

**OGMORE VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON,
TUESDAY 26th January 2016**

Those present: Councillor D. Owen, Chairman, in the Chair

Councillors:

M. Davies
G. G. Jones
Mrs. J. Harris
Mrs. M. J. Jenkins
W.G. Lewis
Mrs. G. Evans
G. Bees

Others: None

Police Representative: None

1. To receive apologies for absence.

Resolved: Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Mrs. A. Jones, H. Daniel, Mrs. D. Parker and M. Jenkins.

2. To receive any declarations of interest (if any) from Members.

Members are invited to declare personal and prejudicial interests in items on the agenda. It is a requirement that declarations from a member include the nature of the interest and whether it is personal or prejudicial.

Resolved: Cllr. D. Owen declared a personal interest in Planning Ref: 821, as he is related to the applicant. He did not take part in any discussion or decision in relation to Ref:821.

3. Items for the Police Representative.

Resolved: None received.

4. To Approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Community Council held on Tuesday 1st December 2015.

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council were approved and accepted as a true record of the proceedings.

5. To Approve the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on Tuesday 1st December 2015.

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Planning Committee was approved and accepted as a true record of the proceedings.

6. **Matters arising from the Minutes.**

Resolved: No. 21 – Blackmill T&A are trying to go for funding – Information only. Regarding Community Asset Transfer – BCBC have stated that they will not allow community organisations/groups to adopt pavilions if they do not have a sustainable business plan. There is a preference to multi-group use pavilions and funding available is on a first come first served basis. Any interested party must complete and submit a 'Form of interest' to Carley Macleash.

7. **Signing of the Minutes**

Resolved: All document pages relating to the above named minutes were signed by the elected Chairman, Cllr. Mrs. M. Jenkins, in the Chair, and, witnessed by Community Council Members Present.

8. The next **Ordinary Meeting of Ogmore Valley Community Council will be held on Tuesday 26th January 2016, at 6.30pm** in the Welfare Hall, Ogmore Vale.

9. The next meeting of the **Finance & General Purposes Committee will be held on Friday 15th January 2016,, 9:30am** in the Welfare Hall, Ogmore Vale.

AGENDA

Matters deferred/delegated to the committee

10. The next meeting of the **Regeneration Committee will be held on Friday 15th January 2016, 9:30am** in the Welfare Hall, Ogmore Vale.

AGENDA

Matters deferred/delegated to the committee

11. The next meeting of the **Policy and Strategy Committee will be held on Friday 15th January 2016, 9:30am** in the Welfare Hall, Ogmore Vale.

AGENDA

Matters deferred/delegated to the committee

Resolved: That items 8 – 11 were noted.

Report of the Clerk

12. **Ordinary Meeting of Council – March**

The Ordinary Meeting of Community Council in March falls on Tuesday 29th March 2016. This is Easter Tuesday. Would members like to change the date to the week before which would be Tuesday 22nd March 2016.

Resolved: That members agreed that the meeting of Ordinary Council be held on Tuesday 22nd March 2016.

13. **Vacancy – Post of Clerk to the GARW Community Council**

There is a vacancy for the position of Clerk to the Garw Valley Community Council. Details can be found on the Garw valley Community Council's website: www.gvcc.org.uk

14. **National Assembly for Wales election to be held on 5 May 2016.**

National Assembly for Wales have offered outreach workshops to cover the election, what the National Assembly for Wales is responsible for, the voting process, registering to vote and discussing Constituency and regional seats.

If this is something that you would be interested in, Please inform the Clerk by Thursday 4th Feb.

Sessions between February 1 and May 5.

Resolved: That items 13 and 14 are noted.

15. **Grit bin Request from Lewistown/Pantyrwel TRA**

Where? - half way between the steps from A4061 to Pentre Beili Terr. The bin has been on the "LIST" with BCBC for several years.

Resolved: That quotations and confirmation of BCBC agreeing to fill the bins be sourced by the Clerk.

16. **PLANNING Application P/15/840/FUL**

Request for the name 'PANT Y GIBWN', to be kept as it is the original name . The Footpath will be diverted temporary for building (H & S) otherwise no issue. Cllr. Jenkins has spoken to Phil Thomas who is the officer with this application.

Resolved: That the original name, ' Pant Y Gibwn' be maintained as it's the original namely on the plans from 1865.

17. **BAVO Events**

Launch Event: A Disabled Access Guide to Swansea, Neath Port Talbot and Bridgend county boroughs Wednesday 24 February 2016 from 2 – 3.30pm. Come along and hear more about this new tool, find out how it works and how it aims to maximise independence and choice for disabled people across Western Bay.

Every Link Counts, Heol Ty Gwyn, Maesteg, CF34 0BQ

<http://www.bavo.org.uk/news-and-information/health/00001595>

FREE OF CHARGE Financial Inclusion event at Hi Tide, Porthcawl 23 February

<http://www.bavo.org.uk/news-and-information/general/00001601>

18. **BAVO - List of available courses**

Asset Based Community Development two day workshop 1 and 2 February 2016
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES - BUILD ON WHAT'S STRONG NOT WHAT'S WRONG
Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) is an approach that promotes citizen-led action in the first instance, and then leverages outside support to match community assets when needed: co-production. It has a history of success in building on existing community strengths to support stronger, more sustainable communities for the future.

Sports leadership – 9th February 2016

Supervision Skills – 24th February 2016

Lifting and Handling inanimate Loads, level 1 OCN certification – 2nd March 2016 *NEW*

Health and Safety Level 2 qualification – 17th March 2016 *NEW*

Tune up – 23rd March 2016 *NEW*

Drugs and Alcohol – 30th March 2016 *NEW*

19. **One Voice Wales - National Resources Bulletin**

January 2016 • Issue 3, FEATURED In this edition:

1. £13.5m committed to flood protection
 2. January Highlights – Our top news stories
 3. Environment Bill - Update on the latest progress
 4. Consultations - Information about our open consultations
- Read more on the One Voice Wales website.

Resolved: That items 16 – 19 be noted.

20. **SECTION 137 EXPENDITURE: LIMIT FOR 2016-17**

Notice has been received that the appropriate sum for the purposes of section 137(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 (the 1972 Act) for Community and Town Councils in Wales for 2016-17 is £7.42. (Raised from £7.36 2015/16).

Resolved: That item 20 is noted.

21. **Sign up for the Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) Citizens' Panel**

<http://www1.bridgend.gov.uk/services/consultation/citizens-panel.aspx>

Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) Citizens' Panel is committed to listening and responding to the views of residents. Help them understand residents' opinions about the things they do and how they can review and improve council services.

Members of the Citizens' Panel receive up to three surveys per year on a range of topics such as street cleanliness, customer service and the local housing strategy. Members receive updates through our newsletter 'you said, we did'. The newsletter is released every other survey and shows panel members how responses have changed the way the council operates.

22. **Maesteg Town Clerk position**

A vacancy has arisen for a Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer for the Maesteg Town Council. The successful applicant will work from the Maesteg Town Council Offices and be required to attend evening Council meetings. There are usually a minimum of 14 meetings per year, held in the Maesteg Council Chamber on the 1st Tuesday in the month.

The applicant should have previous administrative experience and must have a good level of IT skills. The applicant should also demonstrate good organisational and communication skills. It is also desirable, but not essential, that the applicant has an understanding of local government practices and procedures. The successful candidate will be expected to work towards achieving the Town and Community Councils Clerk's CILCA professional qualification, training will be offered as appropriate.

In addition to providing relevant support to the seventeen Councillors, the Clerk/RFO will also be responsible for all statutory financial reporting requirements. Working hours will be 25 hours a week, with salary NJC for LGS Salary Scale points 30-34 (£26,293-£29,558) pro rata. Staff will be eligible to join LG Pension Scheme.

23. **BAVO Funding Opportunity**

Take a look at BAVO's January 2016 funding e-bulletin and find lots of opportunities including:
Small grants up to £5,000 to groups serving Laleston, Pen-y-Fai and Wildmill;
BBC Children in Need Funding Surgery in BAVO 26 February;
Meet the Funder: Coalfields Regeneration Trust at BAVO 8 March;
BAVO monthly drop in sessions.

For further details on funding for your voluntary group or organisation, call our development team at BAVO, T: 01656 810400, E: bavo@bavo.org.uk or visit our funding pages of our website

24. Local Housing Strategy Consultation

BCBC have begun the consultation on the draft Local Housing Strategy for Bridgend. The consultation runs for 12 weeks and ends on 23rd March 2016.

The Local Housing Strategy sets out the vision and direction for housing in Bridgend County Borough over the next two years. The strategy aims to ensure that the quantity and quality of housing meets the needs and aspirations of its residents.

The strategy sets out five key housing priorities, which will contribute to improving the quality of life for people within the county, and will underpin the work for the Local Authority and its partners.

If you wish to participate in the consultation please click on the web link below.

<http://www1.bridgend.gov.uk/services/consultation/hub/local-housing-strategy-consultation.aspx>

Town & Community Council Forum
New Working Group
Initial Meeting 22nd October 2015

This report is to inform Town Council member of my attendance at the new Town & Community Council Working Group set up at the last meeting of the Town & Community Council Forum on the 17th September 2015 regarding the current Charter. I was not able to attend the Forum as I was on Holiday abroad. The following are extracts from the report of The Assistant Chief Executive – Legal & Regulatory Services presented to the Town & Community Council new Working Group that met on 22nd October 2015 and upon which I responded underlined and in bold.

Extracts

1.1 The purpose of the report is to inform the Town and Community Council Forum of the current Charter as attached at Appendix 1, between Bridgend County Borough Council and the Town and Community Council of Bridgend County Borough.

3.5 Joint working is always a challenge, and even more so where the number of partners is large and their nature diverse. This situation applies to relationships between unitary authorities and community and town councils since the number and nature of community and town councils differs in each unitary authority area. Consequently, although general principles and good practice will be applicable to all, a pro-active and flexible approach to developing and sustaining positive relationships will be vital.

4.5 In February 2015 the Welsh Government published a White Paper: Reforming Local Government: Power to Local People. It recognised that Local Government in Wales is currently under severe pressure as a result of austerity policies and a rising demand for services. It proposed significant changes which would impact all Council's in Wales and the delivery of services to their communities. It was proposed to create area boards within Local Authorities, in order to ensure the new, larger Authorities are closer to their communities. As part of this, the paper talks about raising the ambition of Community Councils so they are better placed to deliver important community services in the future. This means building their capacity and capability, as well as strengthening their governance and their engagement with other services and the third sector.

Link to: Reforming Local Government: Power to Local People.

4.6 As part of the approach to transform Bridgend County Borough Council, the need to establish a change programme to look at building capacity in the third sector and with town and community councils has been identified.

4.8 The following four themes have been identified which should provide the focus for building capacity in the Third Sector and with Town & Community Councils:

- A stronger and empowered community – more people participating in local decision making
- A cohesive and resilient community – people from different backgrounds getting on well together
- A sustainable and independent third sector – building the capacity of the sector and supporting sustainable growth
- Neighbourhood partnerships consisting of local stakeholders with residents – facilitating regeneration within our communities

4.9 Within these themes a number of priorities will be considered and may form projects and work streams that sit under the programme. These may include:

- Area based regeneration
- Asset Transfer Capacity Building
- Communications
- Community Cohesion
- Community Engagement
- Corporate third sector funding
- Third Sector commissioning
- External Funding
- Social Enterprise
- Volunteering

A) I explained that the existing Charter was in need of revision and that any revised Charter needed to be presented to Council and should be reviewed annual at the BCBC Annual Meeting.

B) I drew attention to their own report at paragraphs 4.5 and 4.8 that a revised Charter should not just be a process where the Forum just noted reports the revision should include the Charter allowing decisions to be made which then necessitated consideration by appropriate BCBC Committees/Cabinet/Scrutiny.

C) This would mean that BCBC itself would need to reorganise its constitution/Standing Order to accommodate change and the importance of including Town & Community Councils.

D) BCBC must also allocate a single member of staff to deal with matters arising from the Charter as many times getting BCBC to respond and take action involved too many officers and produced much confusion and concern.

E) The revised Charter needed to provide meaning to the process through the ability of the meetings to take decisions as expected by the various reports coming out of the Welsh Assembly.

F) The report especially at paragraph 4.9 referred to priorities and the number involved suggested that even the priorities need prioritisation.

I must report that when I referred to the Welsh Assembly White Paper and that it contained the words 'Power to Local People' the Chair of the new Group Cllr Charles White, Cabinet Member - Regeneration and Economic Development stated that he did not like the use of the word 'Power' and preferred the words 'consensus', 'inclusivity'. I wish to record that I am concerned that this seems the approach when the Welsh Government is EXPECTING more democratic involvement in the White Paper. I have identified relevant extract from the White Paper in the Appendix below.

I suggest that in view of the Welsh Assembly aspirations for local government that Bridgend Town Council advocates that the revised Charter should develop the competence to allow Town Community Councils to submit reports, not just agenda items, and that the recommendations in any given report be debated and a decision reached,(the meeting not just for NOTING reports from whatever source) and that the County Council has the duty to consider any agreed recommendations under the revised Charter at Cabinet or Council meeting and that the BCBC Constitution be amended to allow this to happen.

Cllr R D L Burns

BTC - Town & Community Forum Representative
Bridgend Town Council

25. **Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg CWM GARW**

YGGCG have been categorised as a 'RED' school.

The head teacher Mr Peter Williams is currently not in school due to illness, Mrs Ceri Llewellyn the deputy head is currently acting head during his absence.

The school is receiving support from the Central South Consortium which has enabled the school to take on an experienced new teacher, Mr Arwel Lewis for two terms to take responsibility for years 4 and 5. For one day a week Miss Elin Hopkins, an experienced deputy, will be supporting Ceri Llewellyn, taking responsibility for her work as deputy head, specifically in the field of numeracy.

Educational standards at the school are good, it is the schools capacity to improve that is giving us access to increased support.

The support is being used to address school priorities that include:

- developing pupils' literacy and numeracy skills;
- further strengthening pupils' well-being with a particular focus on behaviour and attendance;
- strengthening leadership across the school, including the role of the Governing Body; and
- implementing effective self-evaluation and monitoring procedures.

Resolved: That items 21 – 25 be noted.

26. **New School – Cwm Garw**

The Chair has visited the new school at Penyfai with school council.

27. **Business Plan – Nantymoel Hub**

The Business Plan has been submitted to BCBC for consideration.

Resolved: That items 26 and 27 be noted.