SEVEN SISTERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CYNGOR CYMUNED BLAENDULAIS

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 3rd November 2014.**

Present: Chairman: Mr. L.C. Jenkins.

Councillors: Mr. J.W. Davies Miss M. Rivers

Mr. D. Francis Mr. M. Rivers

Mrs. N. Herdman Mrs. G. Smith

Mr. S. K. Hunt Mr. D.C. Thomas

Mr. B. MacKenzie

The chairman welcomed Miss Rivers to the council.

**1. Apologies for Absence**. None.

**2. Declarations of Interests**. None.

**3. Policing Matters**.

**(i)** Mr. Hunt urged members to attend PACT meetings so that these meetings could be used to Council’s advantage.

**(ii)** Some members were of the opinion that the original concept of Police And Community Together (PACT) meetings, when several agencies would attend, had been lost with only a PCSO now in attendance.

**(iii)** Mr. Thomas had been informed by a member of the public that drug dealers had been reported to the police but no apparent action had been taken.

**(iv)** It was decided that the mandate to be taken to the PACT meeting on 19th November be:-

Drugs, youth annoyance and the actions of NPT Homes in re-siting families with drug related problems onto the Brynbedd site.

**(v)** A letter from Sector Inspector Huw Griffiths informed that he was moving on and was being replaced by Inspector Andy Davies.

**(vi)** Peter Hain MP, having received copies of the clerk’s letters to NPT Homes and the police, expressed in a letter his concerns with the increase in crime in the community. He would contact NPT Homes and the police on Council’s behalf.

**(vii)** The police and officers from NPT CBC were to carry out a dog fouling awareness exercise in the valley in November. Free micro-chipping of dogs was now available.

**4. Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 6th October 2014**.

It was RESOLVED that the minutes were a true record of the meeting.

**5. Matters Arising**. None. All covered in the agenda.

**6. Brynbedd Cemetery**.

Trees needed trimming on the LHS near the gate where they were encroaching onto the wood chip path.

1

**7. Recreation Ground**.

**(i)** The clerk would arrange for Spick’n’ Span to upright the rhino.

**(ii)** For CHOAS to take over management of the Rec’, on a lease basis, permission is required from both CISWO and Seven Sisters Miners Welfare Society, as stated in the Land Transfer Document from the Land Registry. The clerk would make enquiries with CISWO as to its views.

**(iii)** Following a discussion it was decided to apply for the byelaws **Dogs To Be Kept** **On Leads** and **No Horses Allowed.** The clerk was asked to make enquiries with Legal at NPT CBC as to their costs in dealing with the legal requirements.

**8. Community Hall and CHAOSS**.

**(i)** Refuse collection costs had increased with recycling now a requirement.

**(ii)** The clerk would contact a charitable company who had placed solar panels on the roof of the DOVE at Banwen with a request that it place panels on the roof of the hall.

**(iii)** The clerk was asked to apply to Nant Helen, on behalf of CHAOSS, for a grant.

**9. Meeting attended by Members**.

**(i)** Mrs. Smith, Mr. Francis and Mr. Hunt had attended a governors’ meeting at Ysgol Gymraeg.

**(ii)** Mr. Hunt had attended a governors’ meeting at Blaendulais Primary. The Chairman apologised for being unable to attend.

**(iii)** Mr. Hunt had attended a Liaison Committee meeting at Nant Helen. He informed members that communities in the Upper Dulais Valley were not eligible to apply for grants from the S106 Benefits Fund Agreement between Powys CC and Celtic Energy for the extension into the Swansea Valley. However, grants in the region of £200 to £300 were still available to organisations in Seven Sisters who could apply on an annual basis. Meetings were now being held at quarterly intervals with the next meeting in January 2015. The clerk was asked to place notices in the community informing organisations that they could apply for grants from the smaller fund.

**10. Planning Matters**. None.

**11. Correspondence**. Dealt with in above items.

**12. Clerk’s report**.

It was RESOLVED that the following be passed for payment:-

Cheque No. £ p

Mazars, External Auditors 502344 354. 00. Inc. VAT

Corona Gas, September 14 345 177. 79. “ “

M. Miles, October 14 346 as per contract

Y. Roberts, librarian, October 14 347 83. 00.

Came & Co. Insurance Premium 348 3,176. 20.

B.L. Parfitt, October 14 349 307. 20.

Monwel Signs, MUGA 350 36. 60 “ “

Crynant Landscapes 351 581. 53. “ “

RFC, fireworks, chairman’s fund 352 25. 00.

Royal British Legion, wreath 353 20. 00.

2

**13. Land near Marigold**.

Nothing further to report.

**14. Roadside Seats etc**.

Work on the footbridge near Ynysdawley was due to start soon.

**15. Co-option of Councillor.**

It was decided that Miss Carol Freeman, the only applicant, be co-opted onto the Council.

**16. Appointment of Members to**:-

**(i)** Cemetery sub-committee - Mrs. G. Smith.

**(ii)** Cefn Coed committee - Mr. D.C. Thomas.

**(iii)** County/Community Council’s Joint Liaison - to be placed on the agenda for the December monthly meeting.

Items which this council want to be placed on the agenda for the Liaison meeting on the 8th December were required by NPT CBC by 17th November.

Mr. Hunt informed members that there were proposals in the NPT CBC budget to

axe the youth club and summer play schemes from April 2015. The clerk was asked to contact NPT CBC and request that the following item be placed on the Liaison agenda. “ *If any Community Council decides to take over the responsibility for providing youth club and play scheme staff will the County Council assist in providing funding for staff training and room hire.”*

**17. Meeting with NPT Homes**.

The following Members volunteered to meet NPT Homes on Tuesday 4th November : The Chairman, Mr. J.W. Davies, Mrs. N. Herdman, Mr. S.K. Hunt and

Mr. D.C. Thomas.

**18. Mr. Brinley Lloyd**.

The clerk was asked to purchase an inscribed plaque to be presented to Mr. Lloyd at the December monthly meeting. It was decided that presentations would only be made to retiring Members who had served for at least 10 years.

**19. Any Other Business.**

**(i)** The Chairman would attend the Remembrance Day Service and place a wreath.

**(ii)** The clerk informed members that NPT CBC required the level of precept for 2015/2016 by the 2nd week of January. The proposed axing of youth club services by NPT CBC from April 2015 will result in a loss of some £2,000 in room hire at the Hall. This, together with the suggestion that the community council take over youth club provision will have an effect on the level of precept. An item on the level of precept will be included on the agenda for the December monthly meeting. The level of precept had to be resolved at the January monthly meeting.

Chairman : Mr. L.C. Jenkins, signed at the meeting. Date : 1st December 2014

3

**Clerk’s Report for the meeting on 1st December 2014.**

**Income** £ p

VAT Refund 703. 71.

**Accounts for Payment.**

B.L. Parfitt, November 307. 20.

M. Miles, November as per contract

Y. Roberts, librarian, November 83. 00.

Welsh Water, hall 150. 56.

Y. Roberts, relief caretaker 243. 75.

B. Lloyd, plaque 49. 00. inc. VAT

B.T. Telephone, hall 86. 36. “ “

Corona Gas, October 324. 14. “ “

**Correspondence.**

NPT CBC Treasurer Cost of youth club and play scheme.

CISWO CHAOSS re. the Rec’

Marie Curie Request for donation.

Came & Co. Insurance documents.

NPT CBC Level of precept request.

B.L. Parfitt Letter of resignation.

**Planning Matters**.

None to date.

**Precept**

The current Precept for 2014/15 is £45,190

This accounts for £74 of the Council Tax paid by a Band D property but £53 as an average for all properties in the community.

A £1,000 increase in the Precept will add some £1.60 per annum to the Council Tax of a Band D property but some £1.20 as an average for all properties.

**Youth Club Costs**

£

Staff : 4 persons for 2 nights per week 8,309

Room hire 1,980

10,289

**Play Scheme Costs**

For 20 x 2 hour sessions.

Staff : 3 persons for 2.5 hours/ session 1,500

Staff training 400

Resources 300

2,200

4

**Minutes of the meeting with NPT Homes and the Police held on 4th November 2014.**

Present: Chairman: Mr. D.C. Thomas.

Councillors: Mrs. N. Herdman, Mr. S.K. Hunt and Mr. L.C. Jenkins.

Others: Mr. Windos of NPT Homes & Sgt. J. James.

**1. Apologies for Absence**. None.

**2. Declarations of Interests**. None.

**3. Discussion with NPT Homes and the police with regard to the placing of**

**problem families and drugs on the Brynbedd site.**

**The following points were made :-**

**(i)** Drug users and dealers had been reported to the police with no apparent action being taken by the police or NPT Homes. There seemed to be little or no liaison between the 2 agencies. The village is being “dragged down” and the fear is that some members of the public will take action themselves.

**(ii)** Rangers were ineffective and only visited in vans. Rubbish was left in gardens with rangers doing nothing.

**(iii)** NPT Homes stated that tenants can chose to live anywhere. NPT Homes do not pick up problem families and place them in Seven Sisters.

**(iv)** Residents on the site and neighbours experiencing problems must come forward and report to NPTH and the police, very few are prepared to do this. Members replied that meetings at the police station when information could be given helped in this respect.

**(v)** The police will, in future, let NPTH know if warrants have been issued or convictions made.

**(vi)** Sgt. James stated that she would attend meetings on a rota basis but, due to the number of councils in her area, this would not be very often. PACT meetings were for low level anti-social behaviour/crime. Sgt. Jones hopes to have an additional PC at Glynneath. Communications between the police and rangers would be addressed.

**(vii)** When cannabis is discovered the police serve notice on the persons involved but the courts have the last word and may only issue a suspended order. NPTH must prove cases of criminal behaviour and must go to the courts to get an eviction order. These days tenants have an assured tenancy and eviction is very difficult. Warning letters sometimes have an effect.

**(viii)** Members can help NPTH and the police in reporting criminal behaviour and by getting affected neighbours to complain to both agencies. If police get sufficient evidence by placing CCTV cameras in neighbours houses they will take action.

**(ix)** It was agreed that the police, NPTH and council meet on a quarterly basis.

**(x)** Addresses of drug parties to be given to PCSO Tennet early next week.

Chairman : Mr. L.C. Jenkins, signed at the meeting. Date : 1st December 2014

5