Cyngor Cymuned Cilybebyll
Cilybebyll Community Council

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Council held online via Zoom on 07 February 2023 at 7:00 pm

Presiding Councillor D Jones

Present Councillors M Spooner, R Lewis, A Melen, D Atkins, B Williams, D Baker, N Jenkins, S Hart (late arrival)

Apologies Councillors L Rees, S Atkins, J Todd, M Hutchings

134 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

M Spooner declared an interest in item 6 Planning due to her being a Member of NPTCBC. B Williams declared an interest in the 'Unders' project as a member of the Pottery Group. RESOLVED.

135 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MONTHLY MEETING OF COUNCIL

Clerk reported that number codes are incorrect on minute 127 Financial Transactions. She will amend these. Cllr D Atkins pointed out that a zero was left out of the transfer figure - this should read £7,000.00. 126 Matters Arising should read 'bench in Cilybebyll had been replaced' (and not repaired). RESOLVED that the remainder of the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Council held online via Zoom on 03 January 2023 be confirmed as a correct record thereof.

136 MATTERS ARISING

Further to Minute 126 Matters Arising - Clerk reported that she is awaiting a date for the site meeting at Alltwen Community Centre to discuss the 'Unders' project with the NPTCBC Building Inspector. He has been away on holiday and will organise a date with Clerk as soon as possible. RESOLVED noted.

Further to Minute 126 Matters Arising - Clerk reported that she has received a response from Sioned Williams MS regarding the pharmacies in Pontardawe. Clerk read letter to Members. Members were pleased to know that S. Williams MS is taking the matter seriously and is trying to assist with resolving the issue. She is due to meet with Local Health Board on 6th March 2023. An update will be provided after the meeting. Cllr R Lewis reported that the issue is less with Lloyds Pharmacy and more with Well Pharmacy. Cllr A Melen reported that she had received a double prescription with her last collection and was told by the Health Centre to keep hold of the tablets as otherwise they would only be thrown away. Cllr M Spooner reported that the maps used to make the decision on a third pharmacy did not include Rhyd-y-fro or Ynysmeudwy which all use Pontardawe-based pharmacies. She also reported that NPTCBC are supportive of a third pharmacy and may be able to get involved. Members agreed to wait for the outcome of the meeting between S. Williams MS and LHB before taking any

further action. Clerk reported that she has not received a response from J. Miles MS as yet. RESOLVED noted.

Further to minute 131 Swansea Valley Schools – Clerk reported that the council's objections had been submitted and received by NPTCBC. Cllr A Melen reminded Members that today was the last day that comments could be submitted. RESOLVED noted.

Further to minute 132 Correspondence – Clerk reported that NPTCBC have responded to her query regarding the Minor Projects Grant. Council would be eligible for a grant of 45% of the cost of a new roof for Rhos Community Centre up to a maximum of £9,000.00. Members were pleased with this news. It was suggested that a structural survey be carried out prior to getting a new roof to make sure that the building is safe enough to hold a new roof. It was stated that a survey had been carried out in 2010. Members felt that a new survey would be needed as lots could have changed in 13 years. RESOLVED that Clerk arrange a survey.

Further to minute 133 Any Other Urgent Business – Clerk reported that she contacted a company that showed they were involved in Solar projects for communities, but they stated that Council's project would be too small for them. Clerk reported that she then contacted NPTCBC for advice but is yet to receive a response. Cllr N Jenkins suggested contacting Awel Aman Tawe for advice and help on this project. Cllr D Baker also stated that he will forward information to Clerk. RESOLVED that Clerk liaise with Awel Aman Tawe in the first instance.

Further to minute 133 Any Other Urgent Business – Clerk reported that she and Cllr R Lewis had met at Rhos Community Centre to inspect the new fire doors. The one in the main hall was sticking at the bottom. Handyperson has now fixed this. Cllr R Lewis noticed that a panel at the top of the rear fire door was rotting. He suggested getting marine plywood to replace the section, inside and outside. Handyperson will do this. Clerk reported that Handyperson had been asked by one of the groups attending the centre if it would be possible to paint a mural on the new section. Members would like an idea of the design they have in mind before going ahead with this. RESOLVED noted.

137 FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

RESOLVED that the following accounts approved for payment –

190B-193B)	Staff	Wages, Expenses)	2,976.98
194B	City & County of Swansea	Pension Contributions	951.02
195B	HMRC	Income Tax and NI	398.64
196B	British Gas	Rhos CC: Gas	0.00*
197B	Total Gas	Alltwen CC: Gas	398.11
198B	Wayne Duggan	Rhos PF: Winter Fertilizing	511.00
199B	NPTCBC	Rhos PF: Annual Grounds Maintenance	9,002.20
200B	Lliw Building Supplies	Timber, angle brackets, bolts, filler, woodscrews etc.	157.85

201B	Ecosolve Ltd	Rhos PF: Verti-draining	675.18
202B-206B	Councillors	Member Remuneration Payments	750.00
207B	Engraving Studios Ltd	2 x plaques for Memorial Dram	118.95
208B	DEA DWP	A. Jenkins repayment	3.13
209B	Amazon Business	Inks, Printer Paper, Mouse, Envelopes	112.76
210B	Councillor	Member Remuneration	150.00

*no bill received from British Gas

Income:

Alltwen CC	December & January Hire	£ 816.00
Rhos CC	January Hire	£ 825.00

Transfer: Authority to transfer the sum of £16,000.00 from the Council's Business Banking Account to its Current Account was requested and approved. RESOLVED.

Clerk reported that council had been offered a fixed rate gas supply from British Gas for Rhos Commiunity Centre. Cllr D Atkins pointed out that this may mean that council would be ineligible for Government help with bills. It was stated that current advice seems to be that staying on a variable rate is the best option for now. In which case, a fixed rate supply may not be the best option for council at this time. RESOLVED that Clerk look into this further.

Cllr A Melen stated that pitch maintenance seems to be costing the council a lot of money. Cllr D Atkins stated that 24% of council expenditure goes on pitch maintenance. There is very little income from the playing fields. Clerk suggested discussing this in the next meeting of the Finance and Development Committee. Members agreed. RESOLVED noted.

138 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

RESOLVED that no objection be made to the following applications:

P2022/1080	Proposed two-storey rear extension and single storey side/rear extension. The works for which would include internal remodelling, the installation of a first-floor window within the side elevation of the main dwellinghouse, the demolition of existing single storey side and rear extensions, and the setting back of an existing garden retaining wall.	16 Neath Road, Rhos SA8 3EB
P2022/1086	Non material amendment to planning permission ref. P2020/0820 approved 16.12.20: Removal of the original proposed balcony and replace with roof light window to both front and rear elevations.	4 Clos Gwenallt, Alltwen SA8 3BD

RESOLVED that Clerk forward decisions to NPT CBC.

139 MAINTENANCE

Clerk reported that the Handyperson has planed the fire door at Rhos Community Centre and it is now opening well. RESOLVED noted.

140 COMMUNITY CENTRE MANAGEMENT

Rhos Community Centre: Clerk reported that there are mice in the centre. Caretaker and Handyperson tried using humane traps to get rid of the mice, but they continued to be a problem. Clerk instructed C Handford, Propest to have a look at the problem. He placed poison boxes around the inside of the centre and was surprised by how much of it had been taken. The problem is larger than first thought. C Handford suggested there be no food left in the centre but stated that if some food has to be kept there, then it should be in tin boxes, or sealed plastic boxes. Cllrs R Lewis and S Hart stated that the problem with using poison is that other animals could eat the poisoned mice (cats, dogs etc). Clerk stated that the problem is so large that humane traps, unfortunately, are not sufficient. Chair stated that as long as dogs and cats cannot access the poison then that is all that council can do. RESOLVED noted.

Clerk reported that the 'Tea and Chat' morning in the centre is very successful. Cllr S Hart volunteers each week and she reported that different faces can be seen each week and that attendance is growing. A book club has now been started and hopefully other activities will follow. Members were pleased with the success of this. RESOLVED noted.

Alltwen Community Centre: Clerk reported that Handyperson has almost finished placing the frame for the partition wall. C Jenkins will place 2 new power sockets in the new room. Handyperson suggested putting Perspex at the top of the new wall to allow light into the corridor. Members were concerned that this may not meet fire regulations. RESOLVED that Clerk liaise with FPS regarding this before any other steps are taken.

Chair stated that he would like to attend the 'Council as an Employer' training so as to understand council's responsibility with regards to all staff and their duties. RESOLVED that Clerk book a place on the training for him.

141 APPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL VACANCY, ALLTWEN

Members agreed by show of hands that Anne Richards be invited to join council. RESOLVED that Clerk inform her of the decision and invite her to the next meeting of council.

142 PROPOSED EXTINGUISHMENTS OF PARTS OF FOOTPATHS 21 & 24

Cllr N Jenkins explained where the footpaths were and that they are not useable paths. Members agreed to the extinguishment orders. RESOLVED that Clerk inform NPTCBC of decisions.

143 CLERK OF WORKS

Cllr R Lewis suggested that someone be hired to check large contracts such as building works etc. He suggested a retired builder that he knows who would be prepared to do this on a voluntary basis. Members thought that having someone do this on a voluntary basis may not make the decisions legally binding. Cllr D Atkins stated that whoever would be hired to do this would need to meet current compliance standards otherwise contracts shouldn't be signed-off. Retired builders may not meet these standards. He suggested asking NPTCBC if they have a service that council could use, as and when necessary, to check building contracts. RESOLVED that Clerk contact NPTCBC and One Voice Wales in the first instance.

Members asked if council is covered to allow Handyperson to carry out works he may be able to do, but may not be qualified to do. Chair stated that he will ask regarding this when he attends the Council as an Employer training with OVW. RESOLVED noted.

144 CORRESPONDENCE

RESOLVED that the following items of correspondence be noted –

1	N Williams	Blossom Trees – dates for planting
2	T Hull, Ecosolve	Date for Verti-draining
3	P Egan, OVW	Advice on vacancies
4	R Stephens	Resignation
5	T Jones, NPTCBC	Minor Projects Grant
6	NPTCBC	Warm Spaces Grant
7	S Aston-Epps	Sofas in 'Unders', Alltwen CC

1 It was suggested that Clerk check as to the planting position of the tree. She can then inform Members of location of planting. Tree will be planted at 10:30am on 24th March 2023. All Members welcome to attend. RESOLVED noted.

2 Verti-draining completed.

3 OVW stated that if a Caretaker or any Member of Staff wanted to stand as Councillor, then they would have to resign from their job, due to possible conflict of interest. RESOLVED noted.

4 Resignation received from Cllr R Stephens due to his current work commitments. RESOLVED that Clerk advertise vacancy.

5 NPTCBC Minor Projects Grant can fund 45% of a project up to a maximum of £9,000.00. RESOLVED that this grant be looked at towards Rhos Community Centre roof.

6 Notification of success in applying for Warm Spaces Grant. Grant of £750.00 has been awarded towards the Tea & Chat morning at Rhos Community Centre. Members were pleased with this news. RESOLVED noted. Cllr N Jenkins reported that there are more grants on the way for Community Projects. These could therefore be applied-for in order to keep the event going. RESOLVED that information be forwarded to Clerk as soon as it becomes available and Clerk to apply for grants.

7 Clerk reported that she had received a phone call from S Aston-Epps regarding her old sofas. She had paid for street collection via NPTCBC but in the meantime a group of boys asked if they could have the sofas. She agreed as she thought they would be going to a house. It turns out the sofas have been placed in the end room of the 'Unders' in Alltwen Community Centre and they are being used by a group of youths. This is not acceptable as youths should not be congregating in the 'Unders'. RESOLVED that S Aston-Epps be asked to contact NPTCBC for removal of the sofas as soon as possible.

145 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Cllr R Lewis asked Clerk to report the flooding and road damage at the top end of Plas Road – near the junction of Plas Road and Church Road. Cllr M Spooner asked Clerk to copy her into any email sent to NPTCBC and she will follow up on this. RESOLVED noted.

Cllr S Hart asked if a dog bin could be placed between Rhos and Gellinudd. Cllr M Spooner will liaise with NPTCBC regarding this. RESOLVED noted.

Cllr B Williams had sent a photo of the gates at Gwynfryn Park to Members. Chains are still there but panel at side of gate has now been removed. RESOLVED that this be discussed in the next meeting of council.

Cllr D Baker asked if it would be possible for Rhos FC to run a football festival this year. He suggested that the school could be contacted to ask if their yard could be used for car parking for the event. Members thought this was a good idea. RESOLVED that football festival go ahead and that Cllr D Baker contact school.

Cllr D Baker asked if it would be possible for Rhos FC to place a rail around the concrete base outside the pavilion building. Members thought this was a good idea as it would make the area safer. RESOLVED.

Chair thanked all for attending. The meeting finished at 9:20pm.

Signed Dated 07 March 2023