SEVEN SISTERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CYNGOR CYMUNED BLAENDULAIS

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 10th February 2015**.

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

Councillors: Mr. J.W. Davies, Miss C. Freeman, Mrs. N. Herdman,

Mr. S.K. Hunt, Mr. M. Rivers, Mrs. G. Smith and

Mr. D.C. Thomas.

**1. Apologies for Absence**. Mr. D.W. Francis and Mr. B. Mackenzie.

**2. Declarations of Interests**.

Mr. S.K. Hunt in Planning Matters when he left the room.

Mr. M. Rivers in the applications for the post of clerk when he left the room.

**3. Policing Matters**.

**(i)** In reply to Council’s request for information re. police presence in the village, under the FOI Act 2000, a letter from Inspector Andy Davies stated that over a 3 month period 80% of the PCSO’s time was spend on high visibility patrols. This equated to 130 hours per month. The letter included crime stats. for October (10), November (5) and December (9). Members were disappointed in the stats. inthat incidents reported to the police are not recorded. Also, there was no mention of crimes solved or prosecutions obtained. Rouge traders had been active in the community recently.

**(ii)** PC Stone had been appointed for a 6 month trial period.

**(iii)** The only persons present at the PACT meeting held on 14th January 2015 were PCSO Tennet and Mr. Miles.

**(iv)** A meeting with Sgt. James and Mr. Windos of NPT Homes had been arranged for 6.30pm. on 17th February 2015. The sub-committee to comprise the chairman, Mrs. Herdman, Mr. Hunt and Mr. Thomas.

**4. Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 5th January 2015**.

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

**5. Matters Arising**.

**(i)** Emyr Lewis. A letter of support was awaited from Seven Sisters RFC.

**(ii)** The Chairman thanked Members for their show of respect for his late Mother.

**6. Brynbedd Cemetery**.

The mound had been removed but the area where it had been deposited needed levelling.

**7. Recreation Ground**.

A meeting had been arranged with Andrew Morse of CISWO for 10.00am. on Tuesday 17th February 2015 in order to discuss the views of CISWO on CHAOSS taking over management of the Rec’. Mr. Rivers, Mr. Thomas and the clerk would attend the meeting.

1

**8. Community Hall and CHAOSS**.

The poor attendance at the library was discussed with only some 6 persons regularly visiting. Mr. Miles had volunteered to oversee one session and

Mrs. Roberts the second session without remuneration. As previously minuted the situation with the library is to be reviewed at the end of the financial year.

Facilities at the Hall needed to be advertised on social media.

**9. Meetings attended by Members**.

**(i)** Mr. Hunt and Mr. Rivers had attended a Joint Liaison meeting at Neath on

2nd February 2015. Budget cuts were discussed with grass cutting, youth clubs, play schemes and street lighting affected. The blue badge scheme was discussed with NPT CBC promising to carry out a review of the 52 persons refused a badge.

**(ii)** Mr. Hunt had attended a meeting of the Nant Helen Liaison Committee. He reported that CHAOSS had been granted £300, Salem £250 and Friends of Seven Sisters £500. The Swansea Valley were now receiving most of the grants as work on the opencast had a greater impact there.

**10. Planning Matters**.

There were no objections to the application by Mr. Swiestowski for an extension at 34 Bryndulais Avenue.

**11. Correspondence**.

**(i)** School Crossing Patrol

An e mail from NPT CBC stated that the Service Level Agreement will expire on 31st March 2015 and it requested whether this Council wished to extend the Agreement. It was agreed that the Agreement be extended to 31st March 2017.

**(ii)** Summer Playscheme.

NPT CBC were organizing a meeting at 2.00pm. on 17th February 2015 to discuss Summer Playscheme provision. This Council were being invited to attend in order to explore options for alternative delivery of the Schemes. Mrs. Herdman and Mr. Hunt volunteered to attend.

**12. Clerk’s Report**.

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

Cheque No. £ p

Corona Gas, December 14 502376 550. 55. Inc. VAT

M. Miles, January 15 377 as per contract

Y. Roberts ,January 15 378 83. 00.

B.L. Parfitt, January 15 379 307. 20.

C. Morgan, Christmas lights 380 225. 00.

NPT CBC School Patrol 381 1849. 27.

Corona Gas, January 15 382 585. 06.

**13. Land near Marigold**. Nothing to report.

**14. Roadside seats etc**. Nothing to report.

2

**15. Application for the post of Clerk**.

Applications had been received from the following:-

Mrs. Catrin Rees, Miss E. Nelmes and Cllr. Mr. M. Rivers.

It was decided to interview the applicants on Thursday 19th February at 6.30pm. The sub-committee to comprise Mr. Davies, Miss Freeman, Mrs. Herdman,

Mr. Hunt and Mr. Thomas. The Chairman would not be present due to his being a relative of Mr. Rivers. Applicants to be asked 3 questions (compiled by the Chairman and clerk) and to make a 10 minute presentation.

**16. Co-option of Councillor**.

Applications had been received from Alun Evans and from the clerk. It was decided to co-opt Mr. Parfitt to the Office of Councillor.

**17. Model Charter Agreement**.

Members decided to accept the Charter Agreement.

**18. Any Other Business**.

**(i)** Dulais Valley Silver Band required use of the Hall on 2 weekend occasions. CHAOSS to advise on the hire fee.

**(ii)** It was decided to contribute £160, as a one-off, for the cost of a skip for a cleanup event in the community.

**(iii)** Mr. Rivers reported that the events at the Miners’ Welfare put on by CISWO were successful.

Chairman…………………….. Date………………………

**Clerk’s Report for the meeting on 2nd March 2015**.

**Income £ p**

Cemetery 60. 00

CHAOSS, pump 497. 00

CHAOSS, lights 90. 00

**Accounts for payment**

M. Miles, February as per contract

Y. Roberts, “ 83. 00

B.L. Parfitt “ 307. 20

BT Redcare alarm and calls 169. 65inc. VAT

**Correspondence**

None to date.

**Planning**

None to date .

3

**Minutes of the meeting with the Police and NPT Homes held on 17th February 2015**

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

Councillors: Mrs. Herdman, Mr. Hunt and Mr. Thomas.

Others:Sgt. James, Mr. Windos and Mr. G. Jones of NPTH

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

**1. Apologies for Absence**. None , all present.

**2. Declarations of Interest**. None.

**3. Notes from the meeting.**

**(i)** Police had recently changed shift patterns with the PC and both PCSOs on the same shift. This will improve day to day communication as the PCSO cannot apply for warrants. Applications must be made by the PC.

**(ii)** It was commentated that the PCSO patrols the village in a van and is seldom seen on foot. Members felt that police presence on foot was essential. Sgt. James replied that the PCSO visits schools, outlying farms etc. and spends the greater part of her time working behind the scenes gathering intelligence. To quote Sgt. James “ t*he days of the* *bobby on the beat are gone*.”. Sgt. James volunteered to attend the March monthly meeting in order to explain current policing methods to Members.

(iii) There was still a problem with drugs on the Brynbedd site. Incidents had been reported but no apparent action taken. Sgt. James replied that it is now virtually impossible to secure a Magistrate’s warrant without referring to an actual named person who has provided the police with intelligence. It is no longer acceptable to refer to a “reliable source” or an “anonymous caller”. Therefore, it is essential that persons contacting the Police give their personal details. However, personal details are never made public.

Sgt. James had, earlier in the day, attended a meeting the purpose of which was to discuss children’s involvement with drugs on the site.

It is essential, whenever possible, that intelligence is passed to the Police when drug related incidents are occurring by dialing 999 or 101. Such information will be shared with NPTH.

(iv) Members were of the opinion that information on new tenants from elsewhere should be provided to NPTH by the Police. Mr. Windes replied that when allocating homes NPTH can only ask questions of prospective tenants, they are never informed of tenants background and criminal records. Any information gleaned is held in strict confidence under the Data Protection Act.

(v) Sgt. James would investigate whether the Police had funds available for a youth club. She also agreed to meetings at the police station with the PC and PCSO where intelligence could be passed on in private.

Chairman……………………………Date………………………………

4