

ST BRIDES MINOR COMMUNITY COUNCIL



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 13th FEBRUARY 2017

PRESENT

COUNCILLORS: E Jones (Chair)

M Collett	J Lewis
S Dobbs	M Nott
K Wilcox	Y Nott
P Harris	G Thomas
D Lewis	F Watkins

CLERK: Alana Davies

Minute No	AGENDA ITEMS
267	<p>1. CHAIR'S REMARKS Cllr Elaine Jones announced that she had attended the Charity lunch hosted by the Mayor of BCBC. Another event I to be held at Court Colman. She welcomed Shan Bowden from One Voice Wales, who will be speaking under item 7.</p>
268	<p>2. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies had been received from Cllrs J Philips and P Williams-Jones.</p>
269	<p>3. TO RECEIVE MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN RESPECT OF BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED Cllrs D Lewis, J Lewis, G Thomas and M Nott declared an interest in Planning items (item 14) as members of BCBC.</p>
270	<p>4. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 12th December 2016 RESOLVED: To accept the minutes of the Meeting held on the 9th January 2017 as a true and accurate record.</p>
271	<p>5. TO CONSIDER ANY MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 9th January 2017 Minute no. 264 The Clerk reported that it had not been possible to purchase a lockable 4-drawer filing cabinet for £100 or less. Cllr Y Nott informed the meeting that a filing cabinet is now available in the 'electricity' room, which is kept locked, for use by the Community Council. Keys available from the Librarian.</p>

272	<p>6. <u>TO ADJOURN, IF NECESSARY, TO TAKE PUBLIC QUESTIONS</u> No members of the public were present.</p>
273	<p>7. <u>PRESENTATION BY ONE VOICE WALES</u> Shan Bowden, One Voice Wales (OVW) Development Officer for South Wales gave a comprehensive presentation, both verbally and in written form, which included her background and current role. Her presentation included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 75% of Town & Community Councils are members of OVW • OVW raises awareness of the role and contribution of Town & Community Councils (T&CCs) • OVW promotes best practice • The Chief Executive & Deputy of OVW work with the WG, WLGA, the Ombudsman etc. • OVW provides advice with links to NALC where necessary <p>Ms Bowden said that as a Clerk, she had found membership of OVW most useful. (Further information is available in the Presentation packs circulated) Questions were asked by Members, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q: Cost of Membership? A: £804 annually, but new Councils may have a 50% discount, i.e. £402 pa. • Q: Training costs? A: £35 per Cllr or Clerk; Bespoke training costs are negotiable. • Q: Trainers? A Usually local so little or no travel costs. • Q: Is legal advice free? A: Yes, prompt replies y email; via NALC if necessary. • Q: OVW members in Bridgend? A: 8 Councils who are not members. <p>Following Ms Bowden’s departure, it was <u>RESOLVED</u> that the membership of One Voice Wales be placed on the Agenda of the first Council meeting following the elections in May, for discussion.</p>
274	<p>8. <u>FINANCE REPORT</u> Bank account balances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lloyds Bank Account: Balance as at January 31st 2017: £27,977.54 • Swansea Building Society (SBS): Balance as at January 3rd 2017: £25,400.97 <p>It was <u>RESOLVED: to Approve the Finance Report</u></p>
275	<p>9. <u>TO CONSIDER ITEM UPDATE ON EVENTS & PROJECTS</u> 1. Memorial Hall Car Park The following is a record of a site meeting which was called in response to concerns raised by the Chair and Cllr Y Nott re potholes in the car park. It is reproduced in full below due to the major concerns expressed by all Councillors.</p>

Project Manager Geoff Whittington (GW) had sent the following responses (in italics) to the queries:

'The surface has been constructed in accordance with the specification. Stone dust will always require upkeep as it is not a bound surface. This was understood at the beginning of the design process. This is also why the car park has been built in a way to allow for the top 100mm of the construction course to be removed, and tarmac used in the future.

We could not use tarmac in this first instance due to the budget and the fact that we are not allowed to, due to the land being classed as common land. In order for tarmac to be used I understand that a special licence has to be sort from the Welsh Government and this can take a number of years to achieve.

The top section of the site or exit road is most affected due to cars reversing out of their spaces and wheel spinning as they set off. This could be due to younger drivers congregating in this area (behind the grass bank) and doing it deliberately. When I was on site with the engineer, there were McDonalds rappers lying around by these parking spaces. But it can also be done accidentally, by slipping the clutch when setting off (when queuing for the exit).

The main car park and sections of the exit road have formed a very strong surface, almost like concrete and do not appear to be suffering any wheel spin damage. The drainage and structure of the car park has also been very effective. My main concern had been if depressions had formed where soft ground was in evidence. This would be in a wide shallow depressions. But this is not the case.

According to the engineer I met on site, the wheel spinning is effectively digging out the top dust surface, in localised positions. The surface around them is intact. Once the dust surface is broken, car wheels naturally come to rest in these shallow depressions and accentuate the situation as they spin to get out. Therefore it is necessary for any depressions to be filled immediately. This is easily rectified if done early. This can be simply done by raking the dust and packing the depression as and when they occur.'

Discussion took place between Cllrs and GW.

GW said he was surprised at the state of the surface. He had brought the Engineers James & Nicholas to look at the problem. The base of the whole area is solid, but the 10mm of dust is forming into 'soft spots' due to high traffic usage and wheels spinning, possibly because cars are queuing up to exit. There is a need to repair the surface by raking as it happens, on a weekly basis.

Cllrs made the following points:

- Why is the problem occurring at the entrance also?
- This seems like a major failure in the way the surface was laid
- It is not the fault of the Council, so who is liable?
- Weekly raking is not practical. Council was told that this would be needed 'occasionally'.
- High traffic usage is to be expected – it is a car park.
- There have been a number of weeks since opening when the school has been closed and the car park has not been used.
- This surface is not fit for purpose.

GW reported that the cost of remedial work would be £1,400. Cllrs pointed out that this may have to be repeated on a regular basis.

The volume of traffic is greater than predicted, and a dust layer is not now sufficient. Ideally the surface needs to be covered with tarmac.

Cllrs noted that they had not envisaged so much extra work and expenditure, and would like a second opinion as to the reasons for the deterioration of the surface and the possible solution to the problem.

BCBC Cllrs agreed to ask officers to give an opinion.

The Clerk has contacted Doug John (Coity Walia Conservators) re permission to tarmac the surface and he has confirmed that they would not have a problem with this.

Following lengthy discussion, during which Cllr M Nott stated that he did not agree that wheel spin is to blame for these potholes, it was

RESOLVED that:

- **BCBC members will obtain advice and opinion as to a short-term solution to this problem**
- **The Clerk to obtain warning signs re the uneven surface of the car park**
- **The long-term solution to this problem is to tarmac the surface, for which Welsh Government permission will be required**

It was further RESOLVED that the Clerk make arrangements for removal of rubbish from the culvert in the car park.

2. Other Events

Cllr F Watkins announced that the next Musical evening will take place on May 19th.

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10. TO CONSIDER ITEM REPORTS FROM PACT MEETINGS

Sarn & Bryncoch PACT: 2 PCSOs attended; BCBC's Waste Management consultation was discussed.

Bryncethin PACT: No meeting has taken place as the Chair has been ill and there have been problems in arranging a meeting place. A meeting has now been arranged for next week.

It was noted that the Police Chief Inspector, Stuart Parffit, attended a Newcastle Higher Community Council meeting and it was

RESOLVED that the Clerk invite Mr Parffit to attend a future St Brides Minor Community Council meeting.

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11. TO CONSIDER ITEM CORRESPONDENCE

- a. BCBC – Andrew Thomas (Deferred from January meeting)

RESOLVED to contribute the sum of £250

- b. Philip Jones (Bryncethin RFC) – request to attend a meeting (Deferred from January meeting)

RESOLVED to invite Mr Jones to the next Council meeting to give a presentation of no more than 10 minutes.

- c. BCBC – Invoice £150 – repair of kissing gate

Invoice has been paid

RESOLVED to Note this item

- d. Louvain Lake - invitation to a learning walk at Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Cwm Garw, on Thursday 30th March from 10am till 12 Noon, at the school
Ogmore CC - Invitation to Learning Walk at Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Cwm Garw - further extend the invitation, from 10am till 11.30am, OR 2pm till 3.30pm at the school, whichever best suits.
RESOLVED to Note this item
- e. Ann Picton - M4 Black Route and its potential affect on your community and Wales
RESOLVED to Note this item
- f. Wales Audit Office – Invoice £181.65
RESOLVED to pay this item
- g. Paul Rees, BCBC: road closure from 20/02/2017 - 26/02/2017 at A4093 Intervalley Road from Llangeinor to Llangeinor Arms Access. (Please make contact with this office if you consider that other works that are currently being planned could be completed during the closure period in order to reduce future disruption.)
RESOLVED to Note this item
- h. BM James Grave-digging service – Price List
RESOLVED to Note this item
- i. SLCC Renewal - £121
RESOLVED to pay this item
- j. Walk for Life – request to get involved
RESOLVED to Note this item
- k. Chris Elmore MP – Advice Surgeries February
RESOLVED to post the enclosed notices
- l. Membership of One Voice Wales
RESOLVED to Note this item
- m. The Pensions Regulator – Declaration
RESOLVED to Note this item

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12. **CLERK'S REPORT**

Internal Auditor

3 names have been submitted as possible Internal Auditors.

RESOLVED that the Clerk submit a report to the next meeting.

Resignation

The Clerk submitted her resignation, for personal reasons, as from April 13th 2017. Her resignation was accepted. She thanked all Councillors for the support they have given her during her time in post. It was

RESOLVED to put in place the following:

- **A small panel of Councillors (the Appointment Panel) be put in place immediately to action the recruitment process for a Community Clerk, made up of the Chair, the Vice Chair, and Cllrs D Lewis and J Lewis.**
- **The Job Description and Person Specification be based largely on those used previously in 2015, and the pay scale based on the current Clerk's salary.**
- **The Appointment Panel to be given plenary powers to advertise, shortlist and**

interview candidates

- Initial advertising to be carried out via relevant contacts and social media in order to minimize the cost; should this not prove successful then Council may be asked to approve additional advertising costs.
- A preferred candidate be proposed to Council for ratification at the next full Council meeting.
- A meeting of the Appointment Panel to take place as soon as possible, at which timescales will be agreed.

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13. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
6pm Monday March 13th 2017

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14. **PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT**

Planning Application No.: T/17/2/TPO

Location : Brynsarn Sarn Hill Sarn Bridgend CF32 9RW

Proposal : Crown reduction, fell and replant and reduce height to various trees
(sent to Cllrs by email - expired Feb 1st. No objections received)

Planning Application No.: P/17/13/APN

Applicant : Mr Alun Davies

Location : Ynyslas Uchaf Farm Blackmill Road Bryncethin Bridgend CF35 6DW

Proposal : New agricultural shed to run behind stables

(sent to Cllrs by email - expired Feb 9th. No objections received)

Planning Application No.: P/17/51/FUL

Applicant : Mrs Clare Robinson Location : 18 The Glade Bryncethin CF32 9BX Proposal : Single storey granny flat and porch extension

Planning Application No.: P/17/40/FUL

Applicant : Bryncethin Rugby Club Location : Bryncethin Playing Field Blackmill Road

Bryncethin CF32 9YW Proposal : Two storey extension to building with new access ramp, new car park access point and new parking area

Planning Application No.: P/17/71/FUL

Applicant : Mr N G Thomas

Location : Penybryn Bridgend Road Bryncethin CF32 9TG

Proposal : Remodelling of dwelling to include: New roof shape, alterations and extension of existing bungalow and loft conversion including dormers & detached garage/storage building with first floor and dormers

It was **RESOLVED** to make NO OBJECTIONS to the above applications.

Meeting closed at 8.10pm