Cyngor Cymuned Cilybebyll
Cilybebyll Community Council

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Council held online via Zoom software on 06 September 2022 at 7:00 pm

Presiding Councillor L Rees

Present Councillors D Jones (left early), B Williams, M Spooner, A Melen, D Baker, M Hutchings, N Jenkins, J Todd

Apologies Councillors D Atkins, S Atkins, S Hart, R Lewis

67 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr B Williams declared an interest in item 4 Matters Arising regarding Room-swap due to being a Member of the Pottery Group. Cllr M Spooner declared an interest in item 6 Planning Applications due to her involvement with NPTCBC. RESOLVED.

68 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MONTHLY MEETING OF COUNCIL

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Council held in Alltwen Community Centre on 05 July 2022 and the Minutes of the Finance & Development Committee Meeting held on 28 July 2022 be confirmed as correct records thereof.

69 MATTERS ARISING

Further to Minute 53 Room Swap – Cllr B Williams stated that he has not heard anything from the SW Woodturners as yet. There has been no progress on this since the previous meeting of council. Clerk reported that she had liaised with H MacMillan regarding clearing and cleaning of the Woodturners current room, he stated that this will be carried out over the next few weeks. RESOLVED noted.

Further to Minute 41 Matters Arising – Clerk reported that the EPC reports on Alltwen and Rhos Community Centres have now been completed. RESOLVED.

Further to Minute 41 Matters Arising – Clerk reported that she submitted the Mynydd Y Betws bid for recycling bins and a picnic table for Gwynfryn Park Alltwen. RESOLVED noted.

Further to Minute 41 Matters Arising – Clerk forwarded the response from City & County Swansea Council to Members. Members were generally satisfied with the response. RESOLVED.

Further to Minute 58 Maintenance – Clerk reported that she had spoken to Rob Roderick (roofer) regarding the loose tiles on Alltwen Community Centre roof. He stated that he will look at this over the next couple of days. RESOLVED noted.

Further to Minute 58 Maintenance –Clerk tried phoning Rob Lewis fencing again but he has not returned her calls. Clerk reported that Handyperson will use wood to fix the fence at Lon Tanyrallt Park for the meantime. RESOLVED noted.

Further to Minute 62 Any Other Urgent Business – Clerk reported that the footbridge from Alltwen to Tesco Pontardawe will be closed for essential maintenance by NPTCBC. Members were pleased with this but wondered why this hadn't been carried out during the school holidays, as many pupils use this bridge to walk to Cwmtawe Community School. RESOLVED noted.

70 FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

RESOLVED that the following accounts approved for payment –

97B-100B)	Staff	Wages, Expenses)	2,819.65
101B	City & County of Swansea	Pension Contributions	915.90
102B	HMRC	Income Tax and NI	335.01
103D	NPTCBC	Alltwen CC: Non-dom Rates	342.00
104D	NPTCBC	Rhos CC: Non-dom Rates	380.00
105B	Avanti Gas	Rhos CC: Gas	438.21
106B	Total Gas	Alltwen CC: Gas	99.22
107B	STRI	Annual Sports Turf Inspection	1,020.00
108B	SSE Swalec	Rhos CC: Electric	681.53
109D	SSE Swalec	Alltwen CC: Electric	510.07
110B	Lliw Building Supplies	Fence post, battens, postfix	86.59
111B	One Voice Wales	New Councillor Training	70.00

Income:

Alltwen CC	August Hire	£ 216.00
Rhos CC	August Hire	£ 975.00

Transfer: Authority to transfer the sum of £ 8,000.00 from the Council's Business Banking Account to its Current Account was requested. RESOLVED.

Clerk explained that the Avanti bill had increased slightly again but not as much as some previous bills. Cllr M Spooner stated that she had visited Rhos Commnunity Centre with Linda after the bank holiday and a hot water tap had been left on by a member of the public / centre user from the Friday before. Members stated that this was not acceptable, and the centre users must make sure all taps are closed before leaving the centre. This incident could impact the next Avanti Gas bill. RESOLVED noted.

71 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

RESOLVED that no objection be made to the following applications –

P2022/0446	Proposed side and rear two storey extension.	130 Neath Road, Rhos SA8 3HB
P2022/0710	Proposed single storey rear extension, the works for which would include setting back the existing garden retaining wall.	49 Tyn Y Cae, Alltwen SA8 3DJ

P2022/0705	Works to woodland protected under Tree Preservation Orders T198 and T249. The works include removal of dangerous trees (T1, T3, T5, T7, T8 and T9), woodland thinning and crown lifting to improve amenity value of woodland and to allow access to maintain the area.	Penbont, 4 Cwm Nant Llwyd Road, Gellinudd SA8 3DT
P2022/0693	Single Storey Side Garage and Rear Extension with Pergola. Balcony over flat roof at rear.	71 Pen Yr Alltwen, Alltwen SA8 3EA
P2022/0634	Proposed first floor side/rear extension, including a first floor balcony to the rear, plus alterations to main dwelling house.	18 Ynys Y Mond Road, Alltwen SA8 3BA
P2021/1245	Outline application (including access) for one detached rural enterprise dwelling. and garage including parking and associated works (Amended site and location plan received).	Ty'n Y Cwm Farm, Ty'n Y Cwm Lane, Rhos SA8 3EY
P2022/0718	Works to two early mature Norway spruce trees in front garden (identified as T1 and T2). Crown reduce both trees by 25% or 6-7m reduction in height, with the remaining top 5m having the sides brought in by up to 2m to bring them back into a spruce shape.	1 Gardeners Cottages Tareni Gleision Access Lane, Cilybebyll SA8 3JJ
P2022/0638	Addition of 10 solar thermal panels to south facing main roof of property (dwellinghouse). 10 panels in 2 rows of 5 one above each other in landscape (each panel/PVmodule 1784mm x1096mm).	Tyn Yr Heol, Tareni Gleision Access Lane, Cilybebyll SA8 3JL

There was no objection to the following planning application, but Members noted that the 2.5 car parking spaces per dwelling rule may be impacted by the proposed works:

P2022/0721	Conversion of existing integral garage into living accommodation including new window.	139 Bryn Morgrug, Alltwen SA8 3DP

There was no information on the NPTCBC website regarding the following application. Clerk to ask for further information:

P2022/0709	Demolition of existing rear extension and construction of a new single storey rear extension - Certificate of lawful development (Proposed).	9 March Hywel, Rhos SA8 3HE

RESOLVED that Clerk forward decisions to NPT CBC.

72 MAINTENANCE

Gwynfryn Park: Clerk reported that Handyperson reported that since the gate of Gwynfryn Park has been locked, someone has taken down the fence next to the gate. Members were unhappy with this. They suggested taking off the lock and putting a post into the ground to enable the gate to open only to a certain point. RESOLVED that Clerk liaise with Handyperson regarding this matter.

Overgrown Trees: Clerk reported that Handyperson had cut the overgrowth reported by Cllr A Melen. RESOLVED noted.

Lon Tanyrallt & Brynmorgrug Parks: Clerk reported that Handyperson had reported that someone has tried to melt some of the wet pour surfacing in Lon Tanyrallt Park with flames (lighters). Members were not happy with this news and suggested that the PCSO be contacted regarding this. Handyperson suggested that he try to fill in the gaps. He has also noticed a gap in some of the surfacing in Brynmorgrug Park. He will fill this in. RESOLVED noted.

Harry's Park: Clerk reported that Handyperson had reported that the contractors should shortly complete the works at the park. Some small jobs will still need completing according to ROSPA inspection reports i.e. replacing bolts etc. Handyperson will carry out this work over the coming weeks. RESOLVED noted.

PACT: Members asked what the situation with regards to PACT meetings were, as none have been held since the start of the pandemic. Cllr N Jenkins stated that the Police are trialling a meeting in Pontardawe this month. It was suggested that the Police be invited to the Open Forum at the next meeting of council. RESOLVED noted.

73 COMMUNITY CENTRE MANAGEMENT

Rhos Community Centre: Clerk reported that the Caretaker has been upset by some comments made about her on Facebook regarding parties at the centre. Members were unhappy with this and stated that Members of the public should have respect towards council employees. It was suggested that a statement be placed on Facebook to state that abuse directed towards council staff will not be tolerated. Cllr J Todd suggested asking the page administrator to remove the comments from the Facebook page. Cllr D Baker stated that social media is there for communication, and this could be better utilised to inform locals of what the council are doing/deciding. Clerk asked if any Members would like to be added to the council's Facebook page as editors. Cllr N Jenkins and D Baker agreed to become page editors. RESOLVED noted.

Clerk met with Caretaker last week to discuss parties at the centre. It was agreed that parties be offered on a Saturday afternoon or Saturday evening. RESOLVED noted.

Clerk stated that she has contacted Daniel's Locksmiths again as the fire doors still haven't been completed. She is awaiting a response. RESOLVED noted.

74 FINANCE & DEVELOPMEMNT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Clerk explained that Pitch Fees were not discussed during the meeting as more information on use is needed. Cllr D Baker stated that he will be able to pass on this information to Clerk. RESOLVED noted.

Clerk went through suggested hire charges with Members. They felt that the charges suggested by the Committee were a little too low. RESOLVED that the following hire charges be trialled for the next 6 months (from 1st October 2022):

Rhos Community Centre:
Main Hall: £12 for first hour, £6 per additional hour (or part thereof)
Bronwen's Room: £6 for first hour, £3 per additional hour (or part thereof)
Children's Parties (3 hours on Saturday afternoons): £40 plus refundable bond of £20 (Cancellations at least 72 hours in advance for full refund)
Evening Parties (4 hours on Saturday evenings): £60 plus refundable bond of £20
Commercial Hire: £15 per hour or part thereof (20% off for regular hirers)

Alltwen Community Centre:
Main Hall: £12 for first hour, £6 per additional hour (or part thereof)
Committee Room: £8 for first hour, £4 per additional hour (or part thereof)
New Meeting Room: £6 for first hour, £3 per additional hour (or part thereof)
Children's Parties (3 hours on Saturday afternoons): £40 plus refundable bond of £20
Evening Parties (4 hours on Saturday evenings): £60 plus refundable bond of £20
Commercial Hire: £15 per hour (20% off for regular hirers)

Cllr N Jenkins asked if alcohol is allowed in the venues. It is allowed during private evening parties but cannot be sold at the centre under any circumstances. RESOLVED.

Cllr D Baker offered to make a poster for Facebook to advertise that parties were now available for booking in Rhos Community Centre. Members thanked D Baker for doing this. RESOLVED noted.

The purchase of a Picnic Bench for Lon Tanyrallt Park was approved by Members. RESOLVED that Clerk order bench.

75 NPTCBC CANDIDATE SITES FOR DEVELOPMENT

Cllr N Jenkins stated that she has arranged a Public Meeting on Friday 9th September 2022 at 6pm to discuss the candidate sites. She stated that she has put the information on Facebook and has placed posters around the area to

advertise the meeting. Cllr N Jenkins stated that she had already received a number of comments from members of the public. RESOLVED noted.

Cllr M Spooner stated that she and Cllr N Jenkins had spoken to officers at NPTCBC to explain why some of the suggested sites had been judged as not suitable in the past due to sinkholes, drainage issues etc. She explained that some of the suggested sites may not be approved. Cllr A Melen asked if NPTCBC could apply for planning permission to develop some of the sites themselves i.e. to build on their own land. Cllr M Spooner explained that they could do this. RESOLVED noted.

Cllr M Spooner explained that if people have objections to the proposed sites, these should be sent in individually. Each objection counts, therefore, it would be better for each Member to put in their own objections rather than council itself putting in a general objection, as this would only count as one objection. Cllr N Jenkins stated that the consultation is open to everyone and closes on 23rd September 2022. Cllr B Williams stated that candidate sites MAY be used for a,b,c rather than WILL be used for a,b,c, meaning that some, or all of the sites may never be used as suggested in the plans, Cllr M Spooner explained that lots of sites are turned down due to wildlife etc. Members thanked Cllr N Jenkins for arranging the Public Meeting. RESOLVED noted.

76 MEMBER REMUNERATION 2022-23

Clerk explained to new Members that each of them are entitled to a £150 remuneration payment as Community Councillors. She explained that this money could be used for getting a new printer, stationery and printing costs, tablet for use at council meetings etc. Clerk explained that some Councillors also use the money to give to charity, or local concerns. It is up to each Member as to how they use the money. If they wish to opt-out of the payment, they can fill in a form and let the Clerk know. RESOLVED noted.

Clerk explained that there will be a £400 Chair's allowance again this year. Chair can use this on whatever he deems fit. The Chair's allowance from last year of £400 was not spent, so Cllr M Spooner can still spend this amount if she so wishes. RESOLVED noted.

77 CHRISTMAS 2022-23

RESOLVED that the Alltwen Christmas Tree Switch-on Event be held on Monday 5th December 2022. RESOLVED that Clerk speak to Cllr C Jones to ask with regards to Santa's car etc. If the car is not available for this date, then Cllr J Todd will speak to Pontardawe Town Council to see if council could hire anything from them.

Clerk asked whether a Santa Tour for Rhos would be required. She spoke to A Jenkins, Glantawe Landscapes, and he has a Santa Sleigh he can hire to the council. RESOLVED that Pontardawe Town Council be contacted in the first instance.

It was suggested that the Young Farmers Tractor Run could be incorporated into the event.

Cllr A Melen asked who will carry out the speech at the tree as Rev. Jayne used to do this. It was suggested that Santa could do it, or an alternative reverend. RESOLVED noted.

Cllr M Spooner stated that she would like some small trees for Fforest Goch, Cilybebyll, and Gellinudd as well as a new tree in the barrel planter in Rhos. Members agreed. RESOLVED that Clerk liaise with The Old School Nursery and order 3 trees in barrels and one tree for Rhos.

78 CORRESPONDENCE

RESOLVED that the following items of correspondence be noted –

1	Welsh Government	Woodland creation grant scheme
2	Cllr. N Jenkins	Public Meeting
3	NALC/SLCC	Civility & Respect Pledge
4	Cllr A Melen	Local Pharmacies
5	Kimberly Lloyd-Owen	Calon Heart
6	H Thomas	Capel Ebenezer, Rhos

1 Cllr N Jenkins explained that it had to be new trees. Members decided not to apply for grant. RESOLVED.
2 Meeting arranged for Friday 9th September 2022. RESOLVED.
3 Members agreed to sign the pledge. RESOLVED.
4 RESOLVED that Clerk write letter to Health Board asking for additional Pharmacy in Pontardawe area.
5 Cllr N Jenkins suggested getting a defibrillator for Brynmorgrug Park. Cllr M Spooner suggested Fforest Goch and Cilybebyll. RESOLVED that Clerk take advice on this matter.
6 Letter of thanks from Capel Ebenezer, Rhos for all of council's support with regards to the maintenance of the cemetery over the years. Members wished the trustees all the best with the sale of the chapel. RESOLVED noted.

79 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Cllr M Spooner explained that she, Cllr N Jenkins, Cllr D Jones and Clerk met with the trustees of Ebenezer Chapel, Rhos earlier in the day to discuss the future of the cemetery. She explained that the chapel is up for sale with the cemetery included. There are covenants in place to protect the graves that are already there. Burials with other family members will still be allowed and people who have already registered can be buried at the cemetery. These covenants will be passed on if ever the site is resold. The trustees explained that they had legal representation and that 9 viewings had already taken place. Cllr M Spooner explained that what the building will be used for will be up to NPTCBC Planning to decide. Chair explained that he had heard a rumour that a 'Go Fund Me' had been set up by some of the local community to buy the chapel for community use. The matter of who would run it and what it could be used for was discussed.

Cllr N Jenkins stated that the trustees intend to sell quickly, 'Go Fund Me' could take months to raise enough funds to purchase the building. Council wished the trustees all the best with the sale of the chapel. RESOLVED noted.

Cllr A Melen stated that a private property, 44 Ynysymond Road is empty, overgrown, and causing a problem for neighbours. Rats have been seen at the property and it is believed the building could be a fire risk. Cllr N Jenkins stated that NPTCBC are currently looking at empty properties. Cllr M Spooner stated that perhaps Environmental Health could take a look at the property if rats have been seen. RESOLVED noted.

Cllr N Jenkins stated that she had received complaints regarding weeds on pavements in Brynmorgrug. The NPTCBC Street Team have now sprayed these. She asked whether or not NPTCBC usually cut the grass outside the fence of Brynmorgrug Park. Clerk confirmed this. RESOLVED noted.

Cllr D Baker asked who looks after the maintenance of the graves next to the Church that has been converted into a house on Dyffryn Road. Cllr B Williams explained that the area is called 'The Ashes' and that this wasn't sold with the building. Chair stated that this would come under the Parish of Cilybebyll. Cllr A Melen stated that M Bubb carries out lots of work there. RESOLVED noted.

It was reported that the memorial bench at the cemetery has been broken. Members were saddened by this news as it had been placed there by a member of the public in remembrance of a member of their family. RESOLVED noted.

Clerk asked if council wanted to hold the next meeting of council online or in person. Members agreed that the next meeting of council should be held in Alltwen Community Centre as there will be an open forum. RESOLVED noted.

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

Signed Dated 04 October 2022