

Ogmore Valley Community Council

Cyngor Cymuned Cwm Ogwr



Full Council Meeting

Cyfarfod Llawn y Cyngor

Tuesday 26 September 2023, 6.30 pm via zoom

Dydd Mawrth 26 Medi 2023, 6.30 pm via zoom

MINUTES

In Attendance

Cllr David Newman (Chair)

Cllr Craig Batchelor Howells (Vice Chair)

Cllr David Pound

Cllr Geoff Sherriff

Cllr Dhanisha Patel

Cllr Margaret Lloyd

Cllr Sheryl Wasley

Cllr Angela Jones

Cllr Kevin Thorne

Cllr Hywel Williams

Scott Allin – Clerk

Ashleigh Davies – Warden (item 66)

63 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies from Councillors

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

Deanna Lewis from OV Priide attended the meeting for agenda item 75.

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

Cllr David Pound noted that he was a volunteer for OV Priide (agenda item 75) and had been involved in advising the Community Drop and Shop CIV (agenda item 77). Cllr Margaret Lloyd is also a volunteer for OV Priide (agenda item 75).

66 Warden's report

It was noted that:-

- Evanstown planters have been weeded and soil turned over again but the Council may need to hire contractors to replace soil. However, a meeting has been arranged with the Warden, Cllr Wasley and a local contractor to discuss options;
- the Giant Who Never Slept was sold out and had great feedback.

It was agreed to request Tanio to set up another Halloween and Christmas sessions at the Washeries at a cost of around £200 each. It was also noted that Cllr Batchelor Howells was speaking to Tanio regarding an event in Evanstown.

It was agreed that the Warden would prepare a note of activities between November and March 24 for review by the Council and suggestions for other work.

It was noted that the Warden would take the lead on liaising with Councillors on putting up Remembrance Poppies.

Resolved – To engage Tanio in a Halloween and Christmas event at the Washeries at a cost of around £200 each.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR APPROVAL

**67 Approval of Minutes and Recommendations
(a) Draft Full Council 25 July 2023**

Resolved to Approve the Minutes of the 25 July 2023 Full Council meeting.

(b) Draft Personnel Committee – 19 September 2023

Resolved to Approve the Minutes of the 19 September 2023 Personnel Committee meeting.

68 Matters Arising from previous meetings:-

Council Meeting

- PCSO – Neighbourhood and Rural Watch

It was noted the PCSO will get signs placed at the Washeries as soon as possible and the latest crime figures will be sent to Councillors when received.

- Evanstown Buses and Bus Shelters

It was noted that BCBC are checking the locations and will arrange for replacement bus stop flags to be installed as soon as possible.

The advice on the bus shelter is still outstanding as BCBC work in preparation for the implementation of the 20mph scheme has taken priority. It was noted that BCBC should now be able to respond on this as the 20mph implementation was complete

Cllr Wasley and the Clerk have chased up Stagecoach for a reply on the request for services to Evanstown. Cllr Batchelor Howells noted that he had met with local MPs and SMs and raised the issue of poor bus services but had yet to receive any replies although he knew that work was ongoing.

It was noted that the situation appears to be worsening and Councillors are receiving letters from local residents who are unable to get to College or work through lack of bus services.

The Clerk would draft a letter to the MS and MP including residents' letters and asking what obligations Stagecoach has in providing services to local communities.

Resolved – Clerk to draft a letter to the MP and MS requesting an update on bus services.

It was noted that a public meeting could be held but before that happened, the Council would need to establish contacts with people who could take actions.

It was noted that First Cymru were attending a 'Catch the Bus*' event in the Halo on 30 September 2023 and that a similar event could be held with Stagecoach in Evanstown.

**Note this has since been cancelled.*

- Benches

It was noted that the Memorial Bench outside Ogmores Vale school has been ordered and it has been agreed that it can be stored at the Halo when delivered.

OV Priide has undertaken bench repairs and to date they had spent the following in the wards:-

Nantymoel ward - £659.94

Ogmores Vale ward - £156.62

Blackmill/Lewistown ward - £106.18

OV Priide has fully refurbished 28 benches and replaced some slats in others and the community feedback has been very positive. A further invoice for around £800 will be forwarded in October 2023 but as the weather is turning further repairs will wait until Spring 2024.

It was asked whether OV Priide would be interested in undertaking work in Evanstown. The Clerk will check with OV Priide.

- ***Abercerdin School Hub and Childcare***

It was noted that the Hub had been delayed due to extra building work related to safety that was unforeseen as well as poor Summer weather that had delayed progress.

It was noted that there were reports of children moving from Abercerdin School which Cllr Williams will check with the Head teacher.

- ***Access to Pavilion, Evanstown***

It was agreed that the Clerk should approach BCBC regarding being 'key holders' for the Pavilion in Evanstown.

Resolved – Clerk to liaise with BCBC regarding making Community Councillors key holders.

- ***Bins in Aberfields***

It was noted that:-

- BCBC had 6 members of staff in the Cleaner Streets Dept staff who cover the Ogmores Valley CC area plus other areas such as Garw and Bryncethin. Bins are emptied on streets (not parks) 3 times per week. Litter issues should be reported to Cleanupthecounty@bridgend.gov.uk
- OV Priide clear bins on cycle path and leave rubbish on streets for BCBC to collect.
- Parks Department deal with Planka and Welfare Park in Evanstown.

It was agreed that in future requests from the community for bins would be reviewed against the bin collection processes currently in place and the Council would liaise with BCBC and OV Priide.

It was agreed that the Clerk would request BCBC to provide larger bins as the smaller bins filled up very early despite bins being emptied every 3 days.

Resolved - Clerk to contact BCBC regarding replacing bins with larger versions.

- *Evanstown Playscheme*

It was noted that numbers had steadily increased to 12 by the final session.

Personnel Committee

- *Evanstown and Glynogwr Warden*

It was noted that the advert was out with a closing date of 10 October 2023.

- *Clerk Appointment*

It was noted that the interview process had occurred and that a final offer subject to references would be made as soon as possible after this meeting. A confidential note of the discussion was held on file.

69 Finances – 2023/24

(a) formal approval of payments August and September 23

It was noted that there were two further payments received since the papers were circulated:-

SWWS - £432 for hosting and support for website.

Expenses Margaret Lloyd - £32.10 for spring bulbs for Ogmogre Vale

Resolved to approve the Schedule of Payments as attached as appendix 2.

(b) formal approval of the bank reconciliation August 23

Resolved – To approve the bank reconciliation for August 2023.

(c) expenditure against the budget end of August 23

Resolved – To approve the expenditure versus budget report to end of August 2023.

(d) Financial Reserves Policy

It was noted that the cash reserves totalled £182,790 as at 31 March 2023 and of these £127,270 were earmarked while a further £55,520 were general reserves.

Resolved – To approve the Reserves Policy.

70 Christmas Lights

It was noted that Cllr Wasley and Cllr Batchelor-Howells would agree with the Clerk the exact locations for trees in Abercerdin School and at the entrance to Evanstown.

It was noted that there was a lot of feedback from the community that the solar powered lights were ineffective and it was agreed that despite the high initial installation cost at around £588 per garland, 60 garlands should be purchased this year which would give around 15 per ward. The Council would follow the pattern of the solar powered trees by putting up one garland for every two solar powered trees.

It was noted that after the initial garland installation cost, the prices of garlands would reduce to around £90 each.

It was noted that the ownership of the old solar powered trees as well as the new garlands needed to be established.

Resolved – To purchase 60 garlands at a maximum price of £588 each to total £35,280 and to spread this cost over three years if possible.

71 Defibrillators Update

It was noted that the Clerk met Bernadatte Mills in Nantymoel and established that she looked after most of the defibrillators in the Ogmere Valley while the others are looked after by South Wales Fire & Rescue and Alwen Care Home.

It was noted that responsibility for defibrillators in the OV RFC, Aberfields Changing Rooms and the Church in Glynogwr was still to be established. Councillors would provide the Clerk with any further information regarding these defibrillators.

72 Draft Newsletter

The draft Newsletter was discussed and it was agreed that the feedback on the bench improvements undertaken by OV Priide should be strengthened. It was agreed that this Newsletter would be quarterly and mainly electronic but some copies could be laminated and put in noticeboards.

Resolved – To approve the Newsletter with the above changes.

73 Raw Performance

It was noted the price for outdoor fitness sessions was based on a 24-week programme. Following discussion, it was agreed that further information should be collected regarding how this fitted in with other activities held by Halo and Parkrun to assess whether there is a demand for such activities from the local community.

Resolved – To collect more information on the demand for the sessions following discussion with Halo and other interested parties.

74 Ogmores Valley Awards

It was agreed that a separate meeting of Council to look at Ogmores Valley Awards would be arranged due to time constraints.

75 OV Priide

It was noted that OV Priide received a grant from the Wind Farm Fund to purchase a storage container but did not have a plot of land on which to site the container. BCBC has a suitable plot of land which it is prepared to make available to OVCC with a lease between BCBC and OVCC and then OV Priide will rent the container from OVCC for a nominal £0.01p per annum on the understanding that OVP could use the container for storage as originally intended.

There are two documents for OVCC to agree.

- The Tenancy at Will which enables OV Priide to proceed with the purchase of the container in the knowledge that they have access to the site subject to an acceptable lease that suits all parties and meets all requirements.
- Lease – all fees to be paid by OVP and will be sublet by OVCC to OVP

There were some suggested changes such as typos, putting in sub tenant where appropriate and removing alienation clause which the Clerk would agree with BCBC.

Resolved – To approve the Tenancy at Will and Lease between OVCC and BCBC.

76 Benches

This was covered under agenda item 68 above.

77 To consider applications for donations and grants - Ogmores Valley Priide – £222 request for strimmer course

It was noted that OV Priide had cash balances and it was requested that the Clerk ask further questions about why these balances were not being used to fund the strimmer course.

- Community Drop & Shop CIC – request for support

Cllr Pound did not vote as he had declared an interest and advised the group on setting up the CIC.

It was noted that a group of Ogmores Valley residents had recently agreed to set up a community interest company (CIC). Premises had been secured in Ogwy Street, Nantymoel, subject to completion of a formal lease agreement and the purpose of the CIC is to benefit individuals, families and communities who are resident, or located, primarily within, or adjacent to the Ogmores Valley by sourcing unwanted goods, by way of free donations, so that those goods may be re-sold.

Concern was raised by two councillors that a formal request form for a donation had not been completed and that the Council did not follow its donation request policy and request further information together with a form but the majority of councillors believed that this was an important local project that the Council, as an exception, should support immediately and that a grant of 50% of the setup costs of £630 should be approved.

Resolved – To approve a grant of £315 to help the CIC with its set up costs

- Berne Mills - £200 request for pads and batteries for defibrillators

Resolved – To approve £200 for pads and batteries for defibrillators

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AND UPDATE

**78 To receive a Report from the Clerk
- Aberfields CAT**

Previous discussions at Council had indicated a 2 stage process:-

- Stage 1 - OVCC taking over the maintenance of the grass and possibly the pavilion with a potential cost of £20k per year.
- Stage 2 - BCBC moving ahead with the 3G pitch as per the Labour manifesto commitment.

However, following meetings with FAW and BCBC, it was agreed that a more appropriate way forward is to bring the 2 stages back together as it will make the project more attractive for FAW and outside funder support. BCBC now would take the lead on this project with support from OVCC.

- Evanstown CC CAT

It was noted that the Community Council is waiting for the current trustees to provide some financial information which the trustees have requested from BCBC.

- Ogmore Vale CATs

OVCC is seeking a CAT for the:

- Former basketball court at Park Avenue, Ogmore Vale (currently damaged beyond repair).
- & the former nursery site at Park Avenue, Ogmore Vale (neglected space).

OVCC could re-develop the asset in consultation with local residents to benefit of the wider community following initial discussions which focused on acquiring funds to design, build and sustain a Multi-use Games Area (MUGA) on the footprint of the derelict basketball courts and memorial garden on the site of the former nursery. The project requires additional support to develop drawings for more community consultation and a bid has been made to BCBC. A full business plan will be brought back to Council

- Windfarm

It was noted that there are over £200k of applications for £100k of funds and that a separate Council meeting will be organised to have a first trawl through the applications.

- Volunteer Groups

It was noted that a meeting of BCBC and the three voluntary groups (Priide, BRAVOS and KNT) had been held by OVCC with a view to sharing information and equipment as well as making connections.

79 To receive Reports from Members of the Council

It was noted that the Cllr Batchellor Howells was meeting with the Purple Sunflower project and with a view to providing its activities in Evanstown.

Future of Dinam Close – to be carried forward

80 To consider any Planning Applications and issues

There were no significant planning applications.

81 To confirm the date, time and venue of forthcoming meetings: - Full Council Tuesday 31 October 2023, 6.30 pm via zoom or face to face.

Confirmed the date of 31 October 2023 as Full Council Meeting to be at BYCC.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

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Signature of the Chairperson, Cllr David Newman

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Date

Scott Allin – Clerk of the Council Scottallin495@gmail.com

Appendix

Business	Description	Ref	Amount
SWWS - DD	Hosting website and maintenance	DD	£21.60
NEST – Employer’s summary (ES)	Pensions for staff -employers contribution	DD	£188.43
Scott Allin - ES	Clerk Salary	10923	£1,372.51
Ashleigh Davies - ES	Warden Salary	30923	£670.82
HMRC - ES	Tax September	615PB00145091	£650.83
Scott Allin – claim form	Clerk Expenses	EXP09	£82.19
Ashleigh Davies – claim form	Warden expenses	EXP10	£61.85
SLCC	Membership	MEM245683-1	£187.00
SWWS	Domain renewal	INV-19489	£36.00
Ogmore Valley Priide	Bench refurbishment	EXP11	£922.64
Tanio	Scavenger Hunt/Forest Arts – 15 August 2023	INV-0155	£200.00
AJG	Insurance policy renewal	39219456	£1,545.99
Halo Life Centre	Evanstown Playscheme	SIN037514	£348.00
Cllr Lloyd	Flowers for Blackmill, Lewistown and Ogmore Vale.	EXP12	£108.00
Cllr Lloyd	Bulbs for Ogmore Vale	EXP13	£32.10
SWWS	Histing & Support	19968	£432.00