Cyngor Cymuned Cilybebyll
Cilybebyll Community Council

Minutes of the Open Forum held at Alltwen Community Centre and online via Zoom on 04 October 2022 at 6:30 pm

Presiding Councillor L Rees

Present Councillors D Jones, S Hart, B Williams, M Spooner, A Melen, M Hutchings, N Jenkins, R Lewis, D Atkins, S Atkins, J Todd (online)

Apologies Councillors D Baker, C Jones

80 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

81 REPRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC REGARDING LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND POLICING SERVICES WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

Chair welcomed all to the meeting. There were no members of the public in attendance.

2 PCSO's were in attendance. They explained that PCSO Tegan (Alltwen & Rhos) was off today, but they attended in her place. They can then report back to PCSO Tegan. Cllr A Melen thanked the PCSO's for attending.

Cllr D Jones brought up the issue of the 40mph limit on the A4067 bypass and that due to there being no cameras placed there at the moment, some people are driving dangerously and passing a string of cars that are travelling at 40mph. He explained that there is an argument that the road is more dangerous now than it was before. Cllr D Jones stated that there had been lots of comments regarding the new limit on Facebook. He also stated that tailgating was a problem – when he travels as per the 40mph limit, cars have been driving right up to the back of his car. He explained that he has since purchased a rear camera, and this seems to have lessened the issues with tailgating. Cllr D Jones asked if there could be a mobile camera placed on the road in the meantime until the permanent cameras are installed. PCSO Maria stated that she will speak to the lady in charge of speed cameras in Pontardawe. RESOLVED noted.

PCSO Maria stated that personally, she thought it would have been better to keep the road speed limit at 60mph but have the average speed cameras installed, as the 40mph limit is causing people to travel through Trebanos more and more. Cllr D Atkins stated that people are no longer incentivised to use the bypass as the speed limit is a lot slower than previously. Cllr B. Williams stated that using the bypass is still quicker than going through Trebanos for instance. Cllr D Jones stated that the 40mph limit only adds around a minute to travel from Pontardawe to Ynysforgan. Chair reported that many drivers are now using Ynysymond and Gwyn Street as the limit on Ynysymond is 60mph. PCSO Maria stated that many

drivers use back roads to avoid speed cameras. She explained that the Police can't do anything unless there is a speed van on site. RESOLVED noted.

Clerk asked with regards to Police presence at the Alltwen Christmas event. PCSO Maria explained that they will be there as a community engagement exercise but won't be allowed to close the road. Stewards will have to do this. Cllr R. Lewis asked why this was the case. PCSO Maria explained that she didn't know the reason why as this is the first year that this has happened. RESOLVED noted.

Cllr M Hutchings asked how Members could get in touch with PCSO's. They explained that the phone numbers are in the Community Mag. PCSO Maria explained that the numbers are not to be used for reporting crimes – 111 or 999 should be used for this. Cllr N Jenkins stated that she will pass on the numbers to Clerk who can then forward to Members. RESOLVED noted.

Cllr A Melen asked whether there was any update on the aggressive dog on Dyffryn Road, Alltwen. PCSO's will ask PCSO Tegan to check this. RESOLVED noted.

Cllr A Melen asked whether updates on crimes in the area could be relayed to council. Again, PCSO's will ask PCSO Tegan to update Members. RESOLVED noted.

Cllr A Melen asked as to the situation with PACT meetings. PCSO's explained that one had been held in Trebanos recently but very few people were in attendance. PCSO Maria suggested that having PCSO's attend Council's Open Forum meetings could be more effective. Members agreed. RESOLVED that Police be invited to the next Open Forum.

Cllr R Lewis asked if Neath Police Station is fully manned and asked why the streets of Neath are not patrolled anymore. PCSO's explained that yes, the station is fully manned, but policing is carried out very differently these days. There are no 'Bobbies on the beat' as there aren't enough staff to do this. RESOLVED noted.

Cllr N Jenkins stated that she had heard that Pontardawe Police Station is reopening. PCSO's did not have any information on this. RESOLVED noted.

Chair thanked PCSOs for attending the meeting.

82 ALLTWEN CARETAKER

Due to the new hire charges at the Community Centres, the Caretaker of Alltwen Community Centre asked to address council. Chair welcomed S Gardiner to the meeting.

S Gardiner explained that most of the groups currently using Alltwen Community Centre will not be able to continue to do so once the new charges come into

force. He explained that some groups are small with only 4 or 5 members, therefore the increase in hire charges will prevent them from meeting and using the centre.

S Gardiner explained that most of the groups run for the benefit of local children and when people are charged for attending the groups, they normally pay termly as opposed to weekly. He feels it would be unfair to expect the group leaders to absorb the increases.

It was stated that the Marketing of the centre needs improvement. Clerk suggested that if groups could link up with the council's Facebook page, then council could advertise the groups on Facebook. Cllr M Spooner stated that the information also needs to be pushed on the council website. RESOLVED noted.

Cllr D Jones suggested that the centre could also be advertised in the Ponty Mag and Community Mag. RESOLVED noted.

Cllr R. Lewis asked with regards to usage over the year. S Gardiner explained that the centre is busy during term time, but usage over the summer and school holidays is very low.

Cllr A Melen asked if car parking was a problem. S Gardiner stated that at least 6 spaces are taken up by local residents. He explained that when the SW Woodturners are using the centre, they fill the car park. S Gardiner explained that if a large group is using the hall, then car parking is limited so he will only hire to a small group at the same time in the Committee Room as otherwise, parking becomes a problem.

Cllr S Atkins asked with regards to SW Woodturners hire charges. S Gardiner stated that in truth, they should be in an industrial unit rather than in the centre. It was stated that the SW Woodturners and Parent and Toddler group occupy their rooms 24/7/365 but use the centre for only 3 hours per week. It was suggested that hire charges for these groups be looked at in further detail in the next meeting of the Finance & Development Committee. RESOLVED noted.

Cllr N Jenkins stated that there may be some funding available for the 'Warm Hub' scheme where people could congregate in the centre to keep warm over the winter. She suggested that council should publicise that the centre is heated and warm. RESOLVED noted.

Members agreed that £40 + £20 bond was reasonable for party bookings. Caretaker agreed with this. Members agreed to honour prices already quoted for parties to those who have already pre-booked the centre. RESOLVED.

Chair thanked S Gardiner for his attendance. The meeting finished at 7:20pm.

Signed Dated 01 November 2022