Cyngor Cymuned Cilybebyll
Cilybebyll Community Council

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Council held Remotely via *Zoom*, on Tuesday 07 December 2021 at 6:45 pm

Presiding Councillor M Spooner

Present Councillors L Rees, R Lewis, S Atkins, D Jones, A Melen, Y James, I Jones

Apologies Councillors E Hastings, D Atkins, A Threlfall, R Stephens, C Jones

106 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr M Spooner declared an interest in item 7 Planning Applications. RESOLVED.

107 DOG MESS PROBLEMS ON RHOS PLAYING FIELDS, RHOS PARK

Chair welcomed D Baker (Rhos FC) and H Lewis (Local Resident) to the meeting. D Baker stated that he had been a coach at Rhos FC for the past 3 years. Every match day club members have to check the pitches and clear up dog mess and rubbish from the playing fields before they start playing. He stated that this problem was getting progressively worse. D Baker stated that My Green Valley were preparing a cleaning station for Rhos FC to use at the park. This was funded by council. D Baker was grateful for this and asked what could be done about the dog mess.

Chair stated that there were two aspects to the dog mess problem, one in the village of Rhos itself and one in Rhos Park. Chair stated that she has spoken to NPTCBC dog wardens who have stated that education of the owners is what is needed. She stated that Rhos Primary School are currently designing signage regarding dog mess. This could be effective in not only educating the children regarding the dangers of dog mess to health, but also to educate their parents on this matter. Cllr Y James stated that there is a problem in the whole area as she has seen reports on Facebook of dog mess on Pontardawe Rec. She suggested an education programme be run throughout the area, not just Rhos. D Baker stated that Alltwen RFC is different as it is not a public space like Rhos Park. Cllr Y James stated that Alltwen RFC does have public access. Chair stated that lots of education could be done online via council website and Facebook. Clerk stated that she will place more information and guidance on the council Facebook page. Chair stated that Caru Cymru could help with providing posters, signage etc. Chair stated that the dog wardens are stepping up inspections, but they are short staffed at the moment. It was suggested that Clerk write to NPTCBC to ask for more dog wardens to be employed. RESOLVED noted.

Cllr D Jones asked if it was definitely all dog mess on the pitches. He stated that fox mess looks very similar to dog mess. D Baker stated that due to the amount of mess on the pitches, it would be unlikely to be just a couple of foxes. Cllr D Jones stated that in law, dogs must be controlled at all times. He suggested that

dogs in the park should be kept on leads at all times and not be left to run around unattended. Cllr D Jones went on to state that if the problem persists after the education and 'dogs on leads' measures, then alternatives could be to ban dogs from the playing fields or install CCTV. Clerk stated that there is a lot of red tape involved with CCTV installation as well as cost implications. Members agreed that this would be a last resort. H Lewis stated that there are risks to letting dogs run off their leads as they could attack children. He stated that his son will not go to the park at all as he is so afraid of dogs. H Lewis believes that dogs should be banned from the park. Cllr D Jones stated that it was important to give dog owners an opportunity to change before drastic measures are considered. Cllr R Lewis agreed with this and stated that keeping dogs on leads within the park would be a good idea. He suggested that a dog bin be placed halfway up Plas Road also, as there is always mess on the road. Cllr A Melen suggested that more signage be put up around Rhos Park stating that dogs should be kept on leads. Cllr L Rees stated that, as an authority, council can choose to say all dogs must be kept on leads within our parks. Cllr D Jones stated that signage should state that people will be fined if they do not pick up after their dogs.

Chair thanked D Baker and H Lewis for attending the meeting. She stated that council are taking this matter very seriously and that the first step will need to be education via social media and signage. She stated that unfortunately NPTCBC do not want to make the field to the side of the park a dog field. This would have been an answer to this problem. Chair stated that she will continue to instruct the dog wardens to visit the park on a regular basis. Members agreed that this matter be monitored and revisited. RESOLVED noted.

Clerk asked D Baker how often the Playing Fields are used for training. He stated that in the darker months, they use them very rarely but in the Summer Months, perhaps 2 or 3 times a week. Clerk asked D Baker to book the sessions so that council know when the fields are being used. D Baker agreed he will email Clerk with details. RESOLVED.

108 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MONTHLY MEETING OF COUNCIL

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Council held online on 02 November 2021 and the Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held online on 30 November 2021 be confirmed as correct records.

109 MATTERS ARISING

Further to Minute 93 Community Centre Management – Clerk reported that she has arranged a PRS/PPL music licence for Alltwen Community Centre. RESOLVED noted.

Further to Minute 93 Matters Arising - Clerk reported that Shaw Trust do not want the Pool Table. Handyperson has been in touch with Enfys Foundation to find out if they would like it. Cllr A Melen suggested that Clerk contact other Community Councils to see if any of them would like it. RESOLVED noted.

Further to Minute 96 Maintenance – Clerk reported that NPTCBC stated that the cleaning of the bus shelter on Alltwen Triangle is 'on their list'. RESOLVED noted.

Further to Minute 98 Remembrance Sunday – Chair reported that all had gone very well both in Pontardawe and at Alltwen Triangle. Chair thanked the children who had attended from Alltwen Primary School. RESOLVED.

Further to Minute 99 Correspondence – Clerk reported that she spoke to the Community Growers, but they have not given an update on the pond / insurance situation as yet. RESOLVED noted.

Further to Minute 99 Correspondence – Clerk reported that the Rhos Welsh Language development meeting with MICNPT had gone very well. Chair and Clerk were present. Lots of good ideas for the promotion of the language were suggested including a fun day / festival in Rhos Park. RESOLVED noted.

Further to Minute 100 Any Other Urgent Business – Cllrs D Jones, Y James and A Melen reported that the defibrillator training had gone well. RESOLVED noted.

Further to Minute 100 Any Other Urgent Business – Clerk reported that the memorial plaque is still on the wall in Bronwen's Room. RESOLVED.

Further to Minute 100 Any Other Urgent Business – Chair stated that a Christmas tree in a barrel is now in situ where the old kiosk used to stand on the junction of Plas Road and Neath Road. Chair stated that she will purchase batteries and will put the lights on the tree in the coming days. Members were pleased with this. RESOLVED noted.

110 FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

RESOLVED that the following accounts be approved for payment –

134B-137B)	Staff	Wages, Expenses)	2613.24
138B	City & County of Swansea	Pension Contributions	840.52
139B	HMRC	Income Tax and NI	314.82
140D	NPTCBC	Non-dom Rates: Alltwen CC	342.00
141D	NPTCBC	Non-dom Rates: Rhos CC	380.00
142B	Amazon Business	Rhos CC: Hand Sanitizer dispensers	45.35
143B	Avanti Gas	Rhos CC: Gas	0.00*
144B	Total Gas	Alltwen CC: Gas	132.25
145B	NPTCBC	Alltwen CC: Trade Waste	360.98
146B	NPTCBC	Rhos CC: Trade Waste	360.98
147B	SSE Swalec	Rhos CC: Electric	403.86
148D	SSE Swalec	Alltwen CC: Electric	325.57
149B	Cotton & Sons	Alltwen & Rhos CC: Cleaning Supplies	164.56
150B	PPL/PRS	Alltwen CC Music Licence	107.24
151B	Andrew E Lynn	Alltwen CC: Chairs	30.00
152B	STRI	Rhos PF: Pitch Inspections	41.71
153B	Poppy Appeal	Remembrance Wreaths	80.00

Income:

Rhos CC	November Hire	£1,020.00
Alltwen CC	November Hire	£816.00
Rhos Park	Pitch fees	£144.00

Transfer: Authority to transfer the sum of £ 6,750.00 from the Council's Business Banking Account to its Current Account was requested. RESOLVED.

*Avanti account in credit. No bill to pay.

111 FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – PRECEPT 2022-23

RESOLVED that Community Centre Hire charges and pitch fees not be increased for 2022-23.

Members agreed Clerk's report on estimates for 2022-23. RESOLVED.

Further RESOLVED that the Council's precept for the financial year 2022-23 be endorsed as £100,000.00 (Minute 105 refers).

112 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

As Chair had to leave the meeting due to declaration of interest, Vice-chair stepped-in to Chair planning applications. RESOLVED.

RESOLVED that no objection be made to the following applications –

P2021/1148	Single storey rear/side extension.	33 Ashwood Drive, Gellinudd SA8 3HL
P2021/1133	Non Material Amendment to planning application P2021/0119 amending the fenestration to the rear elevation only.	26 Plas Road, Rhos SA8 3HD

RESOLVED that the same objection as previously sent to NPTCBC be made regarding the following application, as Members' views had not changed –

P2018/1032	Six No. split level dwellings, with associated highway works.	Land East of Minyrawel, Rhos

RESOLVED that Clerk forward decisions to NPT CBC.

113 MAINTENANCE

Playgrounds: Clerk reported that handyperson is currently carrying out repair works to playgrounds in accordance with ROSPA reports. RESOLVED noted.

114 COMMUNITY CENTRE MANAGEMENT

Rhos Community Centre: Clerk reported that she is yet to receive the roof inspection report. RESOLVED that Cllr R Stephens follows up on this.

Alltwen Community Centre: Clerk reported that the centre is currently being used as a drop-off point for donations for the Alltwen house fire victims. RESOLVED noted.

Cllr A Melen reported that she had spoken to a group leader who had told her that the group were looking for a different venue as the car parking is a problem at Alltwen Community Centre. This problem stems from the fact that more than one user-group can use the centre at the same time due to the number of rooms available. Cllr Y James stated that there was a choir rehearsal the same time as the defibrillator training and these issues could be one-offs. Cllr D Jones suggested that users could park elsewhere and car-share up to the community centre. Members thought this was a good idea and stated that this be suggested to any new groups looking to book the Community Centre. RESOLVED noted.

115 POSSIBLITY OF DEFIBRILLATOR AT ALLTWEN COMMUNITY CENTRE

Clerk reported that if a defibrillator was needed at Alltwen Community Centre then Welsh Hearts can provide a £200 grant towards the cost. The total cost of a defibrillator is approx. £2,000. Cllr A Melen stated that the Leon Heart Foundation also offer grants. RESOLVED noted.

Cllr D Jones explained that this subject had been discussed during the defibrillator training as the defibrillator in Alltwen Primary School is not accessible 24/7. Cllr A Melen suggested Clerk contact D Thomas for advice on this as it may be the case that the defibrillators at Alltwen RFC and Rhos Meadow are sufficient for the area. RESOLVED that Clerk liaise with D Thomas.

116 FUTURE OF RHOS CEMETERY

Chair reported that she had spoken to the trustees of the chapel and cemetery. They are keen for the Community Council to take over the ownership and running of the cemetery.

Cllr R Lewis asked how much the maintenance would likely cost if council were to take on this responsibility. Clerk reported that this would cost approx. £3,000 per year for grass-cutting maintenance, excluding any works needed to headstones. Cllr L Rees asked whether families currently pay a one-off charge for a plot or do they pay ongoing maintenance costs. He also asked how may plots were still available. Chair stated that she will speak to trustees in order to obtain answers to these questions. RESOLVED noted.

Cllr D Jones asked what would happen to the cemetery if council turned down their request to take it over. Clerk suggested that a Community Group could be set up with new trustees, separate to the Community Council. She stated that

NPTCVS could help with this. It would then enable the new group to apply for funding from council and other financial bodies. Chair stated that she will speak to the trustees further and suggested that a meeting with NPTCVS be arranged. She suggested that this matter be looked at again in the February meeting of council. RESOLVED noted.

117 CORRESPONDENCE

RESOLVED that the following items of correspondence be noted –

1	R George, NPTCBC	Revised Electoral Register
2	CISS	Request for financial support
3	L Mapstone & Huw Lewis	Dog Mess at Rhos Park
4	S Cotterill, Community Dreams	£450 donation to Alltwen Fire Families
5	Cllr E Hastings	Footpath

2 Clerk to send application form to CISS.

3 Matter discussed with H Lewis and D Baker (minute 107).

4 Donation of £450 from Community Dreams to Alltwen house fire victims. Members were thankful to Community Dreams for their donation. RESOLVED.

5 Clerk to ask Handyperson to take a look at the footpath and clear leaves. RESOLVED.

118 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Cllr R Lewis stated that he had been approached two local residents at the shop in Rhos asking why they could not book Rhos Community Centre for children's parties. Clerk explained that the centre is very busy with groups and due to the ongoing Covid-19 situation, the hall must be disinfected and cleaned between groups. This means that there is often not enough time to fit in parties. Clerk also explained that the Caretaker is only employed for 12 hours per week. Members agreed that Caretaker should be paid overtime for any hours worked over the 12 per week. Cllr D Jones stated that if the Caretaker is 'on-call' 24/7 that she should receive an 'on-call' allowance. Chair suggested that if the Rhos Caretaker is not available, then the Alltwen Caretaker could be asked to cover and vice versa, as both centres should be available for parties. Members agreed that this matter be revisited in the January meeting of council. RESOLVED noted.

Cllr A Melen stated she had received complaints as to the state of the houses that are being built on Dyffryn Road, Alltwen. She stated that there is a mess on the site. It was stated that once planning is approved, the houses do not need to be completed by a certain date therefore there is nothing anyone can do. If there is a problem with health hygiene or pests, then Environmental Health can be contacted. RESOLVED that Clerk write to Environmental Health so that they can carry out a visit of the site.

Cllr D Jones stated that during the Alltwen Christmas tree event, Phil from Centregreat stated that the tree needed feeding. He stated that there is a feeding system under the tree, with pipes underground, that needs filling on a regular basis. RESOLVED that Clerk discuss this with Handyperson.

The meeting ended at 8:30pm.

Signed Dated 04 January 2022