmed.

MYGAG also asked in principle if they are able to engage professional help and if OVCC could support financially.

Cllr Pound suggested that MYGAG may have alternative funding available and questioned appropriateness of funding from OVCC.

Resolved: The Mynydd Y Gaer Action Group will send questions to OVCC and the Clerk will enquire about questions sent to Cenin.

Member of the public, Darren James, joined at item 111.

Darren James, representing Ogmores Vale RFC raised concerns over the changing facilities at Ogmores field as it has been almost a year since the planning started for improved facilities. The group is currently having to use Aberfields. Games get cancelled quite often and members are leaving to go to other clubs because of poor facilities.

Cllr Pound enquired about the location of the field.

Cllr Williams asked for clarification of the main concern.

Darren clarified his concern with the progress of planning.

Resolved: Cllr Williams to enquire about the update on the planning application number.

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

No declarations were declared.

113 Warden's report

Clerk provided Warden's report.

114 Resignation of Cllr Thorne

Cllr Thorne's resignation notice was read by the Clerk.

"Unfortunately, I am writing to notify you of my intention to resign from my position of councillor for the Blackmill and Glynogwr ward. This is due to me not having the capacity to manage my commitments at the current time. I would like to thank you and Scott for your support but also to convey my thanks to the council members who have made me feel very welcome during my time on the council."

The Clerk confirmed co-option process is underway as the notice was published 9/1/24.

Resolved: members unanimously accepted resignation.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR APPROVAL (approx. 7pm)

**115 Approval of Minutes and Recommendations:
(a) Draft Full Council 28 November 2023 - Annex B**

Resolved to Approve the Minutes of the 28th November 2023 Full Council meeting.

116 Matters Arising from previous meetings and agenda:

Council Meeting (Annex B)

- ***Historic Payments for Keep Nantymoel Tidy (Annex B item 100)***

The Clerk has confirmed that Scott has discussed the issue with Sally-Ann from KNT regarding reimbursement of the £75 for flowers. She says she left receipts with

Charlotte before she left in March 2023 but there is no evidence of that, so Scott has asked her to provide some evidence for audit purposes.

Alternatively, it could be asked if the Council would be happy to re-imburse without evidence on the basis that the bulbs were purchased but the receipts have gone missing - we would need a Council minute on this but could still be criticised by Audit Wales.

A member of the public representing KNT suggested Sally-Ann may have already sent the evidence to Scott the morning of the meeting.

Resolved: Clerk to enquire about status.

- ***Flying Start Provisions (Annex B item 102)***

The Clerk provided an update that they have contacted relevant points of interest and waiting for responses.

- ***Appointment of Warden (Annex B item 102)***

Gareth Owens has started as the Evanstown Warden.

- ***Personnel Committee Meeting Date (Annex B item 102)***

Provisional date set for 23rd Jan at 6:30PM.

Resolved: Clerk to send date to all members of the Personnel Committee.

- ***Bus Shelter Crash (Annex B item 102)***

Clerk has met with PCSO and called 111 to discuss the matter, there is no evidence the damage came from a RTC thus no avenue to go through insurance for purchasing costs.

Resolved: Clerk to enquire about cost of new bus shelter and discuss in next meeting.

- ***Aberfields Benches (Annex B item 104 (a))***

There were concerns raised during the last meeting about the location of the new benches in Aberfields as a result from potential planning matters. It was asked if OVCC could reserve the money.

BCBC's Green Space Enhancement Manager has confirmed we are unable to reserve money and come back to it at a later date because of time limitations. It was also confirmed that street furniture design and planning will occur in consultation with relevant departments such as the CAT Team (Guy Smith), Parks and Bereavement, Climate Change and Countryside and OVCC. Design for green space enhancements will be pulled together as part of a detailed options appraisal and options would be shared with OVCC and other relevant parties prior to any formal works taking place.

Cllr Wasley raised concerns regarding funding for benches in Evanstown that is linked to Ogmores Valley Priide.

Cllr Pound confirmed Ogmores Valley Priide completed some benches throughout the Valley towards the end of the year and suggested the money is still in the budget, but the group are waiting for the more appropriate weather to take action.

Cllr Wasley suggested that Gareth liaises with Ogmores Valley Priide.

Resolved: to wait for design plans and for the Evanstown Warden to liaise with Ogmores Valley Priide for new benches in Evanstown.

- ***Remembrance Bench for OVPS (Annex B item 104 (b))***

Cllr David Pound confirmed he has met with Ogmores Valley Priide volunteers Phil Lewis and Tony Hoyle who have agreed to assist RFO and Cllr Pound in fitting the bench.

Resolved: Cllr Pound, RFO and volunteers from Ogmores Valley Priide to install bench when the weather is appropriate.

- ***CAT Subcommittee (Annex B item 106)***

The Clerk confirmed they were to write to all Cllrs in the New Year as per the resolution minuted. The Clerk confirmed they are seeking further clarification as to observations regarding subcommittees, for individual subcommittees or one subcommittee for all discussions.

Cllr Pound reiterated and clarified the need for CAT subcommittee and suggested that the OVCC should be more proactive.

Public question asked what a CAT is. Cllr Pound clarified.

Public question asked difference between BCBC and OVCC. Cllr Pound, Cllr Williams and Cllr Wasley clarified.

Cllr Williams proposed that in the initial stages there should be one subcommittee for all CAT projects. Chairman Newman moved.

Member of Public asked if public could attend a sub-committee for Mynydd Y Gaer.

Clerk suggested that it isn't available for members of public to attend.

Cllr Pound referenced Standing Order 18 and clarified as it would be an Advisory committee, members of the public are allowed to sit on the advisory board as the OVCC will make the decisions.

General discussion took place specifying the public's involvement is encouraged.

Member of public suggested they litter pick in the Memorial area in Nantymoel but has raised concerns that the gardens need tidying and the condition of the feature is growing mouldy. They also raised that the bin gets filled with water and has decreased its' structural integrity. It was asked for a different, more efficient bin. Cllr Pound confirmed the provision of bins is under BCBC jurisdiction.

Cllrs advised to contact Ashleigh whenever problems arise.

Cllr Williams queried who put the bin there and if it's on BCBC's round.

Resolved: An advisory committee will be established to discuss the business related to the CAT projects. The Clerk to check if the memorial site is on BCBC litter pickers / bin collection round.

- ***Bowls Club Letter (Annex B item 107)***

It was decided in the previous meeting that the Clerk would draft a letter to the Bowls Club. Concerns have been raised privately as to some responses to the draft letter, which changed the nature of the lettered to extend to the whole valley.

It was suggested that amendments to resolutions, assuming the minutes are approved, must be discussed during a Full Council Meeting.

Cllr Pound felt the letter was too focused on the bowls club and excluded the wider valley.

Cllr Pound, Chairman Newman and Cllr Wasley suggested the whole valley should be included, but Cllr Pound highlighted the work done by the Bowls Club.

Resolved: The Clerk to re-draft the letter focusing the narrative on the wider valley whilst highlighting the specific work the Bowls Club have taken.

- ***Nantymoel Play Area (Annex B item 107)***

BCBC have confirmed that the Playground Equipment is still out as a live Tender, so BCBC are unable to provide a progress on the upgrades to the playgrounds until the Tender is awarded, at present this is due to be 6th February 2024.

Cllr Wasley raised the issue of the playground on Abercerdin road.

Cllr Pound asked if it was appropriate for Cllr Williams to make enquiries into the Abercerdin road playground. Cllr Williams confirmed BCBC's commitment to reevaluate all playgrounds in Bridgend County Borough. Cllr Williams confirmed it should be inspected once a week.

Cllr Wasley raised concerns that it is a health and safety risk, and she has been in frequent consultation with BCBC updating them on its' safety challenges. Cllr Williams confirmed that it should get assessed for safety. Cllr Wasley claimed that it does pose a health and safety hazard and has not been rectified.

Cllr Pound suggested Cllr Williams raise this within his area in his capacity as BCBC Cllr.

Resolved: Cllr Williams to check the status of Abercerdin Road's health and safety with BCBC.

117 Christmas Light Review

The Clerk noted that the Nantymoel, Ogmores Vale and Blackmill Warden and the Clerk put up solar lights in Glynllan. There was a limited supply of working solar lights (1) and it was noted that the Clerk received a request from Cllr Hywel Williams for additional lighting.

Cllr Batchelor Howells and Cllr Wasley noted the volume of positive reviews that came from the Christmas lights in Evanstown.

Cllr Pound provided the budget information for Christmas lighting (costing £26,400). Cllr Pound clarified that the bulk of the money went towards the fittings of the lights, but going forward there is scope to add to the budget next year.

Member of the public from Glynogwr raised concerns over lack of Christmas lights in Glynogwr.

Cllr Wasley confirmed some contextual and built environment issues that could have caused the lack of lights in Glynogwr.

Cllr Pound proposed to move that Glynogwr is included in amongst the distribution amongst the lighting, Chairman Newman seconded.

Resolved: To discuss further at the end of January meeting when there is a larger attendance of Cllrs and to ensure that Glynogwr is discussed in reference to location of Christmas lights moving forward.

118 Co-option of new Councillors

The Clerk has published a co-option notice for Cllr Kevin Thorne's ward and the process is underway,

Member of the Public interested in co-opting and asked for further info.

Cllr Pound, Cllr Wasley, Chairman Newman and Cllr Williams provided information on the process.

The Clerk confirmed how many positions were vacant within the OVCC.

Resolved: The Clerk to enquire regarding status of co-option and exchange details with the appropriate member of public.

119 OVCC Container

The Clerk raised concerns regarding the current organisation of the items inside the OVCC Container, shared with other organisations, which pose a health and safety hazard. Items are not always stored safely and there is no lighting inside. Concerns have been raised by the Warden who also found mouldy dog treats inside.

The Clerk asked about the Ogmores Valley Priide container as a reference point.

Cllr Pound explained history of Ogmores Valley Priide container.

Cllr Williams enquired into who uses the container bar OVCC, the Clerk confirmed Aberfields Park Run though unsure if anyone else.

Member of Public explained that there was a caretaker for the container in Aberfields.

Cllr Wasley has raised that there is a container in Evanstown that Gareth can use and has enquired about.

Cllr Williams raised concerns over contractual agreement and risk assessment and that there should be one keyholder.

Resolved: The Clerk to find out who else uses the container, who owns the container and details of contractual agreements and risk assessments.

120 To consider applications for donations and grants:

Cancer Information and Support Services are unable to provide further information about direct impact or services provided to the Ogmores Valley due to GDPR.

Cllr Pound provided background to the application.

Cllr Pound suggested making limited payments, but also clarified that OVCC have limited funds.

Cllr Williams suggested that whilst we all have been touched by cancer, we may need to redirect support to within community boundaries.

Cllr Williams proposed to decline the request, Cllr Pound and Cllr Wasley moved.

Resolved: The Clerk to contact Cancer Information and Support Services and decline application.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AND UPDATE (approx 7.45pm)

121 To receive a Report from the Clerk/Cllrs

- Aberfields CAT – Oral update

Cllr Pound provided background information, but confirmed no further update was available and emphasised the importance of an advisory subcommittee.

Chairman Newman questioned the drainage problem and who's jurisdiction that is under, Cllr Pound confirmed there were multiple issues with elements of the CAT project.

Cllr Pound suggested to progress with the advisory subcommittee and to set targets moving forward.

Resolved: to discuss during advisory committee.

- Evanstown CAT – Oral update

The Clerk met with BAVO who are issuing their own points of interest. The Clerk has exchanged communication with Community Centre Trustees to set up a meeting. Date TBC. The Clerk also to meet with Guy Smith as per BAVO's recommendation, date TBC.

Resolved: Clerk to suggest a meeting with Alison and Cllr Wasley.

- Ogmore Vale CATs – Oral update

Former Basketball Court:

Clerk confirmed that 3 quotations have been received and we've received some guidance from Guy Smith and Ryan Jones regarding the cost implications of extending the surface area. He's also advised to enhance what we already have and look at phase 2 approach from the middle of 2024 to address the concrete hardstanding area without extending the area.

Cllr Pound raised concerns of the practical layout of the basketball court and the hardstanding. Cllr Pound suggested that the playing area should be rotated to use up the hardstanding which is currently being unused.

Member of the public asked about the cost of a 4G pitch. Chairman Newman and Cllr Pound confirmed what the plans are.

Cllr Pound provided background into the status of the CAT.

Cllr Pound raised concerns regarding communication of the CATs and reiterated OVCC's status as the drivers of the project.

Cllr Pound suggested a meeting with Ryan and Guy.

Resolved: Clerk will set up meeting between Cllr Pound, Ryan and Guy.

Former Park Avenue Nursery School Site

The OVCC's application for the Community Feasibility Fund has been approved.

Our project will now be further developed in partnership with the Bridgend Resilient Communities Team.

Dan Locke has managed to secure a quotation from his contact, the quote covers much of the first phased and it's asked that we set up a meeting between Rachel Morton from Reach, Ryan Jones and Dan Locke to walk around the Bryngarw orchids to discuss a specification currently being finalised by Ryan.

Potential meeting dates are:

- Mon 15/1 All
- Tue 16/1 PM (until 2.30pm)
- Thu 18/1 PM
- Fri 19/1 All

Cllr Pound provided background information for members of public benefits.

Resolved: The Clerk will write to all Cllrs providing dates of meetings.

- Windfarm – Oral update

Cllr Pound provided background around common land windfarm application on the Llangeinor mountain. Cllr Pound reiterated concerns regarding the application and lack of awareness within the Ogmore Valley but it appears that it does not concern the residents in Ogmore Valley as it will have more effect in the Blaengarw Valley.

- Mynydd Y Gaer Wind – Cenin – Oral update

Cllr Pound provided background information, noting concerns of; a visual impact, noise, biodiversity damage, risk of endangered species/fauna/flora/funga/ interference with hydrology, damage to communities/impact. Cllr Pound thus asked if the OVCC want to create an advisory committee to look at these aspects so the Council can be advised whether or not to make representations and engage with the MYGAG.

Chairman Newman highlighted the concerns throughout the Valley, agreed by Vice-Chair Batchelor Howells.

Vice-Chair Batchelor Howells agreed to start a subcommittee.

Cllr Pound suggested to agree in principle to create an advisory subcommittee and we should draft Terms of Reference by the next meeting for the advisory subcommittee and clarified nature of advisory committee.

Cllr Williams raised concerns that the development is already in progress and admitted that he may be speaking from a prejudicial perspective but suggested that the OVCC needs to have an open mind and sit objectively due to the benefits the OVCC has received from the current windfarm. Cllr Williams clarified that he has no aversion to an advisory subcommittee but stressed the importance of OVCC objectivity.

Cllr Pound agreed and suggested that it is OVCC's role to represent the community and act in consultation to control the flow of factual information of the windfarms.

Cllr Williams agreed and highlighted the need for impartiality by providing a balanced view and the benefits of keeping an open mind.

Cllr Pound raised concerns that Cenin did not disclose any financial advantages to the community during the OVCC meeting they attended in October, despite being asked.

Cllr Williams suggested he may have to leave the meeting as he has a contrary view on the subject unless we are at the end of the report.

Chairman Newman clarified that the sub-committee is purely factual. Chairman Newman clarified that Cllr Williams did not have to leave the meeting as we are agreeing on the matter of format.

Resolved: refer back to the Full Council to consider, adopt, advise and create a Terms of Reference for an Advisory Subcommittee.

- Defibrillator application – Oral update

The Clerk has contacted Nantymoel RFC regarding an application for a free defibrillator to be attached to their outside wall. This is to confirm duties and responsibilities of defibrillator maintenance.

- Interactive Self-Guided Tours Meeting – Oral update

There is a virtual meeting on 25th January 2024 10:30AM to 12:00PM to learn more about the potential for digital Heritage Trails. The Clerk provided a background and that the wardens may be interested.

Resolved: Clerk to resend link to Cllrs.

122 To receive Reports from Members of the Council:

Cllr Wasley raised concerns regarding anti-social behaviour in Evanstown as a resident was persistently setting off fireworks. The Clerk has met with a PSCO who has advised to report the matter to South Wales Police.

Resolved: the Clerk will report behaviour to South Wales Police.

Cllr Lloyd has passed on a report that she has nominated Aberfields Park Run for the Mayors Award.

Vice-Chair Batchelor Howells asked for more information regarding the Mayors Awards as he highlighted many members of the community who should be recognised.

Resolved: the Clerk to send information to all Cllrs about the Mayors Awards.

Cllr Lloyd has suggested that OVCC send condolences to Mr. Clive Davies' family.

Cllr Williams agreed, explaining that Mr. Davies was the previous BCBC Mayor and OVCC member.

Chairman Newman agreed.

Resolved: the Clerk will send condolences.

123 To consider any Planning Applications and issues:

None to be considered.

124 To confirm the date, time and venue of forthcoming meetings:

- Full Council Tuesday 30th January 2024, 6:30 pm, location TBC

Confirmed the date of 30th January 2024 as Full Council Meeting to be online.

The Clerk is considering moving the format of virtual meetings to Microsoft teams instead of Zoom.

Members unanimously agreed to test the new system.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm

Signature of the Chairperson, Cllr David Newman

Date: 31.1.24

Niamh Gwilym – Clerk of the Council niamhgwilym4@gmail.com