Cyngor Cymuned Cilybebyll
Cilybebyll Community Council

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Council held Remotely via *Zoom*, on Tuesday 06 April 2021 at 7:05 pm

Presiding Councillor S Williams

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

Apologies Councillors S Atkins, R Lewis, A Threlfall

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs C Jones and M Spooner declared an interest in item 6 Planning Applications. RESOLVED.

3 MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF COUNCIL

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Council held online on 02 March 2021 be confirmed as a correct record.

4 MATTERS ARISING

Further to Minute 142 Matters Arising – Clerk reported that she had costed grass-matting for Brynmorgrug Park. Tiles are 1.5m x 1m and cost between £28-32 each. There is £1,966 left of the play funding which can be used to pay for the grass-matting. Handyperson suggested getting a few at a time. RESOLVED that Clerk should order 10 tiles initially. If more are needed, they can be ordered at a later date. Cllr Y James stated that the grass is growing quite well around the new equipment now so it may be that less grass-matting will be needed than first thought. Members were pleased with this. RESOLVED noted.

Clerk reported that the new equipment in Brynmorgrug Park had now been moved in accordance with the post-installation inspection. She will check with Sovereign Play to find out when the hares fencing will be removed. RESOLVED noted.

It was suggested that an article be put on Facebook once the park is opened. Cllr Y James suggested a half-page spread in Ponty Mag. Members agreed that this was a good idea. RESOLVED noted.

Cllr I Jones asked the Clerk whether or not funding criteria requirements had been adhered to. Clerk reported that funding criteria had been met and that the invoice had been paid. She will forward a report and photos of the project to the funders shortly. RESOLVED noted.

Further to Minute 145 Maintenance, Signs on Cycle Track - Clerk reported that P Hinder, NPTCBC has given funding suggestions for the project. RESOLVED that Clerk look into these options.

Further to Minute 149 Correspondence – Cllr E Hastings reported that the footpath in Delffordd has been cleared. RESOLVED noted.

Further to Minute 150 Any Other Urgent Business – Clerk reported that Aled had been to look at the bench and stated that the base is OK. It wasn't muddy when he visited. He suggested that the bench be cleaned and/or painted. RESOLVED noted.

Further to Minute 150 Any Other Urgent Business – Clerk reported that the bus shelter on Alltwen Triangle is owned by NPTCBC. She contacted NPTCBC asking for repair and maintenance. NPTCBC responded stating that this will be done within their 2021-22 spending budget. RESOLVED noted.

5 FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

RESOLVED that the following accounts be approved for payment –

1B-4B)	Staff	Wages, Expenses)	2,353.09
5B	City & County of Swansea	Pension Contributions	821.90
6B	HMRC	Income Tax and NI	400.68
7D	NPTCBC	Non-dom Rates: Alltwen CC	346.00
8D	NPTCBC	Non-dom Rates: Rhos CC	378.50
9B	Corona Energy	Gas: Alltwen CC	361.81
10B	Avanti	Gas: Rhos CC	0.00
11B	Westward	Boiler Service and Repair: Rhos CC	300.00
12B	Westward	Boiler Service: Alltwen CC	180.00
13B	ROSPA Play Safety	Post-installation Inspection: Brynmorgrug	474.00
14B	NPTCBC	Annual Grounds Maintenance (2020-21)	6,271.14

Clerk stated that the Avanti bill had not yet been received. She will update Members via email as to the cost of this. RESOLVED noted.

Transfer: Authority to transfer the sum of £ 8,000.00 from the Council's Business Banking Account to its Current Account was requested. RESOLVED.

6 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

RESOLVED that no objection be made to the following applications –

P2021/0269	Single storey side extension, including retaining works to create a footpath following the plateau of the bank along the highway.	105 Delffordd, Rhos SA8 3EN

P2021/0119	Two storey rear extension, raised rear platform and front porch together with new first floor side facing window to north and south facing elevations.	26 Plas Road, Rhos SA8 3HD
P2021/0197	Proposed side and rear extensions to bungalow.	83 Delffordd, Rhos SA8 3EJ
P2021/0217	Certificate of Lawful Development (proposed) - Single Storey Rear Extension.	22 Corner Meadow, Rhos SA8 3DR
P2020/0312	TPO	17 Maes Y Cornel, Rhos SA8 3DR
P2021/0337	Removal of existing smoking shelter and construction of single storey side extension to public house to create a lounge bar area.	118 Neath Road, Rhos SA8 3HB

RESOLVED that Clerk forward decisions to NPT CBC.

7 MAINTENANCE

Gwynfyn Park: Clerk reported that the Handyperson has found the park plaque behind much overgrowth. He has cleared the area. Cllr Y James suggested that the lettering be re-done as it is difficult to read. RESOLVED that Clerk cost this.

Rhos Park Football Pitch: Clerk reported that she had received a call from W Duggan regarding the maintenance of the pitch. He will visit the site to inspect the pitch and will put together a maintenance plan for this year. He suggested that sand may not be necessary this year as the pitch was not regularly used last year due to Covid restrictions. RESOLVED noted.

8 COMMUNITY CENTRE MANAGEMENT

Clerk reported that the Community Centres are still currently closed due to the Covid-19 lockdown Welsh Government legislation. Clerk stated that 17th May 2021 is the provisional date given by Welsh Government for the re-opening of Community Centres. Clerk to monitor guidance and legislation. RESOLVED noted.

Rhos Commmunity Centre: Clerk explained that works had to be carried out on the boiler and water heater. Cllr D Atkins declared an interest as he works for Westward. He stated that the bills had been a lot more expensive over the last few months than usual and explained how this could be due to the set-up of the heater and boiler in the centre. The water heater uses more gas as it is used to heat the water on a ring main for the changing room showers. Cllr D Atkins explained that there is a timer clock on the pump which could be faulty or not working. Clerk stated that Westward are coming to inspect the system next week. Cllr D Atkins stated that he will visit the centre to have a look at what might be done to improve the system. RESOLVED noted.

Alltwen Commmunity Centre: Clerk explained that Westward had stated that the boiler in Alltwen is now very old. It is in need of a new flue part. Unfortunately, parts for this model of boiler are no longer supported or available. They suggested council look at purchasing a new boiler in the near future. RESOLVED that Clerk obtain quote for new boiler.

9 APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Clerk reported that she had received 3 applications:

- Eglwys Annibynnol yr Alltwen – Clerk reported that she had contacted One Voice Wales for advice with regards to awarding a grant to the chapel for maintenance of their railings. One Voice Wales stated that guidance on this matter is not clear. NALC suggests that it would not be correct to give funding to a religious organisation or building but UK Government would not deem this as illegal. It was suggested that Clerk check on this matter with Welsh Government before a decision is made on this application. RESOLVED noted.
- Wales Air Ambulance – RESOLVED that a donation of £200.00 be awarded.
- Cancer Information and Support Services – RESOLVED that a donation of £200.00 be awarded.

10 A4067 SAFETY CHANGES

Cllr D Jones stated that it is now 5 years since the late K Kennedy was killed in an accident on the A4067 between Pontardawe and Glais. He explained that after the accident there was a request put to both NPTCBC and City & County of Swansea to take action on the safety of the road. The councils stated that they couldn't proceed with any safety improvements at the time due to court proceedings, but nothing has been done since and court proceedings have long been concluded. Cllr D Jones stated that there have been lots of accidents on this road and that it is only a matter of time until someone else loses their life. He suggested that average speed cameras could be installed or double white lines to stop overtaking on the road.

Cllr A Melen thanked Cllr D Jones for bringing up this matter and stated that traffic on Ynysymond Road is also a problem. Cllr M Spooner stated that she and Cllr C Jones can bring this up with NPTCBC. Cllr C Jones stated that NPTCBC and City & County of Swansea were supposed to put in a joint bid for finance from Welsh Government to make safety improvements to the road. He will follow this up with NPTCBC. RESOLVED noted.

It was suggested that the Clerk write to both county councils to pass on Members comments on this matter and to ask for clarification as to what will be done. RESOLVED noted.

11 FEEDBACK ON WELSH LANGUAGE TASTER SESSIONS

Cllr A Melen reported that the session had gone very well. It was well-run and the tutor was very good. Only 4 Councillors were in attendance, but all were keen to learn. Cllr D Jones stated that as he is retiring, he will take up the option of a longer course as he would like to give constituents the option of speaking to him in Welsh if they would like to. He explained that he spoke Welsh until he was 11 and is keen to be fluent in the language again.

Cllr D Jones went on to explain that there are 2 options for the main course: a two-year course or a one-year, more intensive course. He stated that the tutor, Emyr Jones, will be in touch shortly to find out if anyone would like to join one of the longer courses. The courses are free of charge. RESOLVED noted.

Cllr D Jones stated that in a survey by Ysgol Gyfun Gwyr, only 20% of pupils thought that they would still use the Welsh language on leaving school. Members were surprised and saddened by this.

Cllr Y James asked who runs the courses. Chair explained that they are run in conjunction with Swansea University.

RESOLVED that council will support any Member who wishes to undertake any of the courses.

12 10th ANNIVERSARY OF GLEISION DISASTER

It was stated that it will be the 10th anniversary of the Gleision Colliery disaster in September of this year. It was suggested that council commemorate the anniversary in some way.

Cllr Y James suggested working with My Green Valley to tidy up the area around the commemorative bench in Cilybebyll. She also suggested that the memorial on the cycle track be tidied up and perhaps a planter be placed there. RESOLVED that Clerk cost planter. Cllr M Spooner suggested that the tidying of the memorial may not be welcomed by the deceased men's families – care needs to be taken with regards to this. Cllr D Atkins reiterated this. Clerk suggested that a joint project could be run with Ystalyfera Community Council for the memorial on the cycle track as it borders both council areas and the deceased were from both areas. Members thought this was a good idea. RESOLVED noted.

It was suggested that the memorial dram arranged by Cllr R Lewis may be used as a Gleision memorial but Cllr A Melen stated that Cllr R Lewis is unsure as to whether or not he will be able to obtain a dram. RESOLVED noted.

Cllr D Jones suggested that a light be hired to shine up into the night sky on the evening of the anniversary. RESOLVED that Clerk cost this.

13 CORRESPONDENCE

RESOLVED that the following items of correspondence be noted –

1	S James - NPTCBC	Knotweed treatment quotation for Edward St.
2	P Ransome & L Edwards - Tesco	Footbridge
3	D Hughes	Lon Tanyrallt boundary
4	Western Power	Certificate of Unmetered Supply
5	SSE	Electricity Rate Change
6	G Davies	Rhos Park
7	Cllr R Lewis	Flooding in Rhos Park and Card of Thanks

1 Quote accepted and approved by council. RESOLVED noted.

2 Tesco will clean and maintain the bridge. RESOLVED noted.

3 Cllr A Melen stated that she had been to look at the trees in question and stated that most of the trees are on the side of the bypass not the boundary in question. Cllr C Jones stated that they are not very large trees on the boundary. RESOLVED that Aled cut trees where necessary and check the position of the gate and stop-tap.

6 Clerk to email G Davies to explain that maintenance will be done on Rhos Park pitch. RESOLVED noted.

7 Cllr R Lewis stated that a lady had stopped him in Rhos Park showing photos of the flooding on the playground area. Lady will pass on photos to Chair. RESOLVED noted. Cllr R Lewis asked if council had an Environmental Statement. RESOLVED that this be looked at in the next meeting of council. Cllr R Lewis stated that March – August is nesting season and no tree works should be undertaken until the Autumn. RESOLVED noted. Cllr R Lewis thanked the council with a card for agreeing to let him take some of the cut branches from Rhos Park. RESOLVED noted.

14 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Clerk stated that she had attended the NPTCBC Town/Community Council Legal Standards forum online last week. It was stated that legislation is changing in Wales to allow remote council meetings permanently. It was stated that due to the 6-month rule having been reintroduced, that all members would need to be able to access council meetings either online or via phone. Clerk explained that Cllr R Lewis does not have a computer or internet at home. Cllr D Atkins suggested that one or two councillors could meet with Cllr R Lewis at Rhos Community Centre and use their phone data allowances to join the meeting with him. Cllr M Spooner suggested that Cllr R Lewis could visit her home in order to attend the meeting online, Covid rules allowing. RESOLVED noted.

The meeting ended at 9:00pm.

Signed Dated 04 May 2021