Cyngor Cymuned Cilybebyll
Cilybebyll Community Council

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

Presiding Councillor L Rees

Present Councillors D Jones, M Spooner, R Lewis, A Melen, B Williams, A Richards, D Baker, N Jenkins, S Hart, S Atkins

Apologies Councillors D Atkins, M Hutchings

146 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

147 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MONTHLY MEETING OF COUNCIL

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Council held online via Zoom on 07 February 2023 be confirmed as a correct record thereof.

148 MATTERS ARISING

Further to Minute 136 Matters Arising - Clerk reported that the site meeting at Alltwen Community Centre to discuss the 'Unders' project with the NPTCBC Building Inspector, K Howe, had been held yesterday. It was attended by Chair and Vice-chair of Council, 2 Members of the SW Woodturners, Cllr B. Williams of Council and Pottery Group and Clerk. K Howe explained that it would be a very large project. He stated that the project was doable but would need to meet a great amount of building regulations as for commercial buildings, regulations are much greater than for residential builds. He explained that full architect plans would need to be submitted to his department before any decisions could be made. K Howe explained that fire regulations would have to be met. He said, for example, that regulations may require a sprinkler system to be installed. He also went on to explain that if the rooms were to be heated, more regulations would come into force as would they when considering placing a toilet in the 'Unders'. K Howe explained that costing for the project could be anywhere from £50,000 to £1,000,000 depending on plans and regulations needing to be met. Cllr B Williams explained that the 3 groups involved would apply for funding to assist with building costs. Cllr M Spooner stated that it was important to obtain costings for this before making any decisions. Clerk explained that due to the size of the project, if Council were to go ahead with this, then a Project Manager would be needed. It was suggested that a Feasibility Study/Report be carried out before moving further with this project. The majority of Members agreed. RESOLVED that Clerk contact Hurley & Davies, suggested by Cllr S Atkins, in the first instance to provide a Feasibility Report. Cllr D Jones suggested that the 'Unders' should be sealed off regardless of whether Council decides to move on with the

project or not to ensure the 'Unders' are not vandalised and to stop any further fires being lit inside them, as this could potentially burn down the entire building. Cllr R Lewis agreed with this and added that the building is over 150 years old and is deteriorating, so closing the 'Unders' should be the priority. Further RESOLVED that Clerk contact NPTCBC Planning Department to arrange a site visit to ascertain what would be acceptable in terms of facia for closing-up the arches. RESOLVED that this matter be revisited once Feasibility Report has been completed.

Further to Minute 136 Matters Arising – Cllr M Spooner reported that she and Sioned Williams MS had met with the LHB regarding the pharmacies in Pontardawe. She explained that they are waiting for a bulleted list of points that were discussed at the meeting. Cllr M Spooner explained that the LHB had stated that it was staffing and supply chain that was at fault. She also stated that she had explained to the LHB that the needs assessment had not included the entire area covered by Pontardawe Pharmacies. She reported that they seemed surprised by this point, but this point had already been raised previously in the report. LHB stated that they had set up a stakeholder group. Two County Borough Councillors had contacted them for access to the group but were not invited. S Williams MS was not invited either. LHB has now stated that they will be invited from now on. The LHB reported that there is a new app being designed in order to bypass the need for paper prescriptions. They stated that this should ease the pressure on the pharmacies. Cllr M Spooner stated that not everyone has access to mobile phone apps and not everyone is confident in using them. Cllr A Melen stated that forms would still need to be shared from Health Centre to Pharmacy even with an app. Cllr M Spooner stated that the current text system is not working. She also stated that the two pharmacies in Pontardawe are very small. Wait times are very long. Cllr S Hart reported that Lloyds Pharmacy has been sold and is being taken over by a family business (not a chain pharmacy). It is hoped that service will be better from now on. Cllr R Lewis suggested that the LHB should visit the pharmacies to experience them themselves. Cllr A Richards explained that she had waited 45 minutes to get to the front of the queue in Well Pharmacy only to be told that they were now closing for lunch, and she would have to come back later. Cllr M Spooner reported that there is a mandatory review every 5-years, meaning that a review will be due in 3 years. RESOLVED that Cllr M Spooner keep Members informed of developments.

Further to minute 136 Matters Arising – Clerk reported that she had contacted Awel Aman Tawe for advice on Solar Panels for Alltwen and Rhos Community centres. They had passed on Clerk's details to Egni Co-op. Egni Co-op had been out to visit both sites. They stated that Alltwen Community Centre would not be suitable for solar panels. Rhos Community Centre would be ideal for solar panels. Egni Co-op stated that there may be access to funding for the panels. They have asked Clerk for details of energy usage etc. RESOLVED that Clerk forward details and report any updates to Members. Cllr R Lewis stated that it will be important to have the structural survey report before moving forward. RESOLVED noted.

Further to minute 136 Matters Arising – Clerk reported that handyperson has placed the board on the outside wall of Rhos Community Centre. Screws are protruding. RESOLVED that Clerk instruct Handyperson to change the screws. It was suggested that a Carpenter be hired to carry out small works at the centre. RESOLVED noted.

Further to minute 143 Clerk of Works – Clerk reported that she had received a response from OVW that stated that architects, project managers and surveyors are sometimes used to oversee building works. Cllr R Lewis suggested that having someone on an ad-hoc basis would be ideal. Cllr D Jones suggested using a local builder with relevant qualifications. Cllr S Atkins stated that Chartered Surveyors would organise a Project Manager etc. RESOLVED noted.

Further to minute 144 Correspondence – Clerk reported that the blossom tree will be planted near the Memorial Dram in Rhos Park on 24th March 2023 at 10:30am. All Members welcome to attend. Cllr M Spooner reported that this date coincides with the date that the official inquiry into the tragedy will begin. RESOLVED noted.

Further to minute 144 Correspondence – It was reported that the sofa is still in the 'Unders' at Alltwen Community Centre. Cllr B Williams stated that legally, we will need to remove it. RESOLVED that Clerk liaise.

Further to minute 145 Any Other Urgent Business – Cllr B Williams explained that the fence panel next to the gate at the entrance to Gwynfryn Park has disappeared. Cllr A Melen reported that Alltwen RFC had asked if the gates could be locked as it is accessed via the RFC car park. Cllr N Jenkins stated that there could be a legal argument for a public right of way for access to the park. She will check this with NPTCBC. RESOLVED noted.

149 FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

RESOLVED that the following accounts approved for payment –

211B-214B)	Staff	Wages, Expenses)	2,837.97
215B	City & County of Swansea	Pension Contributions	941.01
216B	HMRC	Income Tax and NI	441.92
217B	Councillor	Member Remuneration	150.00
218B	Total Gas	Alltwen CC: Gas	413.65
219B	J. Davies	Rhos CC: Bond refund party	20.00
220D	SSE	Alltwen CC: Electricity	855.82
221B	SSE	Rhos CC: Electricity	866.18
222B	NPTCBC	Rhos Park: Knotweed Works	374.94
223B	Wayne Duggan	Rhos PF: Slit fine aerate pitches	157.00
224B	Recyclingbins.co.uk Jaydee Living Ltd.	Gwynfryn Park: triple wood recycling bin in dark green textured finish x 2	2,327.88
225B	DWP DEP	A. Jenkins	3.03

Income:

Alltwen CC	February Hire	£ 535.00
Rhos CC	February Hire	£ 920.00
Rhos PF	February Hire	£ 212.00

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

Cllr D Baker suggested that Rhos FC may be able to provide a bi-annual lump sum to council for use of the playing fields. Clerk suggested discussing this in the next meeting of the Finance and Development Committee. Members agreed. RESOLVED noted.

150 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

RESOLVED that no objection be made to the following applications:

P2023/0023	Retrospective application for the demolition of existing rear extension and development of single storey rear extension.	38 Plas Road, Rhos SA8 3HD http://appsportal.npt.gov.uk/ords/idocs12/f?p=Planning:2:0::NO::P2_REFERENCE:P2023/0023
P2023/0090	Two storey flat roofed rear extension.	Tairysgol, 93 Pen Yr Alltwen, Alltwen SA8 3EA http://appsportal.npt.gov.uk/ords/idocs12/f?p=Planning:2:0::NO::P2_REFERENCE:P2023/0090
P2023/0111	Proposed single storey side/rear infill extension, the works for which include associated internal alterations.	51 Tyn Y Cae, Alltwen SA8 3DJ http://appsportal.npt.gov.uk/ords/idocs12/f?p=Planning:2:0::NO::P2_REFERENCE:P2023/0111

RESOLVED that the following comments be submitted regarding the following applications:

P2023/0101	Erection of a freestanding drive-thru/restaurant, car parking, landscaping and associated works, including Customer Order Displays (COD) and play frame.	Tesco Car Park, Gwyn's Pl, Alltwen SA8 3AZ http://appsportal.npt.gov.uk/ords/idocs12/f?p=Planning:2:0::NO::P2_REFERENCE:P2023/0101
P2023/0104	Proposed 8m tall freestanding composite aluminium totem sign with internally illuminated McDonald's logo panels	Tesco Supermarket A4067 Alltwen SA8 3AZ http://appsportal.npt.gov.uk/ords/idocs12/f?p=Planning:2:0::NO::P2_REFERENCE:P2023/0104
P2023/0105	Installation of 6 no. internally illuminated 'M' and 'McDonald's' fascia signs, 3 no. internally illuminated booth lettering signs and 1 no. internally illuminated pay booth screen to new drive-thru restaurant	Tesco Supermarket A4067 Alltwen SA8 3AZ http://appsportal.npt.gov.uk/ords/idocs12/f?p=Planning:2:0::NO::P2_REFERENCE:P2023/0105

P2023/0106	Various site signage including 4 no. freestanding internally illuminated digital menu board signs, 2 no. 'McDonald's' banner unit signs, 1 no. internally illuminated 'Play Land' sign and 27 no. individual 'dot' signs to assist with patron circulation, including pedestrian crossing, speed limit and similar directional/warning signs.	Tesco Supermarket A4067 Alltwen SA8 3AZ http://appsportal.npt.gov.uk/ords/idocs12/f?p=Planning:2:0::NO::P2_REFERENCE:P2023/0106
P2023/0107	Insertion of new internally illuminated acrylic 'McDonald's' logo panel to existing 7m high Tesco totem petrol sign	Tesco Supermarket A4067 Alltwen SA8 3AZ http://appsportal.npt.gov.uk/ords/idocs12/f?p=Planning:2:0::NO::P2_REFERENCE:P2023/0107

Although some Members did not have anything against a McDonalds coming to the area and would welcome the creation of jobs for local people, it was felt by the majority of Members that the site of the proposed McDonalds was not suitable. Reasons to oppose the prospective site were:

1. The site would be too close to Cwmtawe Community School and Godre'r Graig Primary temporary accommodation.
2. The site would interfere with safe routes to school for children walking from Alltwen, due to it being placed directly on the route at Tesco car park.
3. There would be a huge impact on traffic. The roundabout near Tesco is already jammed at various points throughout the day – a McDonalds at the site would only exacerbate this.
4. There are already plenty of fast-food options in Pontardawe. Some felt there would be no need for more of these in the town and suggested alternative areas such as Glanrhyd Industrial Estate.
5. The fact that children would be passing McDonalds on the way to and from school could have an impact on child obesity. This would be in conflict with Welsh Government advice on this.

RESOLVED that Clerk forward all decisions to NPTCBC.

151 MAINTENANCE

Clerk reported that the Handyperson asked whether he and the Community Growers would be permitted to make and install raise flower beds near the Memorial Dram at Rhos Park. Members thought this would be a lovely idea. Cllr R Lewis suggested that oak should be used to create the planters. Railway sleepers could be used and these should last for many years. Members were happy to cover the cost of the wood. RESOLVED that Handyperson go ahead.

Clerk suggested that as part of the Biodiversity project that wildflowers could be placed on the bund in Rhos Park and at various locations within Gwynfryn Park. Members thought this was a good idea. Cllr N Jenkins stated that the flowers

should be native to the area. It was suggested that NPTCBC Biodiversity Officer be invited to meet with council to discuss and advise. RESOLVED noted.

Clerk reported that the vent covers were broken on Rhos Community Centre. Handyperson has replacements and will fit. Cllr D Jones suggested putting some mesh over them to protect them from footballs in the future. RESOLVED noted.

Clerk reported that there had been vandalism in Lon Tanyrallt Park again. There is graffiti on some of the equipment and bolts and screws have been removed from some of the equipment. Members were very disappointed with this news. Handyperson has compiled a list of items needed. Clerk will order once quote has been obtained. RESOLVED noted.

152 COMMUNITY CENTRE MANAGEMENT

Rhos Community Centre: Clerk reported that the foyer light had broken. Handyperson has now fixed this.

Clerk reported that there are still some mice in the centre. C Handford, Propest recommended that Council take a contract with him so that he can carry out weekly/monthly checks. Members were agreed to do this in principle but cost of this must be known before making a firm decision. RESOLVED noted.

Clerk also reported that the cupboards in Bronwen's room need replacing as mice can get into them. Members agreed that Clerk cost new cupboards. RESOLVED noted.

Cllr D Baker stated that he had bought sealed containers for the chocolate bars and crisps. RESOLVED noted.

Cllr D Jones stated that it is important to block points of access around the centre as mice will follow trails left by other mice. RESOLVED noted.

Alltwen Community Centre: Clerk reported that Handyperson is awaiting response from FPS regarding the use of Perspex. RESOLVED noted.

Clerk reported that a van windscreen had been smashed and the door of a campervan smashed at the car park. Cllr A Melen asked if vehicle owners knew that cars were parked at their own risk. Clerk confirmed this and stated that it is stated on the signs within the car park. Members were disappointed with the news of the vandalism. Clerk suggested liaising with PCSO's to find out if they can keep an eye on the area. RESOLVED noted.

153 APPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL VACANCIES, RHOS & GELLINUDD

There were no applications received. RESOLVED that Clerk re-advertise vacancies.

154 BIODIVERSITY POLICY

Clerk had forwarded a draft policy to Members before the meeting. Members discussed the draft policy and agreed that it was appropriate. RESOLVED that Biodiversity Policy approved by Council and policy be implemented.

155 ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22

Clerk had emailed draft annual report to Members before the meeting. Members discussed the draft report and agreed that it was excellent. Members thanked Clerk for all of her work on this. RESOLVED that Annual Report 2021-22 approved by Council and Clerk to place copy on website.

156 FLOODLIGHTS AT RHOS MEADOW GARAGE

Cllr B Williams stated that the floodlights at the garage could be hazardous to drivers. The lights are glaring. Cllr M Spooner stated that there has recently been a road traffic accident outside the garage, but Police do not know if it is related to glare from the lights. She stated that planning consent was not needed for the lights as they are on private property. Cllr D Jones stated that he understands why they need the lights in order to protect the caravans in their compound, but the lights are facing the wrong way. They should have been placed on the perimeter of the property facing inwards instead of outwards. Members agreed. RESOLVED that Clerk email NPTCBC planning department regarding this matter.

157 CORRESPONDENCE

RESOLVED that the following items of correspondence be noted –

1	N Williams	Blossom tree location – Dram at Rhos Park
2	STRI	Notice of change of advisor
3	ICO	DPO Update request
4	P Egan, OVW	Advice re: Clerk of Works
5	P Hinder	Section 106 Funds

3 ICO need updated details of DPO. Clerk will contact C. Griffiths, NPTCBC regarding this matter for advice. RESOLVED noted.

5 P Hinder stated that Section 106 funding needs to be used as soon as possible otherwise Persimmon could claw some of the money back. Clerk has followed up with West Wales Trails regarding the BMX track and is awaiting costings. Cllr D Jones suggested that if West Wales Trails drag their heels further, that Members should consider spending the money on a plastic composite track as mentioned previously. RESOLVED that Clerk ask P Hinder exactly how much money there is to spend. Further RESOLVED that Clerk cost car park surfacing and landscaping for Rhos Park.

158 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Chair suspended standing order at this point as it was 9pm.

Cllr S Hart reported that she had received correspondence via Facebook regarding the rear of Edward Street, Alltwen. Members explained that this issue had been ongoing for many years. Clerk explained that ownership of the land was partly Cilybebyll Community Council, partly NPTCBC and partly private owner. This made it difficult to know who was responsible for maintaining the land. Although, on the paperwork regarding the land it does state that NPTCBC are responsible for maintenance, even though Cilybebyll Community Council agreed to pay for knotweed removal. It was suggested that this item be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of council. RESOLVED noted.

Cllr B Williams had a request to place a water butt at 'The Ashes', Alltwen. Members thought this was an excellent idea and agreed to fund the purchase. Cllr M Spooner suggested that this could be funded in the April Financial Assistance Applications. Cllr B Williams to check with Church owners and The Church in Wales whether they would be happy for council to do this. RESOLVED noted.

Cllr D Jones reported that he had attended the Council as an Employer training with OVW. He asked if this item could be placed on the April agenda. RESOLVED noted.

Clerk reported that Cllr J Todd had resigned from Council. Cllr A Melen asked regarding the situation. Clerk explained that no reason for the resignation was received. Clerk reminded Members that they should read, and adhere to, the Councillor Code of Conduct at all times. RESOLVED noted.

It was decided that the next meeting of Council should be held in Rhos Community Centre. RESOLVED noted.

Chair thanked all for attending. The meeting finished at 9:30pm.

Signed Dated 04 April 2023