

Ogmore Valley Community Council

Cyngor Cymuned Cwm Ogwr



Full Council Meeting

Cyfarfod Llawn y Cyngor

Tuesday 31 October 2023, 6.30 pm via zoom
Dydd Mawrth 31 Hydref 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 Kevin Thorne

Scott Allin – Clerk

Niamh Gwilym – Incoming Clerk observer (from item 85)

82 Apologies for Absence

There were the following apologies from Councillors:-

Cllr Margaret Lloyd – illness

Cllr Angela Jones – illness

Cllr Dhanisha Patel – family illness

Cllr Hywel Williams – family illness

Cllr Sheryl Wasley – work commitments

Cllr Rhys Goode has resigned and the Clerk read out the following statement:-

'It's been a pleasure working with OVCC members and officers over the last 18 months, but due to other commitments both public and personal, Tuesday evening meetings are proving very difficult for me to attend and to give OVCC the proper attention it deserves. As such, I have taken the decision to stand down from my role as a community councillor. I look forward to continuing working closely with you all in my duties as the county borough councillor for Nantymoel. Diolch yn fawr.'

Cllr Goode was thanked for his support and work and it was noted that the Community Council would continue to work closely with Cllr Goode in his role as Nantymoel's Borough Councillor.

Ashleigh Davies (Warden) also gave her apologies.

Resolved: members unanimously accepted the apologies for absence and resignation.

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

Gwyn Hartland, Sara Williams, Cheryl Williams and Sharon Galton attended and left before agenda item 92 was discussed.

Gwyn Hartland noted a lack of drop curbs for disability buggies in Blackmill and the need for ramps instead of steps near the garage in Blackmill. Furthermore, the footpath near Ivor Terrace and the A4061 has a style in the fence which makes access difficult.

The Clerk noted that he would contact Mr Hartland separately and meet him on site to take pictures of the issues and then contact BCBC.

Sharon Galton noted that the old Parish Lane after the turn to Buarthau is being used as a short cut to miss the Blackmill lights and as this road has a national speed limit and is single track, is very dangerous. It was also noted that there is Himalayan Balsam in the area which makes visibility difficult.

The Clerk asked for any correspondence with BCBC and the PCSO to be shared with him and he would also take pictures and follow this up.

Sara Williams, Cheryl Williams and Sharon Galton all expressed their concerns over the Mynydd Y Gaer windfarm including issues regarding adverse impacts on noise, visual, traffic, flooding, and wildlife.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

85 Mynydd Y Gaer Wind – Cenin

Martyn Popham and Clare Brown from Cenin introduced themselves and shared two videos of the proposed Windfarm.

It was noted that at the moment Cenin are undertaking pre planning consultation with communities impacted by the Windfarm in order to alter their proposals in response to public concerns. As the application will be of strategic importance to Wales it comes under the auspices of Welsh Government. At present ecology reports are being undertaken as well as initial consultation and this will be followed by visual mock ups in the Summer of 2024 and a formal application to Welsh Government at end of 2024. There will then be statutory consultation lasting 8-12 weeks in early 2025 followed by an Planning Inspector Report reviewing all the evidence in 2025/2026 and finally the build would last a few years. The estimated completion date is 2029/30 if permission is granted.

A number of concerns regarding the project including its adverse impacts on noise, visuals, traffic, flooding, and wildlife were raised by Councillors. It was noted that many of the communities in the valley feel surrounded by Windfarms which is having a negative impact on the environment. There are also issues with aviation such as Air Ambulances. It was also noted that Cenin was a private company and that no financial details were available to the public.

It was noted that there are a series of drop-in sessions where more information can be found out about the plans. This includes 20 November 2023 from 5-8pm at Blackmill YCC.

It was noted that there could be financial benefits to the community including grants to local organisations and local employment opportunities.

It was noted that the proposed route for the turbines is Bryncethin, Heol Y Cyw and then to the top of mountain and there was no secondary route as yet.

It was noted that there was a survey in 2019 which indicated that the site was unsuitable and Councillors asked what had changed. Cenin noted that they had not seen the survey but would be interested in its results.

Resolved – Clerk to forward survey to Cenin.

86 Warden's report

It was noted that lamppost poppies had been put up throughout the valley and the Christmas Scavenger Hunt by Tanio is on the 3rd December 2023.

It was also noted that the Warden would provide wreaths to Cllr Newman as Chair and Cllr Jones to lay at the Nantymoel Remembrance Service on 12 November 2023.

Resolved – Warden to distribute wreaths

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR APPROVAL

**87 Approval of Minutes and Recommendations
(a) Draft Full Council 26 September 2023**

It was noted that a suggested amendment to minute 77 should be included.

Resolved to Approve the Minutes including amendment to minute 77 of the 26 September 2023 Full Council meeting.

88 Matters Arising from previous meetings:-

Council Meeting

- ***PCSO – Neighbourhood and Rural Watch***

It was noted that signage around ASB had been placed in the Washeries.

- ***Evanstown Buses and Bus Shelters***

It was noted that works to replace bus stop flags in the Evanstown area have been completed but we are still waiting for timetables and news on shelters. Cllr Batchelor Howells would provide the Clerk with details of MS/MP correspondence on buses in Evanstown.

The Ogmore Vale bus shelter was inspected last week and it was noted that it had been hit out of alignment by a vehicle and this will have compromised the structural stability and a new shelter is suggested. A quotation for a replacement bus shelter has been requested.

It was noted that the damage was probably as a result of a recent traffic accident and the Clerk would contact the PCSO to see whether insurance details could be sourced.

Resolved – Clerk to contact PCSO regarding finding person responsible for damage to shelter.

- ***Benches***

It was noted that the OV Priide bench work would stop over the Winter and start again in Spring.

OV Priide had indicated their willingness to undertake work on wooden benches in Evanstown as long as they could claim mileage expenses which was reasonable.

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

The Clerk had contacted BCBC who had noted that while they were in negotiations to develop a CAT for the Pavilion with the Gilfach Goch rugby club, they would not expand the number of parties with key access.

- ***Bins in Aberfields***

It was noted that the Clerk had contacted Joanne Choat in BCBC regarding larger bins.

- ***Evanstown and Glynogwr Warden***

It was noted that a strong candidate had applied for the job and instead of a formal interview it was agreed that as many of the Personnel Committee as possible would meet the candidate during a walk round in Evanstown. The Clerk will arrange a date as soon as possible.

- ***Defibrillators***

It was noted that the list is being finalised and is just waiting for replies from OVRFC and BCBC regarding maintenance for three defibrillators.

It was noted that the Council could fund more defibrillators in the future.

- ***Draft Newsletter***

It was noted that the newsletter has now posted on the OVCC FM page and on noticeboards. The Clerk would send a copy to all Councillors.

- ***Raw Performance***

It was noted that the work of Raw Performance was similar to projects being undertaken by Halo and the Council would continue to support Halo at the moment to avoid any overlap.

- **OV Priide**

It was noted that the OV Priide container is now sited on the Clacks car park in Ogmores Vale and a photo session was held with Pennant Walters who funded the project.

- **Donations and grants**

It was noted that the OV Priide request for funding for the strimmer course had been withdrawn.

89 Finances – 2023/24

(a) formal approval of payments October 23

It was noted that there was an error on the October 23 salary figures with the September figures included rather than the October 23 figures. The figures should have shown:-

NEST – Employer’s summary (ES)	Pensions for staff -employers contribution	DD	£192.18
Scott Allin - ES	Clerk Salary	011023	£1,420.46
Ashleigh Davies - ES	Warden Salary	31023	£649.52
HMRC - ES	Tax October	615PB00145091	£684.72

It was also noted that printer ink invoice attached to the Clerk’s expenses was bought on his behalf but wholly used on Council business.

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

(b) formal approval of the bank reconciliation September 23

Resolved – To approve the bank reconciliation for September 2023.

(c) expenditure against the budget end of September 23

It was noted that Cllr Pound had reviewed reserves and the RFO would include this analysis in the review of 2024/25 budget to be undertaken in November 2023.

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

90 Christmas Lights

It was noted that a meeting with the contractor to finalise the lights in Evanstown was being held on 2 November 2023.

It was also noted that the Council would move from solar powered tree to garlands and this year there would be one garland for every two solar powered trees due to costs and issues around lampposts. The costs of the garlands were being spread over three years.

91 Ogmore Valley Awards

It was noted that a separate Council meeting was held to discuss the nominations for OV Awards for 2023 and all the nominations had been agreed. The Awards ceremony would be held in January 2024 prior to the Council meeting.

It was also discussed and agreed that Blackmill Bravos should be added to the list in 2023, despite not being formally nominated, as the Councillors agreed that they did an excellent job in a similar way to OV Priide and Keep Nantymoel Tidy.

Resolved – To accept all the nominations for OV Awards and to add Blackmill Bravos.

92 To consider applications for donations and grants - Wales Air Ambulance

Resolved – To approve £50 donation to Wales Air Ambulance

- Defibrillator Glynogwr

Resolved – To approve £200 grant to replace batteries and pads in Glynogwr Church

- Ogmore Vale Bowls Club

Resolved – To approve £200 grant to fund Christmas events in the Bowls Club.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AND UPDATE

93 To receive a Report from the Clerk - Aberfields CAT

It was noted that BCBC will now be taking this forward and are looking at a 3G pitch, community woodland and pathwork/improved accessibility schemes.

Cllr Sherriff noted that the playground had been damaged and would send details to the Clerk to follow up with BCBC.

- Evanstown CAT

No progress and waiting for current trustees to contact Council to hold a close down meeting. Clerk will chase again.

- Ogmore Vale CATs

It was noted that a request for funding for plans for landscaping a Memorial Park at the old Nursery site had been submitted to Reach while Ryan Jones from Coalfields Regeneration Trust was getting quotes for a MUGA at the basketball site and would prepare a business plan.

- Windfarm

A Council working group had undertaken an initial review of the applications and had requested further information which would be reviewed at a second meeting in mind November 2023.

- Clerk/RFO

It was noted that Niamh Gwilym will take over as Clerk on 6 November 2023 and the current Clerk would remain at 20 hours per week for the period between 6 November and 31 November before moving to the RFO post at 10 hours per week from 1 December 2023.

It was noted that the outgoing Clerk would be on leave for most of December 2023.

- Remembrance Service

This was covered under Warden's report

94 To receive Reports from Members of the Council - Cllr Jones – Future of Dinam Close

It was noted that the community had concerns over the future of this accommodation.

- Cllr Batchelor Howells – The Purple Sunflower Project

It was noted that there was no mental health provision in Evanstown where there had been suicides as well as poor mental health which could be helped with support from this project. Funding required is around £10,000 for the project which could potentially come from a Windfarm bid.

It was agreed that Cllr Batchelor Howells would contact the Purple Sunflower Project and Ogmores Valley Suicide Awareness to see whether they could work together. Further information on the company behind the Project would be useful and they could possibly be invited to a future Council meeting.

It was noted that there were no Christmas lights in Glynogwr due to the cost of scaffolding to access the tree and lack of metal lampposts. However, the new Warden will be tasked to see what can be done for 2024 to provide some Council support for lights.

**95 To consider any Planning Applications and issues
- 57 Walters Road, Ogmores Vale**

The Council had received representations from the community especially around traffic and car parking and had contacted BCBC to outline the issues.

**96 To confirm the date, time and venue of forthcoming meetings:
- Full Council Tuesday 28 November 2023, 6.30 pm via zoom.**

Confirmed the date of 28 November as Full Council Meeting to be via zoom.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm

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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