

Ogmore Valley Community Council Cyngor Cymuned Cwm Ogwr



Full Council Meeting

Cyfarfod Llawn y Cyngor

Tuesday 28 November 2023, 6.30 pm via zoom
Dydd Mawrth 28 Tachwedd 2023, 6.30 pm via zoom

MINUTES

In Attendance

Cllr Craig Batchelor Howells (Vice Chair)

Cllr David Pound (from item 100)

Cllr Geoff Sherriff

Cllr Kevin Thorne

Cllr Dhanisha Patel

Cllr Margaret Lloyd

Cllr Angela Jones

Scott Allin – RFO (left after item 103)

Niamh Gwilym – Clerk

97. Apologies for Absence

There were the following apologies from Councillors:-

Cllr David Newman (Chair) – external commitment

Cllr Sheryl Wasley – external commitment

Cllr Hywel Williams

Ashleigh Davies (Warden)

It was agreed that Cllr Batchelor Howells would chair the meeting in the absence of Cllr Newman.

Resolved – Cllr Batchelor Howells to Chair meeting

98 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 in attendance.

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

Clerk declared interest as pay review will be discussed in Item 102, Personnel Committee Agenda.

100 Warden's report

Clerk reviewed the warden's report.

Cllr Jones raised concerns from Keep Nantymoel Tidy about historic payments.

Resolved – RFO and Cllr Jones to contact KNT.

Cllr Pound joined on item 100 and gave apologies.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR APPROVAL

- 101 Approval of Minutes and Recommendations**
(a) Draft Full Council 31st October 2023
(b) Draft Finance & General Committee 15th November 2023

Resolved to Approve the Minutes of the 31st October 2023 Full Council meeting and of the 15th November Finance and General Committee meeting.

102 Matters Arising from previous meetings:-

Council Meeting (Annex B)

- Blackmill drop curbs and speeding***

It was noted that the Clerk met with Gwyn Hartland to discuss the areas of concerns, these being multiple steep steps disrupting the pathway for all users. Clerk has taken photos and reported to BCBC.

Cllr Patel noted that more information around this may be found in the community action plan set up whilst developing the Flying Start provisions.

Clerk has contacted resident about speeding and is in the process of agreeing a date to meet up to discuss matter.

Resolved – Clerk to research Flying Start Provisions and to seek and disability access rules in Blackmill.

- ***Ogmore Vale Bus Shelter crash***

Clerk contacted PSCO but there was no appropriate incident log available and advised to call 101. Clerk contacted 101 who passed on details to the case officer.

- ***Ogmore Valley Awards***

Clerk contacted all nominators to inform of decision.

- **Finance and General Committee**

RFO provided update, it was noted that the decision was taken not to increase precept for 24/25.

Cllr Pound queried whether the reserve for 24/25 had been overstated.

Cllr Patel agreed with Cllr Pound's calculations and enquired about changes between 23/24 year and 24/25. It was noted that the Men's Shed monies have been removed from the budget because we are aiming to spend them this year.

It was also noted about the rationale for reducing Audit membership fees, resolved that the budget for fees was reduced.

Cllr Patel motioned to move the minutes and Cllr Pound seconded.

Resolved - RFO will review the reserves number and minutes are moved including the agreement of the 2024/25 budget and precept request to remain the same as 2023/24.

Personnel Committee Agenda

- **Oral Review**

Clerk expressed concerns over lack of attendance and apologies at the Personnel Committee that was not quorate.

Cllr Pound agreed with concerns. It was asked whether there was a possibility of reserve Personnel Committee members.

Cllr Patel raised concerns regarding the appointment process, as it differed to other processes. It was noted that the process felt adhoc and that a formal notification timeline should be in place before meetings.

Cllr Lloyd noted that apologies need to be sent and communication needs to be clearer.

RFO noted that there is no formal process for interviewing staff as it depends on the requirements of the individual positions and explained the process that that had taken place.

- **Matters of report from Previous Meeting**

No comments to note.

- **Appointment of Warden**

Resolved - Cllrs moved to appoint warden.

- **Pay Review**

Clerk and RFO declared interest and left the meeting for allocated period of time.

Full council determined consensus not reached and will have to defer and look at a system of incremental pay where the Council will review in the January meeting to take effect on 1st April which falls in line with financial year. It was noted that the Council usually review in November in order to set precept for the future.

Resolved – Personnel Committee will discuss in the New Year.

103 Finances – 2023/24

- (a) formal approval of payments November 23**

Resolved to approve the Schedule of Payments as attached as Appendix.

- (b) formal approval of the bank reconciliation October 23**

Resolved – To approve the bank reconciliation for October 2023.

- (c) expenditure against the budget end of October**

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

104 Benches

(a) Aberfields

The Clerk and RFO met with the BCBC Green Space Enhancement Officer and discussed locations to create and replace benches. There were enquiries into the source of funding, resolved the funding came from previous bidding.

It was noted that benches 8 and 9 may be affected by proposals to move the football and rugby pitches to the left, bench number 7 may be affected if the plans go ahead to move the changing rooms and it was noted that anything in the green area labelled “Aberfields” may be disturbed.

It was proposed that installation of benches 8 and 9 may be better placed after relevant developments in Aberfields in order to not waste public resources.

Resolved – Clerk to enquire if funds can be put into reserve and pause the installation of benches 8 and 9.

(b) Remembrance Bench for OVPS

Noted Annex I showing Cllr Pounds advice.

It was enquired the exact location of the bench, being the original location, however the plinth is not stable enough to be used.

It was proposed to defer discussions until the New Year and Cllr Pound will contact support for the project.

Resolved – item to discuss in the New Year.

105 To consider applications for donations and grants: - Cancer Information & Support Services - £200

Resolved – Clerk to enquire about direct impact to the Ogmere Valley.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AND UPDATE

106 To receive a Report from the Clerk

- Aberfields CAT

It was noted that Cllr Pound led discussions in appreciation of Clerk's inexperience of CATs.

Concerns were noted with the CAT timeline, Cllr Pound moved for a subcommittee (with the addition of the Clerk) to look at CATs moving forward.

It was moved that the item would move forward in the New Year.

Resolved - Clerk will write to all Cllrs regarding subcommittee and discussions would continue in the New Year.

- Evanstown CAT

No update available and waiting for current trustees to contact Council to hold a close down meeting. Clerk has chased.

- Ogmores Vale CATs

It was noted that the Ogmores Vale CATs are moving with good pace but further discussions will take place in the New Year.

- Windfarm

It was noted that a meeting had taken place the evening prior regarding applications for the windfarm, items being supported are being put forward for council approval in the January meeting.

This was endorsed and moved.

107 To receive Reports from Members of the Council

- Cllr Jones – Future of Dinam Close

It was noted that there was speculation about moving out dates potentially being before Christmas. Noted that Cllr Jones will seek more information.

- Cllr Lloyd – Community Engagement Events, Poppy Parade and Ogmores Valley Bowls Lighting Event**

It noted that the Poppy Parade at Nantymoel was a great success. Although attendance wasn't as high as typically expected, this was attributed to the weather. All services were represented, and the Valley Commandos also presented a wreath. It was noted that it's important to keep supporting the Poppy Parade.

It was noted that the Ogmores Valley Bowls lighting event was a wonderful for the community and it is important to continue supporting such events within the Valley.

Cllr Sherriff enquired about the status of the play surface in Nantymoel, the Clerk action this.

Cllr Pound endorsed Cllr Lloyd's statement regarding Memorial Day and the Bowls Club. Cllr Pound suggested a good gesture to write to the Bowls Club to thank them for their contribution to the valley. Clerk will draft a letter.

Cllr Batchelor Howells noted that the Evanstown Memorial received a great turnout for their memorial and Christmas light display.

Cllr Lloyd enquired about the Christmas light turn on date, the Clerk confirmed lights would be up by the end of the week.

108 To consider any Planning Applications and issues:

- Mynydd Y Gaer Wind – Cenin

It was noted that there seems to be resistance within the community against the Windfarm.

It was noted that there will be a Working Committee formed and there is a meeting in Glynogwr Church on 12th December in which several Cllrs will attend.

It was noted that in October 2021, an application was made to build a Windfarm in the Llangeinor mountains (common land) and an application was made to have the common land status lifted. One of the applicants was BCBC. Both applications were approved. It was noted that paperwork specifies the development project is of national significance; although inquiries have shown that there has not been any public consultation. It was noted that the developer was encouraged to engage with the community, but ultimately the methodology was up to the developer's discretion.

It was noted that OVCC were not aware of additional Windfarm planning and further noted concerns of lawfulness as the Ogmores Valley will be entirely surrounded by Windfarms.

It was noted that Cllr Pound will be looking into the legislature and enquiries over the law regarding Mynydd Y Gaer and the benefits the Windfarm will bring to the Ogmores Valley, this was endorsed.

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

- Full Council Tuesday 9th January 2023, 6.30 pm at Blackmill Youth and Community Centre.

Confirmed the date of 9th January 2024 as Full Council Meeting to be at Blackmill Youth and Community Centre at 6:30PM and the following meeting to be on the 30th January.

Cllr Patel gave apologies for the meeting on the 9th January.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm

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Signature of the Chairperson, Cllr David Newman

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Date

Niamh Gwilym – Clerk of the Council niamhgwilym4@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	£254.28
Niamh Gwilym	Clerk Salary – partial month	11123	£1,074.08
Scott Allin - ES	RFO Salary	21123	£1,240.74
Ashleigh Davies - ES	Warden Salary	31123	£649.52
HMRC - ES	Tax September	615PB00145091	£639.68
Niamh Gwilym – claim form	Clerk Expenses	EXPO14	£17.99
Scott Allin – claim form	RFO Expenses	EXP015	£154.18
Ashleigh Davies – claim form	Warden expenses	EXP16	£69.23
Wreaths -email 9/10/23 to all Councillors	RBL – donation for Evanstown	DON6	£40
Glynogwr Church – Minute 92	Donations Defibrillator and pads	DON7	£200
Wales Air Ambulance – Minute 92	Donations	DON8	£50
Sunbelt Rentals – email 9/10/23 to all councillors.	Traffic Manmt - Nantymoel Remembrance	25289824	£528.60

Ogmore Vale Bowls Club – Minute 92	Donation – Christmas events	DON9	£200
Bench – minute 40	Memorial Bench	190272	£1,904.40
Cllr Batchellor Howells - expenses	Printing	EXP17	£3.10

