

MAESYCWMMER COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Maesycwmmmer Community Council held on Thursday 30th November 2023 at 7:00 pm.

PRESENT

Councillors: Mrs. M. Harries, Mrs. W. Howls, Mr L. John, Miss J. Rao, Mr. D. White, Mr D. Cocks, Mrs A. Jones, Mr. A. Joynes, Mrs. C. Stockwood.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

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

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

1907. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 28th September 2023 were confirmed as a true record.

1908. **ROAD SAFETY, POLICE and COMMUNITY LIAISON**

The Police talked though the monthly report for the month of October. There were 11 crimes reported (compared to 18 for the same time last year) which included:

- Vehicle Crime – St Davids Road and Gelli Deg Street.
- Theft of a purse – Gwerna Place.
- Theft of sheep – near Bryn Meadows.
- Doors broken open – Zoar Chapel.

There was 1 Anti-Social Behaviour Call - youths causing issues to residents in the bungalows on Hill View.

Cllr John queried the figure reported for Anti-Social Behaviour as although the table provided by Police stated 1 call, the graph stated there were 8. The Clerk agreed to query this with the Police.

The Police reported that there had been a surge in vehicle crime across the Borough, occurring mainly after midnight, and seemed to be targeting vehicles storing tools. Police were recommending the use of Faraday boxes to protect vehicle keys from being detected.

Police were urging residents to report incidents and advising that this could be done by following Gwent Police on twitter and using the instant messenger function.

1909. **MATTERS ARISING**

Cllr White enquired again 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. Cllr Rao agreed to contact Sustrans.

Cllr Harries reported that the Skate Park was complete and was being used regularly by the children. Mr Earey felt there was an issue with drainage and water collecting in certain areas and wished to discuss this with the relevant officer in CCBC. The Clerk agreed to find the correct contact for Mr Earey.

It was agreed that now the Skate Park was finished, plans could start for new park benches. The Clerk agreed to contact CCBC's Parks Officer to arrange a site meeting in the New Year to discuss potential areas.

The Clerk reported that everything was in place for the Lantern Parade and the selection boxes had been purchased. The Risk Assessment for the Lantern Parade was approved.

Cllr Rao gave her apologies for the Lantern Parade due to a prior engagement.

The Clerk confirmed that as requested in the last meeting, extra lights were added to the village Christmas Tree.

1910. **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 from Mount Pleasant Baptist Church thanking the Community Council for the donation made to the 'Warm Place Luncheon Club'.

1911. **REPORT OF THE CLERK, MISCELLANEOUS MEETINGS AND COMMITTEES.**

The Clerk reported that a request had been received from the warden of Y Glyn regarding the possibility of having lamppost poppies around the complex next year. This was considered and agreed. The Clerk agreed to purchase more in readiness.

Cllr Harries stated that the wooden crosses were starting to look dirty and worn, the Clerk agreed to purchase more for next years' service.

The Clerk reported she had received a request from the Clerk of Llanbradach Community Council regarding the Boundary Commission and the possibility of Dyffryn Industrial Estate moving from Maesycwmmmer Ward to Llanbradach Ward. It was felt that due to the estate's closer proximity to Llanbradach, any issues would have a greater impact on the residents there. The request was considered and approved on eight Councillors to one.

The Clerk reported that due to an unavoidable commitment, the date for January's meeting would need to be changed. The Clerk agreed to contact the Secretary for the OAP Hall to see when the new date could be arranged and let everyone know.

The Clerk reported that a request was received from CCBC's Play Officer to undertake a 'Play Audit'. This was completed and the Clerk agreed to feedback the Community Council's answers and comments.

1912. **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 £35,340.34 less CIL funds of £8,525.24 = £26,815.10.

The Clerk reported that the £30,000 skate park invoice had been paid from CIL funds.

The Clerk produced an up-to-date budget report and talked through income and expenditure to date. This was considered and approved. It was agreed that the Precept for the following financial year remain the same at £18,300.

The Clerk reported that the external audit opinion had been received, the outcome was unqualified with no points for action / recommendations. The Clerk advised that as required, she had published the opinion on the Community Council website and the village notice board.

The Clerk reported that the Community Council had received a request for financial aid from the Heritage Society who wanted to install a new resin pathway to the Memorial Wall. A quote had been submitted for £900. This was considered and it was decided to request further quotes to ensure value for money.

The Chair reported that she had attended CCSL Committee on the 21st November where presentations were given on the Boundary Commission, grass cutting and The Winter Service Plan. The Chair stated she would circulate the minutes.

1913. **PLANNING**

Case Ref: 23/0488/RET

Unit 3 Withey Dyffryn Court, Dyffryn Business Park.

Change use from Class D1 to flexible use, Class B1, B2, and B8.

Noted.

1914. **MEMBERS MATTERS**

Cllr Rao explained that the Boundary Commission Report included a proposal to transfer Hawtin Park from Maesycwmmmer Ward to Pontllanfraith, which would result in the number of Community Councillors dropping from 9 to 7.

Discussion ensued surrounding the Councillor ratios and the Clerk agreed to contact Dave Beecham to make enquiries.

Mr Earey stated that due to the cold weather, more people were waiting in their cars outside the school with their engines running, polluting the air. Mr Earey asked if there was anyway the Community Council could influence this, maybe by purchasing an RAC banner to put outside school. Mr Earey agreed to speak to the Head Teacher about this in the first instance.

Mr Earey explained that he had circulated an email regarding village improvements and wanted to work on creating a list of issues and priorities for CCBC. The possibility of creating a Subgroup to discuss the issue outside of Council meetings was debated and Cllrs Smith-Stockwood, John, Howls and Rao stated they would be interested in attending said meeting.

Cllr Howls asked if the steps at the top of the school hill could be cleared, the Clerk agreed to contact CCBC and request this again.

Cllr Howls asked Cllr Rao if she had received any feedback on the road on The Crescent, Cllr Rao agreed to chase this up.

Cllr White advised that he had contacted CCBC regarding a new bus shelter for St Annes Gardens. He had been told that there was no money left in this years budget but to enquire again after April. Cllr White stated that the cost of a new shelter was £900 and asked whether this was something the Community Council could fund. The Clerk agreed to contact CCBC to make enquires.