

MAESYCWMMER COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Maesycwmmmer Community Council held on Thursday 18th January 2024 at 7:00 pm.

PRESENT

Councillors: Mrs. M. Harries, Mrs. W. Howls, Miss J. Rao, Mr. A. Joynes.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs. R. Hares (Clerk), Mr D Earey.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr L. John, Mr. D. White, Mr D. Cocks, Mrs A. Jones, Mrs. C. Stockwood.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

1915. MINUTES

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 30th November 2023 were confirmed as a true record.

1916. ROAD SAFETY, POLICE and COMMUNITY LIAISON

The Police were not in attendance but had circulated a report for the months of November and December. There were 24 crimes reported in November and 23 in December. (compared to 32 and 29 for the same time last year) which included:

November:

Vehicle crime – 2 attempt theft of tools by cutting a hole in to side of van – Pleasant View & Erasmus Terrace. 1 Van broken into, and tools stolen – Hill View

Criminal damage – Side of van cut open, but no entry gained – Pleasant View.

Drugs – relates to an incident in Risca.

All other theft – Theft of trailer – Hawtin Park, theft of steel support bars – Hawtin Park.

Internet sextortion, money wanted to stop a nude photo of victim being sent out to public – Main Road.

Medication Stolen – Gwerna Crescent. Scrap stolen from garden – The Crescent.

December:

Vehicle crime – Eco sport stolen – Gwerna Crescent. Attempt entry to Range Rover on Main Road. Theft of number plates – Tabor Road. Moped stolen – Underwood Avenue. Van broken into various items stolen – St Annes Gardens.

All other thefts – Theft of tablet (computer), CCBC worker left on side of road – Glen Coed. Theft of parcel – Glen View.

Criminal damage – Abandoned vehicle smashed up on Maesycwmmmer mountain.

Drugs – Found as part of a stop – Main Road.

There were 1 Anti-Social Behaviour Call in November and 1 in December.

The Clerk reported that she had queried the last reports figures with the police but was still awaiting a response. There were further queries over the figures for the latest report. Cllr Howls queried why the theft of bicycles she had reported were not

included on the report and was also still awaiting a follow up on the garage fire on Tabor Road. The Clerk agreed to raise these with the Police.

Cllr Harries reported that there had been more complaints from residents regarding the obstruction of the pavement and road outside Motor Mass garage on the Main Road. It was agreed that it was disappointing that nothing seemed to have been done about the matter despite being brought to the attention of the Police a number of times at Council meetings.

1917. **MATTERS ARISING**

The Clerk reported that CCBC had been contacted regarding Mr Earey's concerns over the drainage and water collecting in certain areas of the park / skate park. Photographs of the areas had been provided and were passed on to the Parks and Drainage section of CCBC.

The Clerk reported that she had requested a site meeting with CCBC's Parks Officer to discuss potential areas for new benches. She was still awaiting a response but would chase in the next few weeks if there was no reply.

The Clerk reported that she had submitted the Council's views on the Boundary Commissions link regarding the possibility of Dyffryn Industrial Estate moving from Maesycwmmmer Ward to Llanbradach Ward.

The Clerk reported that she had replied to the Heritage Society regarding their request for financial aid for the footpath to the Memorial Wall. As discussed in the previous meeting, the Clerk had requested 2 further quotes and for the Council's grant form to be completed.

The Clerk reported she had received clarity on the Boundary Commissions proposal to transfer Hawtin Park from Maesycwmmmer Ward to Pontllanfraith and reduce the number of councillors from 9 to 8. The Commission had put the proposal out to consultation and in Caerphilly CCBC's response to the consultation, full council had suggested that 7 councillors was a more appropriate number based on electorate and trying to maintain electoral parity across the area. However, there was nothing officially decided as yet, and it was now a matter for the Commission to consider and publish a final recommendations report which would then be put to Welsh Government for approval.

Mr Earey reported he had emailed the Head Teacher of the primary school regarding people waiting in their cars outside the school with their engines running, polluting the air. He had not received a response as yet.

The Clerk reported that she had again requested that the steps at the top of the school hill could be cleared. The Clerk provided a reference number to quote if anyone else was going to report the matter.

The Clerk reported that Cllr Smith-Stockwood had chased CCBC on The Crescent hill. It had been confirmed that Welsh Water had taken responsibility for the damage and had agreed to pay for the works that would need to be carried out by CCBC.

The Clerk reported she had received a response regarding the bus shelter for St Davids Road. CCBC confirmed there would be no funding in the next financial year for any bus shelters, but if an exact location could be confirmed they would assess the location for suitability and provide costings for the works so that the Community Council could decide upon providing the funding.

1918. **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.

1919. **REPORT OF THE CLERK, MISCELLANEOUS MEETINGS AND COMMITTEES.**

None – all included in matters arising.

1920. **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 £32,931.18 less CIL funds of £8,525.24 = £24,405.94.

The Clerk reported that as required, CCBC had been informed of the next financial years Precept figure.

1921. **PLANNING**

None.

1922. **MEMBERS MATTERS**

Mr Earey gave out a list of areas for possible improvements in the village for Councillors to consider as a starting point. It was agreed to rearrange the meeting to discuss these.

The Christmas lights were discussed, and it was felt there were too many blue and white lights in comparison to other colours. The Clerk agreed to look into prices for new lights for next year.

Cllr Howls requested a donation to buy bunting for the community fund day. This was considered and the amount of £200 was approved.

Mr Earey reported that he had received confirmation that the bus stop sign on St Davids Road would be erected in the next four weeks. Mr Earey voiced concerns regarding the possibility of road blockages as a result of the bus stop and parked cars opposite. He reported he would be contacting CCBC to discuss.

Cllr Harries requested that Cllr Rao make enquiries regarding the street art in the subway. Cllr Rao agreed to follow up with Cllr George, the CCBC Cabinet Member for Highways.