

MAESYCWMMER COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Maesycwmmmer Community Council held on Thursday 28th September 2023 at 7:00 pm.

PRESENT

Councillors: Mrs. M. Harries, Mrs. W. Howls, Mr L. John, Miss J. Rao, Mr. D. White.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs. R. Hares (Clerk), Mr D Earey, Police – M Platt & A Saolailc.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr. A. Joynes, Mrs. C. Stockwood, Mrs A. Jones.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr L John declared an interest in the football group Maesycwmmmer Mermaids.

1899. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 27th July 2023 were confirmed as a true record.

1900. **ROAD SAFETY, POLICE and COMMUNITY LIAISON**

The Police talked through the monthly report and stated that crime numbers for the village were still very low in comparison to other areas. There were 24 crimes reported in July and 23 in August (a slight drop in numbers from the same time last year) which included:

JULY:

- Neighbour issues – Tabor Road
- Motorbike set on fire – Tabor Road
- Damage to golf buggy – Bryn meadows
- Theft from vehicle- Summerfield Hall Lane
- Wing mirror & bumper set stolen – Old Twyn Road
- Harassment issues – The Crescent
- Drug offences & possession of weapons – Crimes linked with another offence A472
- Sec 18 wounding with intent – issues with an ex-partner – Springfield

AUGUST:

- Car stolen from Duffryn Industrial estate
- Items stolen from car – Jenkin Street
- Car damage/ attempt break – Gellideg St
- Car broken into – Gellideg Street
- Family theft issue – Gwerna Crescent
- Theft of slide from garden in Hill View
- Apples thrown at house – Gellideg Isaf Rise
- Service user damaged property – Hill View
- Border force seizure – drugs stopped at airport addressed for person in Springfield.

- Environmental – complaints about campervans using the common and leaving rubbish/human waste.
- Report of a bus pass being stolen in Blackwood 5 months ago – reporting person lives in Maesycwmmmer.
- Theft of money from purse by service user – Gellideg Isaf Rise.
- Unit broken into in Hawtin Park, nothing stolen but damage caused.
- Shed break in Gellideg Uchaf farm, gardening equipment stolen.
- Criminal damage – Deliberate grass fire – Gelli Haf.

Anti-Social Behaviour Calls were 2 in July - youths throwing crab apples at houses on Park Road, and 1 in August - youths being a nuisance and throwing apples in Hill View. There was also a section 59 warning issued to a motorist for anti-social driving along the Main Road.

The Police reported that in relation to the issue brought up in the last meeting of anti-social behaviour in St Annes Gardens and Shirdale Close, there had been no calls received regarding stones being thrown or wheelie bin issues. They confirmed that patrols had been carried out in the areas and no issues were identified. However, over the last 2 months a Saturday had been the main day for ASB calls mostly relating to groups of youths throwing crab apples at different residents throughout Maesycwmmmer – they have been collecting the apples from trees on the green in St Annes Gardens – no youths were identified from these incidents.

The Police reported that walk and talk patrols have been carried out in the Y Glyn area due to reports of youth ASB in the evenings. A number of residents have been spoken to and no further issues have occurred since the patrols.

Cllr White enquired if anyone had received an enforcement under the new 20 MPH speed limit, the Police reported there was a grace period of a month, but if there any identified areas where speeding appears to be a frequent occurrence, to let them know and they will attend with a speed gun.

Cllr Howls raised the issue that Police were attending Police surgeries in unmarked cars and so nobody realised they were actually there. It was requested they make themselves known in future.

Cllr Harries raised the issue of cars parking on double yellow lines on Tabor Road. The Police confirmed this was an issue for CCBC Traffic Wardens. Cllr Rao agreed to contact the Cabinet member for Highways about this.

1901. **MATTERS ARISING**

Cllr Harries confirmed that the brambles on St Davids Road had been cut back, however the school hill still needed attention, the Clerk reported that the village was due for CCBC's clearing service at the end of October and they would be asking for areas that needed attention The Clerk agreed to add the school hill to this list and requested that Councillors email her with any other areas they identified.

The Clerk reported that CCBC Park's Services had attended the climbing frame in the park the following day to inspect it for any faults. There were no findings in regard to

any defects, but they had passed it on to an Independent Playground Inspector and would inform the Council of the outcome.

Cllr Harries reported that work on the Skate Park was underway and had been told that it should be finished by next week.

Cllr White enquired about the lack of lighting on the viaduct and asked Cllr Rao to find out who was responsible for this and could be contacted to raise the issue.

The Clerk confirmed that she had added the Veteran Meeting information to the Council's website and to the Maesycwmmmer Face Book page.

1902. **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk reported that a number of documents had been forwarded to Councillors by email and requested that Councillors contact her if any action was required. The Clerk also reported that a letter had been received to inform the Council of two new bus stops on the Crescent and Hill View.

1903. **REPORT OF THE CLERK, MISCELLANEOUS MEETINGS AND COMMITTEES.**

The Clerk reported that she had booked Santa's Sleigh for the Lantern Parade on 1st December. It would be leaving the school at 4:45pm. Cllr Harries confirmed that Santa was also booked.

The Clerk confirmed that arrangements had been made with Elsbury to switch the Christmas lights on 1st December. Cllr Harries enquired if more lights could be purchased for the Christmas Tree, the Clerk agreed to ask Elsbury if this was possible.

The Clerk reported that arrangements were underway for the Remembrance Service.

1904. **FINANCE**

The Clerk produced a report for payments. This was considered and payments approved and signed on the monthly payment schedule.

The Clerk reported that the current balance was £67,013.42 less CIL funds of £38,525.24 = £28,488.18.

The Clerk reported that the second instalment of the precept had been received into the bank account.

The Clerk produced the final budget report for the summer play activities. This was considered and approved.

The Clerk produced an up-to-date budget report and talked through income and expenditure to date. This was considered and approved.

The Clerk produced a grant aid form which was considered and approved. The Clerk agreed to add this to the website so it could be used for any future requests for funding.

The Clerk reported they had not received the audit opinion as yet and so would need to publish a notice on the website and notice board explaining it had not yet been received.

1905. **PLANNING**

Case Ref: 23/0487/RET

Ty Elin, Teulu, 4A Park Road, Maesycwmmmer, Hengoed, CF827QA

Retain existing outbuilding.

Noted.

1906. **MEMBERS MATTERS**

Cllr Howls was thanked for her hard work in organising the summer play activities. It had been very well attended with a great variety of sessions.

Cllr Howls confirmed she was happy to run this again next year and fortunately would have more time to prepare. The Community Centre Committee had pointed out that set up and tidy away times had not been accounted for this year but would need to be included in next years costs. This was agreed.

Mr Earey explained that he intended to make a plan for the village to come up with proposals to put forward to CCBC. He had completed a village walk around and compiled a list of highway matters, overgrown areas, areas for improvements etc. He reported that there were many parts that needed improvement. One such improvement was for Jenkins Street to be made into a 'school street' with road closures put in place at pick up and drop off times.

Cllr John commented that residents could be consulted by way of surveys, public meetings etc and an action plan produced. Cllr Howls suggested that the school children could also be consulted on things they would like to see happen in the village.

Mr Earey explained he would continue looking into this and email any reports / findings onto the Clerk to forward on to Councillors.