Cyngor Cymuned Cilybebyll
Cilybebyll Community Council

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Council held Remotely via *Zoom*, on Tuesday 01 December 2020 at 7:00 pm

Presiding Councillor S Williams

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

Apologies Councillor R Lewis

100 L RYAN – TREE PLANTING PROJECT

The meeting was attended by L Ryan. She explained that she had been working in conjunction with the Woodland Trust and Pontardawe Town Council to plant trees in the local parks. Now that works are completed with Pontardawe Town Council, she asked whether or not Cilybebyll Community Council would be interested in becoming involved with the project. She explained the importance of tree planting with regards to biodiversity and carbon footprint. L Ryan explained that she had worked with NPTCBC to create a plan for Ynysmeudwy Park and that over 200 trees (of around 30cm tall) had been planted. These can be planted as individual trees or planted as a hedgerow. She has carried out 2 planting events so far within the Pontardawe area and has another planned for Trebanos Park in the new year.

Cllr Y James asked whether or not there were issues with vandalism with regards to the small trees. L Ryan responded stating that there had been no issues thus far.

Cllr A Melen asked if the trees need to be protected with wire netting as they are so small. L Ryan stated that the free tree packs from the Woodlands Trust come with a stake and spiral plastic netting. Cllr I Jones conveyed concerns regarding the use of plastic and whether or not this would potentially cause a hazard to wild animals etc. He stated that these would need to be carefully removed. L Ryan stated that cardboard protective nettings were available, but these biodegrade too quickly, and this is why they reverted to using the plastic protectors.

Cllr A Threlfall asked whether some of the trees do not survive. L Ryan stated that only a few out of a large number will not survive.

Cllr L Rees asked if there would be any help with ongoing maintenance of the trees. L Ryan stated that Neil Hinds may be able to find funding to help with this future cost.

Cllr R Stephens stated that BBC Countryfile had followed tree planting projects throughout the UK, and they showed an ongoing maintenance scheme across the UK. They also show on their website who has planted trees and where they are planted.

Cllr D Jones asked what varieties of trees would be available and whether or not members of the public could access these for their own gardens. L Ryan explained that native tree packs could be ordered in various varieties but that they are only available to organisations with large green spaces. Cllr Y James asked whether some would be suitable for soaking up moisture in damp areas of council's parks. L Ryan explained that Neil Hinds could assist with surveying parks to ascertain which trees would be best suited to each particular area. He would complete a Green Infrastructure Enhancement Survey. Members agreed that this was an excellent project and would like Neil Hinds to assess the council's green spaces in order to ascertain if any of the areas would be suitable for planting. RESOLVED noted.

Chair thanked L Ryan for all of the information. L Ryan left the meeting.

101 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs C Jones declared an interest in item 6 Planning Applications. Cllrs A Melen, Y James and C Jones declared an interest in item 9 Proposed New English-medium Primary School as they are governors of Alltwen Primary School. RESOLVED.

102 MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF COUNCIL

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Council held online on 02 November 2020 be confirmed as a correct record.

103 MINUTES OF THE PROJECT COMMITTEE MEETING

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Project Committee Meeting held online on 09 November 2020 be confirmed as a correct record.

104 MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held online on 23 November 2020 be confirmed as a correct record.

105 MATTERS ARISING

Further to Minute 80 Matters Arising – Clerk reported that she had received good news. The application to Mynydd Y Bettws Wind Farm fund was accepted and approved. Extension works to the surfacing of the Goal-end at Lon Tanyrallt Park can therefore go ahead. Members were pleased with this news. RESOLVED noted.

Further to Minute 80 Matters Arising – Clerk reported that the Rhos Community Centre caretaker's phone had arrived. Clerk has set up an email address for her. Clerk stated that the Alltwen Community Centre Caretaker did not want a work phone and was happy for his personal phone number to be added to the council website. RESOLVED noted.

Further to Minute 83 Maintenance – Clerk reported that the new Handyperson is doing very well. He has pointed out playground hazards and has completed various tasks including sorting out the blocked culvert at Rhos Park and line painting the steps in Alltwen Community Centre as well as apply anti-fungal treatment to the equipment in Harry's Park. Members were pleased with progress. RESOLVED noted.

Further to Minute 85 Correspondence – Clerk reported that she has left a message for N Thomas NPTCBC regarding the tree behind Edward Street. She is awaiting a response. RESOLVED noted.

106 FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS, FINANCE & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE & PRECEPT 2020-21

RESOLVED that the following accounts be approved for payment –

139B	Amazon Business	Phone, SIM, PPE, Surface wipes	117.10
140B-143B)	Staff	Wages, Expenses)	2342.38
144B	City & County of Swansea	Pension Contributions	811.54
145B	HMRC	Income Tax and NI	385.70
146B	Corona Energy	Gas: Alltwen CC	241.92
147D	Non-dom Rates	Alltwen CC	342.00
148D	Non-dom Rates	Rhos CC	380.00
149B	Avanti	Gas: Rhos CC	361.99
150B	Lliw Building Supplies	Anti-fungus, cleaning agents	108.11
151B	One Voice Wales	Training: Advanced Finance	30.00
152B	Ecosolve	Pitch Verti-quake: Rhos PF	613.80
153B	PPL PRS	Music Licencing: Rhos & Alltwen CC	105.91
154B	My Green Valley	Financial Assistance	700.00
155B	Audit Wales	External Audit Fee	252.70
156B	SSE	Rhos CC: Electric	281.85

Transfer: Authority to transfer the sum of £ 6,250.00 from the Council's Business Banking Account to its Current Account is requested. RESOLVED.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Finance and Development Committee Meeting held online on 30 November 2020 be confirmed as a correct record and be adopted.

Clerk presented Budget summary and Precept suggestion figures to Members. RESOLVED noted.

RESOLVED that Community Centre Hire charges not be increased for 2021-22.

RESOLVED that charges for use of the football pitch not be increased for 2021-22.

RESOLVED that Capital Schemes spending priorities be adopted as of Finance and Development Committee Meeting Minute 96. Section 106 funding to be used for funding of projects within Rhos Park.

Chair explained that given the current economic circumstances and pressures on families as well as the reserves held by council, that the Finance Committee recommendation would be not to raise the Precept in 2021-22.

RESOLVED that the Council's precept for the financial year 2021-22 be endorsed as £100,000.00 (Minute 99 refers).

107 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

RESOLVED that no objection be made to the following applications –

P2020/0958	Two storey rear extension	191 Bryn Morgrug, Alltwen SA8 3BE
P2020/0990	Variation of condition 1 of planning permission P2015/0637	The Butchers Arms, Alltwen Hill SA8 3BP

RESOLVED that Clerk forward decisions to NPT CBC.

It was stated that the following application was withdrawn on 18 November 2020–

P2020/0951	TPO	Land Between 33 - 35A Ynys Y Mond Road, Alltwen SA8 3BA

RESOLVED noted.

It was stated that there were no documents provided for the following application –

P2020/0986	Retention and proposed works to existing outbuilding	42 Neath Road, Rhos SA8 3EB

RESOLVED that Clerk contact NPTCBC Planning for more information on the above application.

108 MAINTENANCE

Culvert – Rhos Park: Clerk reported that the Handyperson had arranged clearance of the culvert. RESOLVED noted.

Harry's Park: Clerk reported that the Handyperson had applied anti-fungal treatment to the equipment. RESOLVED noted.

Steps – Alltwen Community Centre: Clerk reported that Handyperson had painted the step-edges to assist with visibility. RESOLVED noted.

Tree Survey – Rhos Park: Clerk reported that the tree survey had been completed. She is awaiting the report. RESOLVED noted.

109 COMMUNITY CENTRE MANAGEMENT

Clerk reported that there are a couple of new groups using Alltwen Community Centre. Members were pleased with this news. Clerk will update website with details of new groups. RESOLVED noted.

Clerk reported that she had a call from the South Wales Woodturners asking whether or not the room swap would still be carried out. Clerk explained that this project would move forward in the Spring dependant on the Covid-19 pandemic situation. RESOLVED noted.

110 PROPOSAL FOR NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL IN PONTARDAWE TO REPLACE ALLTWEN PRIMARY, GODRE'R GRAIG PRIMARY AND LLANGIWG PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Chair stated that lengthy discussions had taken place during the Special Meeting of Council on 23 November 2020.

Cllr M Spooner stated that even though this matter may not directly affect her ward (Rhos) she would like to hear a consensus of opinion. Chair explained that the potential impact on Rhos Primary was discussed at the Special Meeting of Council.

Cllr A Melen stated that she has paper copies of the consultation forms if anyone would like a copy.

Cllr D Atkins asked whether there had been focus groups and if council had gauged local opinion on the matter. Chair explained that there had been focus groups set up and that there was a wide range of opinion on the matter.

Cllr Y James stated that NPTCBC are not very far along in the process and that any comments put forward now cannot be classed as objections, merely adverse or positive comments. Cllr A Melen stated that only comments could be made at this time, not objections.

Cllr R Lewis stated in his phone call with the Clerk that he would object to the selling-off of the current primary schools should this project go ahead.

Chair suggested that council write an email to NPTCBC reflecting all points made in the Special Meeting of Council. Clerk will circulate email to Members before submitting to NPTCBC to make sure all points are included correctly. RESOLVED noted.

111 CORRESPONDENCE

RESOLVED that the following items of correspondence be noted –

1	N Evans – NPTCBC	New Chief Exec. NPTCBC
2	P Hinder - NPTCBC	Request for meeting re: proposed new school
3	D Phillips - NPTCBC	Request for meeting re: second pitch at Rhos Park

4	Community Health Council	Orthopaedic Patient Experience Survey
5	A Hinder, NPTCBC	Council Tax Base 2021-22
6	NPTCBC	Alleged Public Footpath
7	Cllr R Lewis	Phone call
8	Cllr E Hastings	Email
9	E Weller	Sight loss awareness training.

2 Clerk will arrange a meeting with P Hinder and Cllrs A Melen and Y James. RESOLVED noted.

3 Clerk will arrange a meeting with D Phillips and Cllr M Spooner. RESOLVED noted.

4 Clerk to forward survey to Members. RESOLVED noted.

6 Clerk will speak to Footpaths Officer to ascertain if he has carried out any maintenance works on the path in question. RESOLVED noted.

7 Cllr R Lewis spoke to Clerk over the phone. He had reviewed the Finance Committee Meeting minutes and suggested that Members opt for the lower cost fix for the Rhos BMX track as this would be a quicker, easier and cheaper job with scalpings and stone dust, rather than a compound-plastic track. He stated that drainage may be a problem in this area but that fixing this could cause further problems, therefore sticking to a dirt track could be the best option. He also stated that a dirt track is more flexible i.e. a new jump could be added at any time whereas a plastic track could be limiting and become boring for the users. Cllrs M Spooner and R Stephens will contact Cllr R Lewis to inform him of when they intend having a site meeting. RESOLVED noted.

Cllr R Lewis also suggested that extending the current drainage system at Rhos Park Playing Field could be an option to avoid further problems with regards to flooding in the park. He stated that the pipe was not properly connected at the culvert and that the cover had been removed a long time ago. He suggested that the storm drain needs de-silting. RESOLVED noted.

Cllr R Lewis stated that drainage problems in Lon Tanyrallt Park were supposed to have been solved years ago. Cllr C Jones stated that this had only been done under the playground equipment and not in the area of the park where the Goal-end is situated. RESOLVED noted.

Cllr R Lewis had good news; a new footbridge has been fitted on footpath no. 35 (Tyn Y Cwm Farm Lane). Members were pleased with this. RESOLVED noted.

8 Cllr E Hastings emailed the Clerk to state that a Christmas Tree had been donated to Rhos Community Centre. She asked whether a tree could be placed where the old phone kiosk stood. Clerk explained that this would have to be applied for in September as this is when NPTCBC create the Christmas agreements. RESOLVED noted.

9 Members were interested in the training. Clerk to arrange a session with E Weller in the New Year. RESOLVED noted.

112 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

It was reported that the Christmas tree lights were not switched on at Alltwen Triangle. RESOLVED that Clerk contact Centregreat immediately to find out if there is a problem.

Cllr A Melen asked if it was because of the lack of sunlight in the Winter that the light on top of the monument at Alltwen Triangle was not as bright. Cllr C Jones confirmed this. RESOLVED noted.

Clerk requested that the next meeting of council be held on Monday 04 January 2021. Members agreed. RESOLVED.

The meeting ended at 8:20pm.

Signed Dated 04 January 2021