SEVEN SISTERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

 CYNGOR CYMUNED BLAENDULAIS

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 13th April 2015**.

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

 Councillors: Mr. J.W. Davies, Miss C. Freeman,

 Mrs. N. Herdman, Mr. S.K. Hunt,

 Mr. B.L. Parfitt (Clerk), Mr. P. Parfitt,

 Mr. M. Rivers, Mrs. G. Smith Mr. D.C. Thomas.

**1. Apologies for Absence**.

 Mr. B. Mackenzie.

**2. Declarations of Interests**.

 Mr. Davies in item No. 9. The Chairman and Mr. Rivers in item No. 16 when they left the room.

**3. Policing Matters.**

(i) P.C. Stone had informed the clerk that of the 7 violent crimes recorded in January 3 were by the same person in domestic circumstances.

(ii) The PC for Crynant, mentioned on its webpage, referred to PC Stone as the PC for the valley.

(iii) Mr. Hunt had recently met with Inspector Andy Davies and had been informed of the following:-

\* Spot checks were being carried out on vehicles between midnight and 4.00am.

\* Police were working with NPT Homes on reports of anti-social behaviour by tenants.

\* Leaflets on “legal highs” were being prepared for distribution to schools with

 visits by the PCSO.

\* Resources are low and it is important that the public provide intelligence to the

 police.

\* Insp. Davies was prepared for PC Stone to be accompanied by a councilor on

 his beat in the village. Mrs. Herdman and Mrs. Smith volunteered for this

 task.

\* Insp. Davies apologised for no longer attending council meetings but was

 prepared for his staff to meet at the police station.

(iv) It was rumoured that PC Stone was due to retire in 3 months time.

(v) The clerk to contact Sgt. James with the following requests:-

\* Details of PC Stone’s shifts so that he can be accompanied on the beat.

\* Whether PC Stone will be replaced on his retirement.

\* A date for a meeting at the police station.

(vi) The clerk to contact other community councils locally to compare crime figures.

**4. Minutes of the monthly meeting held on 2nd March 2015**.

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

**5. Matters Arising**.

(i) Mr. Emyr Lewis. A letter was awaited from the RFC.

(ii) School Patrol. NPT would only extend the Agreement to 2016. The Agreement had been received since the last meeting, signed by the Chairman, and returned to NPTCBC.

 1

(iii) RDP grant. The application forms for Stage 2 consideration had been submitted to NPT CBC.

(iv) Playscheme. The clerk had been informed by Communities First that it had no funds available to contribute towards the cost of providing a summer playscheme.

**6. Community Hall and CHAOSS**.

(i) Review of payments to the librarian.

 This item to be discussed by CHAOSS at its next meeting.

(ii) The RDP grant for solar panels for Stage 2 consideration had been submitted to NPT CBC by Awelamantawe.

**7. Recreation Ground**.

 The hippo was still on its side. Miss Freeman volunteered the services of her partner for the task of righting the hippo.

**8. Brynbedd Cemetry**.

 The clerk to ask Spick n Span to remove disused steel sheets.

**9. Transfer of Land from the Miners’ Welfare**.

 Mr. Rivers would ask CISWO as to whether there were further developments.

 Mr. Davies stated that the RFC were interested in acquiring the land for development.

**10. Meetings attended by Members**.

(i) The Chairman, Mr. Francis, Miss Freeman, Mr. Hunt, Mr. Rivers and Mrs. Smith had attended the PACT meeting on 11th March.

(ii) Miss Freeman and Mr. Hunt had attended a Governors’ meeting at Blaendulais Primary. There was some misunderstanding as to who was the community council’s representative on the Board. The chairman was now able to attend and the clerk would inform the school.

(iii) Mrs. Smith had attended a Governors’ meeting at Ygol Gymraeg when budget cuts were discussed.

(iv) Mr. Rivers had attended a Joint Liaison meeting with NPT CBC on 23rd March. The Blue Badge scheme had been reviewed and of the 46 applications reviewed some 15 had been successful. Appeals are possible.

**11. Planning matters**. None.

**12. Correspondence**.

 CCTV. Due to budget cuts NPT CBC were discussing a number of options for savings on this operation. Comments from consultees were requested before 15th June. This item to be placed on the agenda for the May monthly meeting.

**13. Clerk’s Report**.

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

 Cheque No. £ p

Eric Collier, annual boiler maintenance 502392 222. 00 inc. VAT

Evening Post, advert 393 288. 00 “ “

Corona Gas, Hall, February 394 421. 94 “ “

Rates, cemetery 395 530. 20

M. Miles, March 396 as per contract

NICE & PAYE B.L. Parfitt & M. Miles. 397 1079. 37

Martin’s Electrical, lights , Hall 398 115. 20 “ “

Y. Roberts, librarian, March 399 83. 00

 2

**14. Land near Marigold Place**.

 A letter from the solicitor stated that an application had been submitted to the Land Registry and that a reply was awaited.

**15. Roadside Seats etc**. Nothing to report.

**16. Vacancy for clerk**.

 Of the 9 applicants the following 4 were shortlisted for interview on 21st April. Mr. Matthews, Mrs. Oliver, Mrs. Walters and Mr. Rivers.

**17. White Paper on Local Government Reform**

 This Paper is the Welsh Government’s statement of intent about the future of Local Government in Wales. As far as Community Councils are concerned proposals for reform include:-

\* The new, larger Local Authorities will have powers to review Community Councils in their area with a view to reducing the overall number, this work to be completed by 2022.

\* Community Councils to be more actively involved in work to support families,

 children, young people and the vulnerable.

\* Properly constituted community groups to have rights to approach Councils and

 propose that they take over Council assets by purchasing or managing the asset

 if the Council can no longer afford its upkeep.

 Mr. Hunt volunteered to email members with a template so that they could

 individually respond to the consultation. NPT CBC have responded pointing

 out the problems with community councils having greater powers.

**18. Any Other Business**.

 The contractor had commenced demolition of Soar Chapel.

 Chairman : Mr. D.C. Thomas Date : 11th May 2015 Signed at the meeting

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

 **Clerk’s report to the Monthly Meeting to be held on 11th May 2015.**

 **Income.** £ p

 Cemetery 50. 00

 **Accounts for payment**.

 M. Miles, May 2015. as per contract

 Y. Roberts, April 2015. 83. 00

 Corona Energy, Hall, March, 2015 510. 34. Inc. VAT

 Crynant Landscapes 825. 10 “ “

 School Crossing Patrol, 05.01.15. to 31.03.15. 1,113. 56

 B.L. Parfitt, expenses 01.07.14. to 30.04.15. 207. 92

 **Correspondence.**

 Wind Ventures Up date on the proposed Hirfynydd Windfarm

 Ombudsman Revised Guidance on the Code of Conduct.

 **Planning**.

 Application No. 2015/0200

 Mr. D. Thomas, 76, Church Road, rear extension, decking, boundary wall

 and garage.

 3

**Minutes of the Appointment Committee held on 21st April 2015**.

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

 Councillors: Mr. J.W. Davies, Miss C. Freeman,

 Mrs. N. Herdman, Mr. S.K. Hunt and

 Mr. B.L. Parfitt (clerk)

**1. Apologies for Absence**. None. All present.

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

**3. Interviews**.

 Mr. Rivers had previously withdrawn his application.

 The following were interviewed in the following order:-

 Mrs. Walters.

 Mr. Matthews.

 Mrs. Oliver.

**4. Conclusion**.

 It was unanimously agreed that Mrs. Oliver be offered the post on a salary of £384. per calendar month commencing duties at the 11th May 2015 annual and monthly meeting.

 Mrs. Oliver accepted the offer.

 The other applicants were thanked for attending.

 Chairman……………………… Date…………………

 4

**APPOINTMENTS 2015 / 2016.**

ORGANISATION. MEMBER(S)

Brynbedd Cemetery Mr. D.C. Thomas.

 Mr. J.W. Davies.

 Mr. B.L. Parfitt

Recreation Ground. Mr. D.C. Thomas.

 Mrs. G. Smith.

 Mr. D. Francis.

Nant Helen OCCS Liaison Committee Mr. S.K. Hunt.

CCTV Room Mr. D.C. Thomas.

Hall Management Committee. Chairman (if not a Director)

 Mr. M. Rivers.

 Mr. D.C. Thomas.

 Mr. B.L. Parfitt.

 Mr. P. Parfitt.

Footpaths All Members.

Neath Port Talbot Council**/**Community Mr. M. Rivers.

Councils Liaison Committee

Planning Applications (where observations are Chairman.

required prior to the next council meeting). Vice Chairman.

 Mr. D.C. Thomas.

Ysgol Gymraeg Blaendulais Mr. D. Francis.

Blaendulais Primary School. Choice deferred to next meeting.

Legal Liaison and singing of documents Chairman.

 Vice Chairman.

 Clerk.

Cefn Coed Museum Mrs. C. Freeman Mr. S.K. Hunt.

PACT Meeting Any**/**All Members.

Cheque Signatories Mr. L.C. Jenkins.

 Mr. D. Francis.

 Mr. D.C. Thomas.

 5