Cyngor Cymuned Cilybebyll
Cilybebyll Community Council

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Council held at Alltwen Community Centre and online via Zoom at 7:00 pm

Presiding Councillor D Jones

Present Councillors N Jenkins, D Atkins (online), B Williams, R Malpass, A Melen (online), D Baker (online), M Hutchings.
Nia Parr-Williams Clerk/RFO and Linda Evans Temp Clerk

Members of the Public Present: Sean Cotton

Apologies Councillors L Rees, R Lewis, S Hart, A Richards, S Atkins

122 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr D Baker declared an interest in agenda item 9 Maintenance of Rhos Playing Fields, being a Committee Member for Rhos Football Club. RESOLVED.

123 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MONTHLY MEETING OF COUNCIL

It was proposed and seconded that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 7th November and the minutes of the Finance and Development Committee Meeting held on the 28th November 2023 are correct records of the meetings thereof. RESOLVED.

124 MATTERS ARISING

Further to Minute 98 Minutes Silence – It was proposed and seconded that a £100 donation be made to Cancer Research on behalf of Community Council in memory of Cllr M Spooner. It was agreed that a slow growing Christmas Tree be planted in her name along with a plaque outside Rhos Community Centre. RESOLVED Clerk to arrange the donation and the tree location to be decided later.

Further to Minute 102 Matters Arising – The Wi-Fi at Rhos Community Centre is now working, and the DD payments have been set up. RESOLVED Clerk to arrange for quotes in relation to the needed “technology” for Hybrid Meetings i.e. speaker, TV screen. Clerk to contact BT to arrange for Wi-Fi to be installed at Alltwen Community Centre.

Further to Minute 107 Resignation of Cllr A Melen as Alltwen Primary School Governor and appoint a new Representative – Cllr DB and Cllr RM showed an interest in applying for the role. Cllr RM withdrew and supported Cllr DB’s application. It was proposed and all Councillors agreed that Cllr DB represent the Community Council on the Board of Governors of Alltwen Primary School. RESOLVED Clerk to inform the School and NPTCBC of the decision.

Further to Minute 108 Remembrance Sunday 2023 – It was reported that "all went well" and a thank you to Cllr NJ for arranging for the gate to the memorial to be opened. Cllr NJ reported that NPTCBC should be maintaining the Monument (grade II listed) and has arranged for the overgrowth around the plinth be cleared. RESOLVED noted. Clerk to contact Alltwen School and thank them for their participation in the Remembrance Event.

Further to Minute 109 Christmas Event 2023 – Cllr's and Clerk gave feedback on the evening, and all agreed it was a success, but with a lower attendance compared with last year. This may be due to the date coinciding with another event at Rhos School. And with this in mind, it was suggested to review the date of next year's event to avoid possible clashing. It was also suggested to incorporate the Santa tour around parts of Rhos. The involvement of the Rugby Club and Church was very much appreciated and went a great deal towards the continued success of the Christmas Event. The following donations (organisations who contributed to the Event) were proposed and seconded: Alltwen Church (providing chairs for the stage) £25.00, Heritage Centre (providing the stage) £50.00, Brass Band £100.00, Rugby Club (sponsor the Christmas Garden for 2 nights) £20.00. RESOLVED Clerk/RFO to arrange the payments for the donations listed. Suggestions for next year's Christmas Event to be discussed when Christmas Event 2024 is added to the agenda.

Further to Minute 113 Members Remuneration Payment 2023/24 – Clerk/RFO reminded Cllr's that if they did not want to receive the allowance to please return the opt out form. It was also noted that a further £52.00 for consumable can be claimed by Cllr's. RESOLVED Clerk to send out the information from the IRPW/OVW presentation regarding the HMRC tax guidance on Councillor Allowances.

Further to Minute 114 Correspondence – Cllr DJ discussed the response received from Swansea CC and SW Police regarding the average speed cameras on the A4067 and feels a response on Face Book is required. RESOLVED Cllr DB to write a draft post for approval by the Council "if posting" on the Council's behalf.

125 FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS, BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2024-2025

Clerk/RFO presented the 2024/25 Budget figures to the Council – Budget set at £145,250.00 RESOLVED. Clerk/RFO put to the Council - setting the Precept for 2024/25 at £125,000.00 would be her recommendation, considering the planned income and expenditure over the financial year 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025. And taking into consideration (as per Financial Risk Assessment) the Council Reserve figure would then be set at £36,312.50 (which would adhere to Audit Wales' recommendation of 3-6 months council running costs in reserves).
Finance Committee as stated in Minute 121 Budget Estimate and Precept for 2024/25, resolved to levy a Precept in the sum of £115,000.00, and proposed this sum to the Council. Cllr's debated and queried the Finance

Committees reasons and rational and voted to disregard the Clerk's recommendation and Levy the Precept at £115,000.00 as recommended by Finance and Development Committee. Cllrs accepted the Clerks report on estimates for 2024/25. RESOLVED that Clerk inform A Hinder, NPTCBC of the Council's decision to Levy a Precept in the sum of £115,000.00.

RESOLVED that the following accounts approved for payment –

162B-169B	Staff	Wages, Expenses)	5,979.37
170B	City & County of Swansea	Pension Contributions	822.36
171B	HMRC	Income Tax and NI	1031.41
172D	NPTCBC	Alltwen CC: Non-dom Rates	326.00
173D	NPTCBC	Rhos CC: Non-dom Rates	348.00
174B	Total Gas	Alltwen CC: Gas	435.48
775B	British Gas	Rhos CC: Gas	1,516.36
176B	Lliw Building Supplies	Pressure Spray, bolts	143.77
177B	Celtic Mowers	VAT on previous purchase	116.00
178B	Amazon Business	Christmas lights and batteries	174.39
179D	EE Broadband	Rhos CC broadband	36.00
180D	3 Mobile	Staff Mobiles	26.40
181B	St Johns Ambulance	Alltwen Christmas Event	62.40
182B	Amberon	Alltwen Road Closure VAT payment – Christmas Event	77.43
183B	MJ Steel	Rhos CC Party Refund	20.00
184B	Amazon Business	H&S folder, notebook and sharps kit	40.44
185B	L Evans	Staff Retirement	44.45

Income:

Alltwen CC	June Hire	£ 906.50
Rhos CC	June Hire	£ 1,181.00

Transfer: Authority to transfer the sum of £11,500.00 from the Council's Business Banking Account to its Current Account was approved. RESOLVED.

Clerk/RFO confirmed the increase in Staff Wages were due to hourly pay rise as per NALC instructions, and back dated to 01.04.2023. This month also saw the handover period of Caretakers at Rhos CC. The Gas Utility cost at Rhos CC remains a concern and needs to be addressed/reviewed in the New Year. New heating system a priority.

126 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

RESOLVED that no objection be made to the following applications and Cllrs noted the planning appeal:

P2023/0873	Conversion of chapel and vestry buildings into a single residential dwelling	Ebenezer Independent Chapel, Neath Road, Rhos. SA8 3HB
P2023/0413	Planning Appeal	A2023/0023 appeal and original application.
P2023/0814	Works to 2 trees protected by TPO T202:T1 & T2 – Oaks – Reduce overhanging the garden	115 Delffordd, Rhos. SA8 3EN

	of number 115 Delffordd by 2m to prevent future risk of damage and allow more light into garden (Amended Description)	

127 MAINTENANCE AND HEALTH & SAFETY

Rhos CC: Vents – Cllrs discussed the issues that the "Wall Vents" at the Centre were causing. Cold air entering the building therefore adding to the high Gas usage. Flooding caused by water leaking in through the vents or/from condensation running down walls. Cllrs discussed the H&S implications involved if the vents were to be covered, Flow of air, preventing damp etc., RESOLVED that Clerk should send the structural survey to NPTCBC Building Inspector for further advice.

Alltwen CC: Partition Wall – work to commence in January. RESOLVED noted.

Health & Safety: Clerk had shared the quote from OVW for the cost of H&S Consultancy for both Community Centres. Clerk reported on the meeting with J Richards Training – the meeting was to discuss training options with the Council's Handyperson. RESOLVED Clerk to investigate training options with NPTCBC. Clerk to arrange a H&S Committee Meeting to discuss the training options for the Handyperson and the quote from OVW.

128 COMMUNITY CENTRE MANAGEMENT

Rhos CC: Caretaker has been looking at options for the available time slots at the Centre and has had a new group interested in booking in the New Year. RESOLVED Cllrs were pleased to hear this news.

Alltwen CC: With the Wi-Fi installation at Rhos CC being completed, the same is needed at Alltwen CC. RESOLVED Clerk to contact BT to arrange for the installation and setup monthly DD.

129 MAINTENANCE OF RHOS PLAYING FIELDS

Chair resolved to move Agenda item 9 for discussion at the beginning of the meeting to enable Football Committee member S Cotton (SC), and Cllr D Baker (Cllr DB) to comment on the agenda item.
Cllr DB gave an overview of the current state of the Senior Pitch at Rhos Playing Fields. The pitch is still not "playable" and no maintenance has been carried out due to the time of year and weather conditions. Cllr DB discussed the annual maintenance quotes received from:
Countrywide – Senior and Junior Pitches Quotation and Works Schedule –Senior Pitch £4,500.00, Junior Pitch, and surrounding area £3,850.00 Total £8,350.00 +VAT
DLC - Senior and Junior Pitches Quotation and Works Schedule – Senior Pitch £5,885.95, Junior Pitch and surrounding area £4,125.95 Total £10,011.90 + VAT.

Cllr DB noted - Finance and Development Meeting 28th November 2023 Minute 117- that the cost burden of the Rhos Playing Field Maintenance should be investigated further with the options of part management/lease/asset transfer to Rhos FC. Cllr DB has approached organisations such as Wales FAW and Sports Wales for funding options.
SC prepared a report for the meeting outlining Rhos Football Club's "History, Mission Statement and Goals". SC stressed the importance of "grass roots sport" in the community and how the club is inclusive and supports all ages and genders. SC is keen to work with the Community Council and find an agreement that will relieve the burden of the full cost of maintaining the football pitch by taking on the management of the field – official management transfer – and is seeking permission to investigate funding options as mentioned by Cllr DB. The conditions set by NPTCBC and West Wales FAW was also discussed, with the need for public barriers to be fitted around the pitch area, and how this would impact the access to all park users. Cllr DB and SC felt that a properly maintained pitch for home matches was essential for the continued success and growth of the Club.
Cllrs discussed the quotes presented, and the proposals. It was noted that the park should remain accessible to all members of the public. Cllrs agreed that a sustainable long-term plan for maintenance of the Rhos Playing Fields was needed and a need to investigate "licence to occupy" as an option. Cllrs questioned if this would give the Club the needed agreement to obtain funding that would cover maintenance costs.
RESOLVED Council agreed for Cllr DB and SC to discuss with Sport Wales and Wales FAW the funding criteria and what "ownership" they will need to gain funding. Further discussion on lease and maintenance options will then be needed with the Finance and Development Committee. It was noted that the repair of the field (reseeding) would need to start in the Spring.

130 RHOS CC STRUCTURAL REPORT

Cllr DJ and Cllr DA had initially read the report that outlined whether the current roof would support the installation of solar panels, building insulation readings and change of gas heating system. As outlined in the Capital Projects priority development for 2024-25 would involve – New roof for Rhos CC and Heating System. RESOLVED Clerk to contact NPTCBC Building Inspector to review the Structural Report for advice on moving forward with these projects.

131 CORRESPONDENCE

RESOLVED that the following items of correspondence be noted –

1	Edward Vale	Planning Complaint
2	Welsh Government	Section 137 Expenditure Limit Rise

1 Cllrs noted the concerns and thanked Mr Vale for his correspondence. All agreed this was a matter for NPTCBC Planning to review. RESOLVED Clerk to respond with the decision.

2 All Cllr have received the information. RESOLVED noted.

132 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Cllr DJ visited Bryn Morgrug Park (minute 95) to investigate the installation of a toddler swing. Cllr DJ reported that there was little room to install a new swing, but there was a possibility of replacing an existing swing seat with a toddler seat. Cllr has taken photographs. RESOLVED Cllr DJ to send the photographs to the Clerk. Clerk to obtain a quote (from the company who installed the park apparatus) - cost of replacing a toddler seat on existing swing, or with a completely new toddler swing.

Chair thanked all for attending. The meeting finished at 8.52pm.

Signed Dated 9th January 2024