Cyngor Cymuned Cilybebyll
Cilybebyll Community Council

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Council held Remotely via *GoTo Meeting*, on Monday 04 May 2020 at 7:00 pm

Presiding Councillor S Williams

Present Councillors M Spooner, C Jones, Y James, I Jones, E Hastings, A Melen, L Rees, D Atkins, S Atkins, A Threlfall, R Stephens

Apologies Councillors D Jones, R Lewis, A Thomas

6 RULES & GUIDANCE FOR REMOTE/ONLINE MEETINGS

Chair welcomed all to the meeting and explained remote meeting etiquette as advised by Welsh Government and One Voice Wales.

7 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr C Jones declared an interest in item 7 – Planning Applications due to his role as Planning Committee Member at NPTCBC. Cllr A Threlfall declared an interest in item 10 – Financial Assistance Applications due to him being a beneficiary of the Alltwen Covid-19 Community Volunteers programme. Chair declared an interest in item 10 - Financial Assistance Applications due to her being the organiser of the Alltwen Covid-19 Community Volunteers programme. Cllr L Rees declared an interest in item 10 – Financial Assistance Applications due to him being the chaplain to 1358 Pontardawe Squadron Air Cadets.

8 MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF COUNCIL

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Council held on 03 March 2020 be confirmed as a correct record. RESOLVED that the Summary of decisions made via email April 2020 be confirmed as a correct record.

9 MATTERS ARISING

Further to Minute 181 Matters Arising – Clerk reported that she had forwarded the letter to One Voice Wales to ask for further advice. RESOLVED noted.

Further to Minute 190 Any Other Urgent Business – Cllr A Melen reported that Capel Alltwen had not always been used as a polling station. RESOLVED noted.

10 FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

RESOLVED that the following accounts be approved for payment –

18B-22B)	Staff	Wages, Expenses)	2296.64
23B	City & County of Swansea	Pension Contributions	831.77
24B	HMRC	Income Tax and NI	465.25
25B	Corona Energy	Gas: Alltwen CC	353.59
26B	Non-dom Rates	Alltwen CC	342.00
27B	Non-dom Rates	Rhos CC	380.00
28B	Avanti Gas	Gas: Rhos CC	0.00

29B	NPTCBC	Lease Lon Tan Yr Allt Park	150.00
30B	N Parr-Williams	Clerks Expenses (Jan-March 2020)	127.70

Cllr A Melen suggested that NPTCBC be contacted with regards to the lease of Lon Tan yr Allt Playground to find out if a reduction could be given this year due to the Covid-19 situation and the fact that the playground is closed. RESOLVED that Clerk contact NPTCBC before making payment.

RESOLVED that the following receipts be noted –

1	NPTCBC	Precept	33,333.32

RESOLVED that the sum of £5,000.00 be transferred from the Council's Business Banking Account to its Current Account.

Councillors enquired as to the council's bank account reserves. Clerk explained that there are sufficient reserves and will email a copy of bank balances to councillors before the next meeting.

11 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

RESOLVED that no objection be made to the following application –

20/0218	Discharge of conditions 6 & 7	Persimmon Development, Rhos SA8

RESOLVED that Clerk forward decisions to NPT CBC.

12 MAINTENANCE

Footpaths: Clerk reported that Aled (footpaths officer) is currently cutting footpaths that are still open to the public. Once these are completed, he will make a start on the closed footpaths.

13 COMMUNITY CENTRE MANAGEMENT

Rhos: Clerk reported that she had received a message from the caretaker to say that whilst she was completing a deep-clean of the hall, she noticed that there was damage to the skirting box around one of the upright girders. It looked like there has been water damage to the box and floor from a recent flood. She said that the handyman had checked it and the girder is solid so he will make a new box to cover the damage. RESOLVED noted.

Clerk reported that the handyman has painted the kitchen of Rhos Community Centre. Councillors suggested that paint be costed to paint the main hall. RESOLVED that Clerk contact handyman regarding this matter.

Alltwen: Clerk reported that the caretaker of Alltwen Community Centre is completing a deep-clean. Members suggested that after the deep-clean has been completed, the handyman and caretaker could paint the main hall whilst it is closed. RESOLVED that Clerk liaise with caretaker and handyman regarding this and cost works.

Cllr A Melen enquired as to whether or not there is still a problem with youths hanging around in the Unders of Alltwen Community Centre. Clerk reported that she had spoken to PCSO Tony Singh and emailed Sgt Derwyn Thomas and they are keeping an eye on the situation. Cllr C Jones said he had also spoken to PCSO Tony Singh and he had reported that he had visited the site on numerous occasions (and at different times of the day) and no youths were present. Members were pleased with this. RESOLVED noted.

Chair reported that the council is not permitted to furlough staff as the wages have already been budgeted for in the precept. RESOLVED noted.

Clerk reported that she contacted NPTCBC regarding business rate relief (as both centres are currently closed due to Covid-19). She was told that the community council is not eligible for this relief as it is a precepting authority. RESOLVED noted.

14 APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Clerk reported that 6 applications had been received. £3,000.00 total budget £2,150.00 of which available for allocation (£850.00 to be put aside towards cemeteries). RESOLVED that members agreed the following contributions:

1. **1358 Pontardawe Air Cadets**: £250.00 (towards new computers/tablets)
2. **Alltwen Bowls Club**: £300.00 (towards polo shirts / uniform)
3. **Eagles After Scool Club**: £250.00 (towards hall hire)
4. **Wales Air Ambulance**: £200.00
5. **Victim Support**: No contribution at this time.
6. **Alltwen Covid-19 Community Volunteers**: RESOLVED that community council purchase PPE for the group (cost not to be taken from Section 137 funds but from council reserves). RESOLVED that Community Council will act as bank account for group so that they can apply for funding via NPTCVS. Funds will then be transferred directly from council bank account to the group. All transactions will be noted for purposes of audit.

15 TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF PARKS & FOOTPATHS

Cllr R Lewis sent a letter to council (as he could not attend the meeting) asking for the footpaths officer to walk existing footpaths, including the Cilybebyll Walk up to Crynant Common, to ascertain works needed on the footpaths. Cllrs I Jones and Y James recently walked this particular path and stated that it was in a poor state and that obstacles (fallen trees, floods, debris) were frequent along the way. RESOLVED that Clerk liaise with footpaths officer regarding this.

Clerk reported that NPTCBC have closed certain footpaths due to the inability to pass at a safe distance (2m). Cllr M Spooner also stated that paths have been closed linking Alltwen to Rhos. This is also due to social distancing rules and the fact that some paths run through farms where there is livestock. It was explained that the community council cannot re-open the footpaths as NPTCBC is the

overriding authority on this. RESOLVED that footpaths officer monitors situation and reports to council.

Cllr D Atkins proposed that the council's open spaces (Rhos Park & Gwynfryn Park) should be re-opened to allow local residents to exercise. Many members agreed with this proposal, but some had reservations as to whether or not it would be too early to do so due to social distancing guidelines. Cllr S Atkins suggested that the community council take guidance from Welsh Government, UK Government and NPTCBC on this. If the current lockdown is to be eased, then council's open spaces could potentially be re-opened. Once guidance is received, it was RESOLVED that a decision on this matter should be made by members via email to avoid waiting until the next full meeting of council. It was suggested that the Clerk contact the Police to ascertain their thoughts on this matter before a final decision is made. RESOLVED noted. It was noted that if open spaces are to be re-opened, then signage regarding social distancing should be displayed. RESOLVED noted.

16 CORRESPONDENCE

RESOLVED that the following items of correspondence be noted –

1	Welsh Government	Legislation on conducting meetings remotely
2	One Voice Wales	Guidance on conducting meetings remotely
3	Cllr R Lewis	Footpaths and drainage at Rhos Park

3 Cllr R Lewis reported in his letters that there is a drainage issue at Rhos Park and therefore no decisions should be made regarding developing the park until these issues are looked into in further detail. He reported that he had reported the matter to NPTCBC and is awaiting a call/visit from a representative. RESOLVED noted.

17 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Chair welcomed Cllr R Stephens as a new member of the council.

Chair and members thanked Cllr C Jones for working with Michelle Patterson on raising money to put blue lights on the tree on Alltwen Triangle as a show of thanks to the NHS and key workers during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Cllr A Melen gave thanks to Chair for all of her work arranging and co-ordinating the Alltwen Covid-19 Community Volunteers group. Members also gave their thanks.

Cllr C Jones suggested that a wooden piece be placed on top of the memorial fountain on Alltwen Triangle with a battery-operated lamp placed on top. This way the monument would not be damaged or altered in any way. Members were very pleased with this suggestion and agreed. RESOLVED.

The meeting ended at 8:40pm.

Signed Dated 02 June 2020