Cyngor Cymuned Cilybebyll
Cilybebyll Community Council

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Council held Remotely via *Zoom*, on Tuesday 05 October 2021 at 6:40 pm

Presiding Councillor M Spooner

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

Apologies Councillors D Atkins, A Threlfall, E Hastings

80 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs M Spooner and C Jones declared an interest in item 6 Planning Applications. Cllr C Jones also declared an interest in item 9 Applications for Financial Assistance. RESOLVED.

81 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MONTHLY MEETING OF COUNCIL

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

82 MATTERS ARISING

Further to Minute 69 Matters Arising – Clerk reported that she had spoken to L Parfit regarding the Cemeteries in Onllwyn and Seven Sisters. He explained that the process of running a cemetery is quite straightforward. The undertaker would contact the council and then the council would need to choose a plot with the family and contact a grave digger. The undertaker would pay the grave digger. Council would then need a form from the registrar to complete and return. Costs for plots can vary from £150-£600. L Parfit explained that the biggest cost would be maintenance of the cemetery e.g., grass cutting (approx. £3,000) and maintenance/removal of the old headstones and graves. Clerk asked L Parfit what happens when the headstones are damaged. He stated that depending on the age of the grave, the headstones can be removed. If there are members of the family still alive, then permission from them would need to be sought to remove the stones. He stated that the headstones would need to be checked on a regular basis to make sure they are safe. Cllr D Jones stated that if this cemetery take-over was to go ahead, he would be prepared to volunteer to run this but stated that once his time as a Councillor comes to an end, finding another Councillor who would be prepared to do this could be challenging. Chair suggested that the Clerk should ideally carry out this work, but it was stated that it would add to her workload, therefore additional hours, or overtime payments for cemetery work would need to be considered if the Clerk was to agree to the extra work. Cllr Y James asked how many plots were left at the cemetery – this is unknown. Cllr D Jones stated that no matter how many plots are left, all plots have the capacity to take 2 coffins therefore there would be the possibility of

many burials taking place in the cemetery over the coming years. Cllr A Melen was concerned that doing this for a cemetery in Rhos could set a precedent for other cemeteries in the area. Cllr L Rees suggested getting in touch with Undeb yr Annibynwyr for their point of view on this matter and any advice or assistance they may be able to give council. RESOLVED that a meeting be set up with the chapel committee in the first instance to discuss further.

Further to Minute 74 10th Anniversary of the Gleision disaster – Clerk reported that both events had gone very well. Chair thanked everyone who had attended and stated that the families and members of the public have thanked her for what the council did to commemorate the sad event. Cllr R Lewis stated that he has placed 2 temporary plaques on the Memorial Dram. Members agreed that permanent plaques need to be ordered. RESOLVED that Cllr R Lewis and Chair decide on the appropriate wording for the plaques and Clerk to order.

Further to Minute 75 Chistmas 2021 - Clerk reported that she had completed the Special Event forms for NPTCBC but that she needs 2 first aiders for the event. RESOLVED that Members find out if anyone will be available to cover the event and if not, Cllrs L Rees and D Jones offered to complete the online training course.

Further to Minute 76 Proposed Extinguishment of Footpath 38 – Chair stated that she had visited the footpath but could not walk along it as it wasn't accessible. She stated that she couldn't find one end of it at all. The footpath has not been used for many years. Clerk stated that she had received a response from NPTCBC stating that no-one had objected to the proposed extinguishment and that proper procedures had been followed. Chair stated that no member of the public has approached council regarding this footpath. RESOLVED that Clerk pass on this information to NPTCBC.

Further to Minute 77 Correspondence – Clerk reported that she had spoken to G Davies, Rhos FC regarding the cleaning of the changing rooms in Rhos CC and they are happy to keep cleaning it themselves. He suggested that a Councillor or Caretaker check the cleaning to make sure it is up to the standard expected by council. RESOLVED noted.

Further to Minute 77 Correspondence – Clerk reported that she had received a response from R Clapham, Glantawe Education Academy regarding the Himalayan Balsam. He gave excellent instructions as to how to remove the balsam and suggested that a plan be made for 2022. RESOLVED that R Clapham be invited to a council meeting in the new year to discuss plans further.

Further to Minute 77 Correspondence – Clerk reported that the Handyperson and Caretaker are ready to start building the partition wall in Alltwen Community Centre. Cllr R Lewis suggested contacting the council's insurers to make sure that an additional wall would not affect any cover. RESOLVED noted.

83 FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

RESOLVED that the following accounts be approved for payment –

99B-102B)	Staff	Wages, Expenses)	2,807.00
103B	City & County of Swansea	Pension Contributions	904.65
104B	HMRC	Income Tax and NI	313.13
105D	NPTCBC	Non-dom Rates: Alltwen CC	342.00
106D	NPTCBC	Non-dom Rates: Rhos CC	380.00
107B	Cllr R. Lewis	Reimbursement for Commemorative Dram items	153.40
108B	G. James	Transportation of Dram	50.00
109B	D.S. Evans	Refurbishment of Dram, Rails etc.	600.00
110B	Bowel Cancer UK	Donation in memory of Babs Lanchbury	50.00
111B	Golau Cancer Foundation	Donation in memory of Babs Lanchbury	50.00
112B	Came & Company (Gallagher)	Council Insurance	3,707.18
113B	Wicksteed Leisure Ltd	Lon Tanyrallt Park: Coil Spring and attachments for see-saw	394.57
114B	Lliw Building Supplies	Paint, brushes, wire netting: Rhos Dram	300.39

Income:	Rhos CC	September	£910.00
	Alltwen CC	September	£849.00
	Rhos PF	September	£76.00

Transfer: Authority to transfer the sum of £ 10,000.00 from the Council's Business Banking Account to its Current Account was requested. RESOLVED.

84 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 –

P2021/0883	Erection of a single storey rear extension, the works for which include the demolition of an existing single storey rear extension and minor setting back of a section of wall to the southeast corner of the proposed section.	Beeches, Beeches Access Lane, Cilybebyll SA8 3JD
P2021/0947	Details to be agreed in association within condition 3 (Materials to be used in the construction of the external surfaces of the development) of planning permission P2020/0004 granted on 06/03/2020.	Rhos Primary School, Neath Road, Rhos SA8 3EB

RESOLVED that Clerk forward decisions to NPT CBC.

85 MAINTENANCE

Rhos Park Damage: Chair reported that a hedge and grass area in Rhos Park had been damaged due to builders accessing the rear of a house that backs onto the park. The householders were having works done in their garden. The builders also dumped the hedge in the park. Members stated that this was unacceptable as permission was not sought for this. RESOLVED that Clerk write a letter to the householders stating that council will need to be reimbursed for any damage and the hedge removed.

Lon Tanyrallt Park See-saw: Clerk reported that the new spring and fixings have arrived. Handyperson will fit as soon as possible. RESOLVED noted.

Harry's Park: Handyperson had reported to Clerk that some of the fence posts are beginning to rot in some places. It was suggested that Clerk contact Harry's Fund in the first instance to find out if they have any further works planned in the park before repairing the fence. RESOLVED noted.

Rhos CC Roof: Handyperson reported to Clerk that the roof needs some small, ongoing repairs as some of the panels are bending and rusting. Some of the wood underneath is also starting to rot. It was suggested that a company be hired to provide a written report on the state of the roof. Cllr R Stephens stated that he knows of a company that can do this. They fly a drone over the roof and make suggestions for repair etc. RESOLVED that Clerk liaise with Cllr R Stephens on this matter. Cllr C Jones suggested that if the entire roof needs replacing then possibly, Section 106 funding could be used for this. RESOLVED noted.

Footpaths 13, 50 & 51: Cllr A Melen stated that the footpaths are unpassable and sent photos to Clerk. RESOLVED that Clerk forward these to Aled so that he can cut the paths before Winter.

Shed in Rhos Park: Clerk reported that the Handyperson would like a shed to store items within Rhos Park. Cllr D Jones stated that it would depend on what he would like to store there as flammables would not be allowed unless in a fireproof cabinet. RESOLVED that Clerk liaise with Handyperson to find out exactly what he needs to store.

86 COMMUNITY CENTRE MANAGEMENT

Rhos Community Centre: Clerk reported that the Fire Doors on the main hall have begun to rot. Members agreed that Clerk should cost a new set of fire doors. RESOLVED noted.

Clerk reported that she has ordered signage stating that no-one should climb onto the roof. RESOLVED noted.

Alltwen Community Centre: Clerk reported that she had received a message from the Caretaker asking whether or not Dramatic Performance Academy can

have hire of the main hall for free for a fundraising disco for their Christmas performance. Members stated that this is normally only done for charities, and they wouldn't want to set a precedent. They will instead consider an application for financial support from the organisation. RESOLVED.

Cllr A Melen stated that she was unsure whether or not Alltwen CC had a PRS/PPL licence for discos. RESOLVED that Clerk check this.

87 APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Cllr C Jones left the meeting due to his declaration of interest.

Clerk reported that she had received 2 applications:

• **Alltwen Community Gardening Club** – RESOLVED that a donation of £300.00 be awarded towards outdoor string lights for the Community Garden.
• **Dramatic Performance Academy** – RESOLVED that a donation of £70.00 be awarded towards fund-raising disco and costumes for performance.

Members also agreed to donate £50 to **Cwmtawe Youth Band** as a thank you gesture for their performances at the Gleision Anniversary events. RESOLVED.

88 OPTIONS/IDEAS FOR MEMBERS COMMUNITY FUND

Chair explained that as County Councillors, she and Cllr C Jones had £10,000 each to spend in their areas from the NPTCBC Members Community Fund.

Cllr C Jones stated that he has already decided on a project for Alltwen. He stated that as the Rugby field has a huge problem with dog mess, he is applying for a fence in order to fence-off the pitch. This would make it safer for players as there would be less chance of them falling into dog mess and getting ill. Members thought this was a good idea. RESOLVED noted.

Chair stated that she had 3 ideas for her area:

Option 1: Electric box for Christmas lights on the tree at the junction of Neath Road and Plas Road. Another option for this would be at the junction of Primrose Lane. Cllrs D Jones and R Lewis stated that the lit trees may be a distraction for drivers. Chair stated that all would need to be agreed by NPTCBC before proceeding with a project like this.

Option 2: Flower Planters at the entrance to each village. Chair stated that she had spoken to the Community growers and they stated that they would be prepared to grow and plant the flowers. Members were pleased with this.

Option 3: Information boards. Chair suggested that notice boards to advertise events could be placed in the area.

RESOLVED that Chair cost each option before deciding.

89 CORRESPONDENCE

RESOLVED that the following items of correspondence be noted –

1	Cllr R Lewis	Thank You Card
2	C Lynch	Dog Fouling

1 Clerk read out card. Members thanked Cllr R Lewis for all of his hard work on the dram project. RESOLVED.

2 Clerk read email from C Lynch. Members stated that some dog owners are irresponsible. Cllr D Jones stated that dog mess is particularly terrible for wheelchair users. It was stated that the only way to combat this would be if members of the public would take photos and report anyone who does not pick up after their dogs. Chair stated that the dog wardens have visited Rhos and found that 30 people had acted responsibly. Cllr L Rees suggested that bag dispensers next to bins could be a good idea for when people forget to take a bag. Cllr D Jones stated that he has on some occasions knocked on doors to ask for a bag on the rare occasion he forgets to take a bag – he stated there is no excuse. Cllr R Lewis stated that since lockdown, dog ownership has increased dramatically. He suggested there should be more dog bins in the area e.g., at Maes Rhedyn. Cllr D Jones suggested that the local residents be consulted on where they would like additional dog bins. RESOLVED that Chair will raise this matter with NPTCBC.

90 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Cllr A Melen stated that when she had spoken to the Alltwen CC Caretaker he had stated that Shaw Trust have still not been to pick up the pool table. RESOLVED that Clerk contact them again to make sure they still want it.

Cllr R Lewis stated that no. 3 Plas Road is having problems with rain coming into their garden during downpours. He suggested that Clerk contact NPTCBC Highways as there is damage to the drainage system. RESOLVED noted.

Cllr R Lewis stated that Pontardawe Town Council have had a new footpaths map created with lots of extra information on it. He suggested that council do the same when producing a new footpaths map. RESOLVED that Clerk contact Pontardawe TC Clerk to find out who designed and produced the maps for them.

The meeting ended at 8:40pm.

Signed Dated 02 November 2021