Cyngor Cymuned Cilybebyll
Cilybebyll Community Council

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Council held Remotely via *Zoom*, on Tuesday 04 January 2022 at 6:45 pm

Presiding Councillor Y James

Present Councillors R Stephens, C Jones, D Jones, A Melen, I Jones

Apologies Councillors M Spooner, L Rees, R Lewis, E Hastings, D Atkins, S Atkins, A Threlfall

119 TEMPORARY CHAIR

As both Chair and Vice-chair were unable to attend the meeting due to illness, Cllr Y James was co-opted to Chair the meeting. RESOLVED.

120 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

121 CARETAKER'S REPORT – RHOS COMMUNITY CENTRE

Chair welcomed L Reynolds, Caretaker of Rhos Community Centre to the meeting and explained that some issues around the hire of the hall for parties had been raised to council as reported in the previous meeting (minute ref: 118).

L Reynolds explained to council that she had also received some complaints and verbal abuse with regards to the hall not being available for parties. She explained that the reason for this was because the hall is fully booked during weekdays. Due to Covid-19 regulations and the need for thorough disinfecting and cleaning, including floors, doors, door handles, toilets and kitchen, there is not enough time (when the hall is empty) to go in and complete a thorough clean. The only time she can do this on the weekend is on a Saturday afternoon after the Mini Dribblers group leave. L Reynolds went on to explain that when washed, the hall floor takes hours to dry as it is such a large area. Groups/parties cannot attend until the floor is completely dry. She explained that Baby Sensory use the hall from 8am on a Monday morning therefore the floor must be in perfect condition for this group as they lay the babies on blankets/mats on the floor.

Members asked whether parties could be held on Sundays. L Reynolds explained that she is only contracted for 12 hours per week, which includes only one day of the weekend. She therefore must work on a Saturday as the Mini Dribblers group use the hall. Sunday is her only day off. L Reynolds explained that if there was a party on a Sunday, she would have no choice but to work on a Sunday, not only to open the hall but to clean it and wash the floors on a Sunday evening. Members agreed that this was too much to ask from a Caretaker contracted for 12 hours only. Cllr A Melen asked whether user groups and members of the public that would hire the hall for parties should clean up themselves after their sessions. L Reynolds explained that this in principle,

should already be being done, but went on to explain that this is not done. She stated that people think they leave the hall clean, but they don't. Toilets and kitchen are always a mess after parties, floors are swept, but still full of glitter, party poppers, sticky paper residue etc. The entire centre and floors therefore need to be totally disinfected, cleaned, and washed after parties, which takes a considerable number of hours. L Reynolds stated that she occasionally hires out the hall for Committee Meetings or similar on a Sunday as the users don't make a mess.

L Reynolds went on to explain that when the hall is open, be it for groups or parties, the toilets are used by members of the public using Rhos Park. She stated that even though there are signs to state that toilets should only be used by hall users, these are ignored. She stated that there is always a mess in the toilets, including excrement on seats, and she must clean them daily. Members were not happy with this and stated that members of the public should respect the signage and rules of the centre.

Chair reassured L Reynolds that she was not being judged by council and that the situation on party hire needed to be sorted out. L Reynolds stated that she understood this and would like some clarification on the way forward. She stated that she is not looking for extra hours and explained that there would be no time to fit in extra hours as the hall is so busy – she wouldn't have time to get in and do any extra cleaning.

Cllr R Stephens stated that he understood why some people would get frustrated at the lack of opportunity to hold parties in the hall as it is a Community Centre. He went on to state that council wouldn't want to lose any user-groups as they bring in a regular income. Members agreed with these points and also stated that they wouldn't want to lose any of the user-groups for the sake of an occasional party. Cllr D Jones stated that there are lots of alternative places in the area available to hire for children's parties. Cllr A Melen stated that as a Community Council, Cilybebyll has two Community Centres. Alltwen is not as busy as Rhos and has more rooms for hire. She suggested that it may be an option to state that Cilybebyll Community Council has two Community Centres in its area, and that Alltwen is the hall that is available to hire for parties. Members agreed that this was a good idea as long as the Caretaker of Alltwen Community Centre would be happy with this arrangement. L Reynolds stated that she currently advises people to contact Alltwen Community Centre, but they state there is no parking. This is incorrect as there is ample parking at the centre. It was suggested that Clerk write to local residents again to state that they should not park in the centre car park until after 9pm. RESOLVED noted.

RESOLVED that Clerk advertise on Facebook and website that Alltwen Community Centre is available to book for parties and actively taking bookings. Further RESOLVED that enquires regarding the hire of Rhos Community Centre be told that the hall is not available for parties at this time and enquirers be signposted to Alltwen Community Centre.

Chair thanked L Reynolds for her report. L Reynolds thanked Members for their time and consideration. L Reynolds left the meeting. RESOLVED noted.

122 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MONTHLY MEETING OF COUNCIL

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Council held online on 07 December 2021 be confirmed as a correct record.

123 MATTERS ARISING

Further to Minute 107 Dog Mess Problem at Rhos Park – Clerk reported that she has ordered signage for the park and placed information on Facebook. RESOLVED noted.

Further to Minute 109 Matters Arising - Clerk reported that she has contacted Community Councils to see if any of them would like the pool table. RESOLVED noted.

Further to Minute 111 Finance & Development Committee – Clerk reported that she sent Precept requirements to NPTCBC and all has been accepted. RESOLVED.

Further to Minute 115 Defibrillator at Alltwen Community Centre – Clerk reported that D Thomas had replied to her email and stated that the Community Centre would be an ideal location for an external defibrillator that would be accessible 24/7. RESOLVED that Clerk look into funding options.

Further to Minute 116 Future of Rhos Cemetery – Clerk reported that she will liaise with NPTCVS to discuss options. RESOLVED noted.

Further to Minute 118 Any Other Urgent Business – Cllr A Melen asked whether or not there had been a response from Environmental Health regarding the building site on Dyffryn Road, Alltwen. Clerk reported that she had contacted Environmental Health before the Christmas break but is yet to receive a response. RESOLVED noted.

124 FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

RESOLVED that the following accounts be approved for payment –

153B-156B)	Staff	Wages, Expenses)	2483.79
157B	City & County of Swansea	Pension Contributions	810.38
158B	HMRC	Income Tax and NI	310.17
159D	NPTCBC	Non-dom Rates: Alltwen CC	342.00
160D	NPTCBC	Non-dom Rates: Rhos CC	380.00
161B	Avanti Gas	Rhos CC: Gas	0.00*
162B	Total Gas	Alltwen CC: Gas	246.66
163-166B	Councillors	Member Remuneration	600.00
167B	Westward Limited	Rhos CC: Filling of system and fix drop in pressure	90.00

168B	Westward Limited	Rhos CC: Leaky pipe and radiator repair	172.50
169B	CG Toft Ltd	Alltwen CC: Replacement Window	186.00
170B	Wayne Duggan	Rhos PF: Pitch maintenance	441.00
171B	Value Products Ltd	Rhos Park: Dog Mess signs	148.32

*Avanti account still in credit. No bill to pay.

Income:

Rhos CC	December Hire	£649.00
Rhos Park	Pitch fees	£46.00

Transfer: Authority to transfer the sum of £ 6,500.00 from the Council's Business Banking Account to its Current Account was requested. RESOLVED.

Clerk stated that her salary review was due. Members agreed that Clerk's incremental rise be approved and as of January 2022, Clerk salary scale be increased from SCP 25 to SCP 26. RESOLVED.

125 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

RESOLVED that no objection be made to the following applications –

P2021/1199	Details to be agreed in association with condition 3 (carport retaining structure details & structural calculations) of planning application no. P2021/0308 granted 18/11/2021.	4 Corner Meadow, Rhos SA8 3DR
P2021/1243	Proposed garage conversion, first floor side and single storey rear extension including associated works to provide assisted supporting living accommodation.	34 Neath Road, Fforest Goch SA8 3JB

RESOLVED that a request for further information be sent to NPTCBC regarding the following application, as there was no information on the website –

P2021/1240	Proposed construction of agricultural storage building.	Land Off Forest Goch

RESOLVED that Clerk forward decisions to NPT CBC.

126 MAINTENANCE

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

Footpaths Maps: Clerk reported that she had spoken to the Clerk of Pontardawe Town Council to find out who had produced their new footpaths maps. Clerk of Pontardawe stated that they were in fact old maps that had been kept in storage. She stated that all of this had been done over 10 years ago and it was before her time as Clerk – she had no idea who had carried out the work. RESOLVED noted.

127 COMMUNITY CENTRE MANAGEMENT

Rhos Community Centre: Roof report is currently being completed by Proseal Roofing. RESOLVED noted.

128 NPTCBC MEMBERS FUND OPTIONS

Cllr C Jones stated that he is hoping to get a trailer for use in the Community. If this request is accepted, there would be £7,500.00 of the £10,000.00 Members Fund remaining. Cllr C Jones would like to use this money towards a wheelchair swing for Lon Tanyrallt Park. Members thought this was an excellent idea. Cllr C Jones had received a quote of £13,250 for the swing. This would mean that the Community Council would need to put £5,750.00 towards the project. Cllr A Melen asked if access to the park for wheelchairs was good. Cllr C Jones stated that wheelchairs and pushchairs currently have no problem in accessing the park via the ramp. Members were in full support of this project and agreed it should go ahead, as the nearest wheelchair swing in the area is in Seven Sisters, therefore a wheelchair swing in Alltwen would be an excellent addition to the park and the wider area. RESOLVED noted.

Clerk suggested that Mynydd Y Betws Wind Farm Funding could be an option for funding towards this project. RESOLVED that Clerk liaise with P Hinder, NPTCBC regarding this.

129 CORRESPONDENCE

RESOLVED that the following items of correspondence be noted –

1	Boundary Commission for Wales	Representations Published
2	Sioned Williams MS	Christmas Wishes
3	Welsh Government	The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021: Draft Statutory Guidance for Community and Town Councils
4	NPTCVS	Christmas Wishes
5	D Thomas	Defibrillator for Alltwen CC
6	OVW	WG Draft Budget

1 Information to be forwarded to Members.

3 Information to be forwarded to Members.

5 Information to be forwarded to Members.
RESOLVED.

130 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Cllr D Jones passed on his thanks to Cllr M Spooner for the Christmas tree in Rhos. Clerk thanked Cllr D Jones for meeting with Quid's In. Cllr D Jones stated that the grit

bin will need moving as it is currently in an awkward position with regards to access. RESOLVED that Clerk contact Cllr M Spooner to discuss this.

Cllr D Jones stated that the barrel holding the Christmas tree is 2/3 filled with concrete and the top fills with water. When the tree is removed, he suggested filling the gap with compost and planting flowers in the top of the barrel. Members thought this was an excellent idea. RESOLVED that Clerk liaise with Handyperson regarding this.

The meeting ended at 8:00pm.

Signed Dated 01 February 2022