Cyngor Cymuned Cilybebyll
Cilybebyll Community Council

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Council held Remotely via *Zoom*, on Tuesday 01 February 2022 at 6:45 pm

Presiding Councillor M Spooner

Present Councillors Y James, C Jones, D Jones, A Melen, I Jones, R Lewis, E Hastings, D Atkins

Apologies Councillors L Rees, R Stephens, S Atkins, A Threlfall

131 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Chair and Cllr C Jones declared an interest in item 7 Planning Applications. RESOLVED.

132 UPDATE ON PANTRI FOODBANK – V HOTTEN

Chair welcomed V Hotten to the meeting. V Hotten thanked council for their time. He explained that Pantri Foodbank has now been running for approx. 7 years and is very busy at the moment. Pantri began serving approx. 250 people when it first opened, and it is now serving over 1,000. V Hotten stated that we are very fortunate to live in an area where people are very generous, as the foodbank continues to receive donations. He stated that the foodbank has never had to come to the council for financial assistance before due to the generosity of the local people.

V Hotten explained that the foodbank's finances are currently healthy, but they have started giving vouchers, via Charis, to people who use the foodbank, towards their fuel bills. He stated that people are struggling with their bills as they are already living in poverty. The vouchers are for £49 per month for families and £49 per 2 months for couples.

V Hotten went on to explain that Pantri would be looking to provide these fuel vouchers for 4 to 5 months over each Winter. He explained that approx. 30% of the people helped by Pantri come from the Cilybebyll area.

Chair asked how much money they would need in order to run this scheme. V Hotten explained that approx. £1,000 worth of fuel vouchers were given out in December alone. He estimated that approx. £1,500 would be given out in January. Cllr Y James stated that if 30% of the people needing assistance come from the Cilybebyll area, then that would equate to approx. £500. V Hotten stated that if council could give any funds now, then that would be helpful. The scheme could be looked at in the Autumn for the longer term. Cllr A Melen stated that Welsh Government will be giving an additional grant to people who currently receive the Winter fuel payment. She added that the increase in fuel bills will unfortunately, affect everyone. Cllr R Lewis stated that it is important to look after people. Members agreed. Clerk stated that £3,000 is allocated in the budget for

Section 137 payments and that amount is for the entire Cilybebyll area including the cemeteries the council supports.

Chair thanked V Hotten for attending and stated that this application for funding will be considered in the April 2022 meeting with all other applications for funding. V Hotten thanked Members and left the meeting. RESOLVED noted.

133 CLERK'S ADOPTION LEAVE

Chair congratulated Clerk on her adoption. Members also passed on their congratulations. Clerk stated that, all being well and going to plan, she will be taking 6 weeks adoption leave and 2 weeks annual leave so that she can be off for 2 months. She stated that she had spoken to One Voice Wales regarding taking adoption leave and they stated that, as it is a relatively short time off, there would be no point in getting anyone in to cover her leave. The leave would mean that Clerk would not be present for the March and April meetings of council. It was suggested that the April meeting be moved to the second Tuesday of the month as this would mean the Clerk would only miss the March meeting. Members agreed that this was an excellent idea. RESOLVED that if Clerk's adoption goes to plan, the April meeting of council be held on Tuesday 12th April 2022.

Cllr Y James offered to take the minutes of the March meeting of council. Members were pleased with this and thanked her for offering to do this. RESOLVED that Cllr Y James take the minutes of the March meeting of council.

Clerk explained that she will have to work some days during her adoption leave as she will still need to complete a Clerk's report, pay bills and complete wages for the 2 months. Chair stated that if there were any urgent matters arising when the Clerk is off work, that matters should be passed onto Chair so that they could be actioned. RESOLVED.

134 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MONTHLY MEETING OF COUNCIL

Cllr A Melen stated that Minute 121 should read that she suggested that 'parties be held in Alltwen Community Centre on weekends'. RESOLVED that the remainder of the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Council held online on 04 January 2022 be confirmed as a correct record.

135 MATTERS ARISING

Further to Minute 121 Caretaker's Report – Clerk reported that she will place information regarding hall hire on Facebook. RESOLVED noted.

Further to Minute 123 Matters Arising - Clerk reported that the dog mess signage for Rhos Park has arrived. She will pass on to Handyperson for installation. RESOLVED noted.

Further to Minute 123 Matters Arising - Clerk reported that the British Heart Foundation have been to pick up the pool table from Alltwen Community Centre. The Handyperson and Caretaker can now begin to build the partition wall. Clerk stated that she has checked with the insurance company, and all is fine to build the partition wall – no additional premium needed. Members were pleased with this. Cllr A Melen asked whether or not the clothes and donations for the Alltwen fire victims were still in the room. Cllr C Jones stated that K Richards will be taking everything away from the room this coming week. RESOLVED noted.

Further to Minute 123 Matters Arising - Clerk reported that D Thomas had emailed to state that he has managed to get a defibrillator for Alltwen Community Centre with funding from Welsh Government. The council only need to pay £495 for the cabinet. Members were thankful to D Thomas for arranging this and all agreed to purchase the cabinet. RESOLVED.

Further to Minute 126 Maintenance – Cllr R Lewis asked whether or not the footpaths maps project was going to go ahead. Chair stated that this matter will be revisited during a later meeting in the Summer. RESOLVED noted.

Further to Minute 127 Community Centre Management – Clerk reported that Proseal are visiting Rhos Community Centre tomorrow to complete the roof report. RESOLVED noted.

Further to Minute 128 NPTCBC Member's Fund – Cllr C Jones stated that he has opted to spend the entire £10,000 towards an Ability Swing with Enclosure at Lon Tanyrallt Park. Forms have been submitted and will go to NPTCBC cabinet shortly. Members were pleased with this news and showed full support towards this project. RESOLVED.

Further to Minute 128 NPTCBC Member's Fund – Chair stated that she had received a request from Rhos FC to pay for a new roof for the Pavilion at Rhos Park as they would like to use it as a Community Hub and to provide refreshments during match days. One quote has been received for approx. £7,500. She would like to spend the remainder of her £10,000 on supplies and resources for the Brownies and Rainbows groups in Rhos. Members thought both ideas were excellent and gave their full support to Chair on these projects. RESOLVED.

Further to Minute 130 Any Other Urgent Business – Clerk reported that Handyperson will help with moving the grit bin next to the Christmas tree in Rhos. Chair reported that she had removed the Christmas lights from the tree. All agreed that the barrel be planted with flowers for the Summer. RESOLVED noted.

136 FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

RESOLVED that the following accounts be approved for payment –

172B-175B)	Staff	Wages, Expenses)	2468.42
176B	City & County of Swansea	Pension Contributions	806.03

177B	HMRC	Income Tax and NI	311.54
178B	Avanti Gas	Rhos CC: Gas	206.84
179B	Total Gas	Alltwen CC: Gas	293.26
180B	NPTCBC	Rhos Park: Knotweed Treatment	374.94
181B	NPTCBC	Edward St: Knotweed Treatment	374.94
182B	SLCC	Membership renewal	270.00
183B	Old School Nursery Ltd	Rhos Christmas tree and planter barrell	250.00
184B	NPTCBC	Lease: Lon Tanyrallt Park	150.00
185B	Lliw Building Supplies	Plasterboard adhesive, fixings etc	143.77

Income:

Alltwen CC	Dec & Jan Hire	£ 560.00
Rhos CC	January Hire	£ 700.00
Rhos Park	Pitch fees	£ 250.00

Transfer: Authority to transfer the sum of £ 5,000.00 from the Council's Business Banking Account to its Current Account was requested. RESOLVED.

137 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

RESOLVED that no objection be made to the following applications –

P2021/1244	Erection of building for sheep accommodation and general agricultural storage with Hardstanding.	Ty'n Y Cwm Farm, Rhos SA8 3EY
P2022/0006	Works to 1x Oak Tree (identified as T1) covered by Tree Preservation Order T200/A7: -T1 (Oak) - Remove lowest branches and prune secondary branches to achieve crown lift of approximately 4 metres.	265 Delffordd, Rhos SA8 3EP

RESOLVED that a request for a more detailed plan and information on how the building usage will be monitored be sent to NPTCBC regarding the following application –

P2021/1245	Outline application (including access) for one detached rural enterprise dwelling and garage including parking and associated works.	Ty'n Y Cwm Farm, Rhos SA8 3EY

RESOLVED that Clerk forward decisions to NPT CBC.

138 MAINTENANCE

Footpaths: Clerk reported that Handyperson is currently creating new marker posts for some of the footpaths. He was asked whether or not some quirky signs could be put up e.g., x miles to Paris etc. Members thought this was a good idea.

Chair suggested x miles to Aberystwyth, Llangollen, Locmine and similar. Clerk to liaise with Handyperson. RESOLVED.

139 COMMUNITY CENTRE MANAGEMENT

Alltwen Community Centre: Clerk reported that a new electric water boiler is needed in the kitchen as the current boiler is broken. Clerk and Handyperson are currently in the process of getting quotes for a new boiler. RESOLVED noted.

Rhos Community Centre: Clerk reported that a mouse has been spotted in the hall. Handyperson is currently dealing with this matter. RESOLVED noted.

140 FUTURE OF RHOS CEMETERY

Chair reported that she had spoken to the chapel trustees and there are 130 graves plus site for ashes at the cemetery. She stated that the secretary stated that members have not been charged for the upkeep of the cemetery but there is a minimal charge for non-members. A minimal charge for upkeep is currently being considered for all. Chair reported that she mentioned NPTCVS to the trustees, but they all want to leave, hence wanting to pass on the cemetery to the Community Council.

Clerk stated that new trustees could be found within younger members of the community and stated that she had spoken to T Potts, NPTCVS about this. T Potts stated that cemeteries can be complicated as if family have paid for plots, then they own that plot of land. If the chapel and cemetery is sold, then this could complicate matters of ownership of the cemetery land.

Chair stated that some of the money from the sale of the chapel could be set aside for future upkeep of the cemetery but the main income for the sale would go to the group including Bryncoch and Alltwen chapels.

Cllr Y James stated that she had looked at Maes yr Hendre Cemetery, now owned by Crynant Community Council and there is a 28-page document of rules and regulations for the cemetery. She stated that this in itself would be a very large piece of work. It was suggested that Clerk view this information and assess. RESOLVED noted.

Cllr R Lewis asked who would administrate the funds set aside for future upkeep of cemetery. Chair stated that this would be down to the chapel association. Cllr R Lewis also raised concerns over setting a precedent - if Alltwen chapel or St Johns church were to close, then council may be expected to take these cemeteries over.

Cllr E Hastings asked what denomination the chapel is. Chair stated that it is the Independent Chapel. Cllr A Melen asked if the chapel was to be sold to a developer, they may want the entire area. Cllr D Jones stated that the chapel

could be sold with the cemetery included but there could be a clause in the sale to state that the chapel must remain open and accessible to members of the public and families of the deceased. Chair stated that the trustees are concerned that doing this could halt the sale or reduce the value of the chapel.

It was stated that this could be a huge responsibility for the council to take on. Chair suggested that a Special Meeting be set up with the chapel trustees, Community Council and NPTCVS to discuss further. RESOLVED noted.

141 CORRESPONDENCE

RESOLVED that the following items of correspondence be noted –

1	D Thomas	Defibrillator for Alltwen CC
2	Calon Hearts	Defibrillator Funding Information
3	T Potts	Rhos Cemetery
4	NPTCBC	Proposed extinguishment of footpath 21

4 Members did not object to the extinguishment of part of footpath 21 but wanted to check whether or not the local residents and property owners had been informed of this matter. RESOLVED that Clerk write to NPTCBC to obtain clarification on this matter.

142 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Cllr R Lewis asked if there was any further development in the BMX track project. Clerk stated that West Wales Trails should be designing a plan and costings for the project in the Springtime. RESOLVED that Clerk forward West Wales Trails contact details to Chair so that she can follow up on this.

Cllr R Lewis stated that the pipe is blocked causing flooding in the playground area at Rhos Park. RESOLVED that Clerk speak to Handyperson about this and contact NPTCBC so that they can visit the site, assess, and remedy the problem.

Cllr A Melen stated that she and Cllr Y James had attended a school governors meeting at Alltwen Primary School. The school staff wanted to know the progress with regards to the new school at Pontardawe. Chair stated that NPTCBC stated that the school would be ready on time. Cllr C Jones stated that the school should open in September 2024 as planned. No plans have been submitted as yet. He will follow up with NPTCBC to find out where they currently are in the process. RESOLVED noted.

Cllr R Lewis asked whether or not the Tesco bridge had been cleaned. Cllr C Jones stated that it hadn't as yet. He will follow up with NPTCBC. RESOLVED noted.

Cllr R Lewis stated that there are some additions he would like to make to the dram plaques. He will write to Clerk with alterations. RESOLVED noted.

Cllr R Lewis stated that there are stones blocking some of path 26 at Rhos Meadow Service Station. RESOLVED that Clerk write to NPTCBC to find out if they are aware of this.

Cllr D Jones stated that he had heard on the grapevine that a speed limit of 40mph and average speed cameras are to be installed on a section of the A4067 between Glais and Pontardawe. Chair stated that this is correct, and City and County of Swansea are taking the lead on this as most of this section of road is in their county. Cllr Y James stated that she had read a Wales Online article on this matter. She will forward to Clerk. RESOLVED that Clerk place post on Facebook and council website to inform public of the Community Council's involvement with this.

Cllr D Jones stated that he had received the Members Remuneration payment. He wanted to opt-out as he did not wish to receive the payment but hadn't sent the form to the Clerk in time. Cllr D Atkins stated that he usual donates his payment to Rhos Primary School. RESOLVED that Cllr D Jones donate the money to charity.

Cllr R Lewis asked whether someone could take a nice photo of the dram in Rhos Park as he has a contact in a museum in USA that would like a photo. Cllr D Jones offered to take a photo. RESOLVED noted.

The meeting ended at 8:30pm.

Signed Dated 01 March 2022