**Seven Sisters Community Council**

**Cyngor Cymuned Blaendulais.**

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 4th November 2019**.

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

Councillors: Mr J Davies, Mr E W Francis, Cllr S Hunt, Mr. G. James,

Mr. L. Jenkins, Mr. B.L. Parfitt, Mr M Rivers and Mrs. G. Smith.

Clerk: Mrs L Oliver

**1 Apologies for Absence**.

There were apologies from Mr. John and Mr. Totterdale

**2 Declaration of Interests**.

Cllr Hunt in item 10.

**3 To Receive the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 7th October 2019**.

After an alteration to item 13, it was RESOLVED that the minutes were a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

**4 Matters Arising**.

There were no matters arising.

**5 Policing Matters**.

Cllr Hunt said he had carried out his own investigation at the 101 call centre on behalf of the Borough. He said the police had given false information stating the 101 response was 96%. He said the Manager of the call centre had said a call back system was now in operation, but the response was 68%. He would send a copy of this information to the Clerk for circulation to Councillors. He said Inspector Declan Cahill, the Community Safety Inspector, had said the figures were accurate at the time given. Mr Davies said the best way to resolve this is to have more police on the streets to deal with offenders and avoid the calls having to be made. Mrs Smith said she had been involved in an incident that day in Glynneath, and the police had responded within one hour.

**6 Community Hall and CHAOSS**.

The Chairman said lights for the Christmas tree had been discussed at the CHAOSS meeting last Wednesday and it had been decided that CHAOSS would pay for them. He felt that if the tree was vandalised that it should not be placed at the hall in future. There was a discussion whether the normal village lights should be used this year, and it was RESOLVED they should be, but if the tree at the hall was a success, we may not have the other lights in future.

Mr Parfitt said that St Johns Ambulance had stated that the boundary fence was not their responsibility.

2019/17

Mr Parfitt said there was a leak in the roof above the meeting room. He had asked a builder for a quote to repair it, but he could not give a price without removing the cowl. The Vice Chairman suggested Mr Parfitt be given powers to ask the builder to continue with the repairs and this was RESOLVED.

The Clerk said a quote had been received from Walker Fire for a new fire alarm system, of £9253.43 plus VAT. Mr Parfitt said Onllwyn hall and Pantyfordd had ‘break glass’ systems and had no problems with insurance. The Clerk said she had asked the Insurers for their view on this but had not yet received a reply. It was decided to obtain other quotes when the reply had been received.

Mr Parfitt said the swings and chains had been delivered but he had to order new shackles at a cost of £55.30 plus VAT, it was RESOLVED to accept this.

**7 Recreation Ground**

Mr Parfitt said, following the CHAOSS meeting, Mrs Herdman will collect rubbish bags left by Carol after litter picking.

Mrs Smith said the bolt on the gate is broken. Mr James said he would deal with this.

Mrs Smith said the gates always seem to be left open. The Chairman said that standing orders dictate that the gates should be locked. The Vice Chairman suggested combination locks to avoid having to use keys. This was generally agreed.

Cllr Hunt said CCTV could be discussed when council grants are available.

**8 Brynbedd Cemetery**.

The Chairman said all was well at the cemetery but a pile of logs did need to be removed.

**9 Meetings Attended by Members**.

Cllr Hunt had attended Governor training

Mr Parfitt and the Chairman had attended the CHAOSS meeting

**10 Planning Matters**.

Application No. P2019/5331

Mr L Williams, Pontprennau, Cardiff

Re 68 Dulais Road, Seven Sisters

Amended garage plans

Application No. P2019/5455

Mr D Barry, 4 Pierhead Street, Capital, Waterside, Cardiff

Re Land at and surrounding the Nant Helen Open Cast Coal Site

Rail Testing and Storage facility

The above applications had been viewed by the Planning Sub-committee. There were no adverse comments.

2019/18

Application No.P2019/5545

A Price, 5 Commercial Street, Seven Sisters

Retention of hairdressers and 1 residential unit

Councillors had no objections to this application

**11 Correspondence**.

The Clerk read out a letter from Christina Rees MP re defibrillators in the village.

Mrs Smith said we only have one defibrillator in the village available 24hours. The Vice Chairman said the surgery had the box on the wall but the first time the defibrillator was placed there it was vandalised. They were now waiting for CCTV to be installed before it was put back.

Mr Francis asked how many we should have in the village available 24 hours and the general opinion was 4.

Mr Davies said the defibrillator at the Fire Station was not being used and asked if we could have it for the surgery.

Other locations were discussed, and Cllr Hunt said he would see if he could obtain funding for the purchase of more defibrillators.

Councillors thanked the First Responders and Carol for the recent training at the hall.

A further letter had been received from Christina Rees MP, explaining the procedure for the forthcoming election.

**12 Clerk’s Report**. Noted.

**13 Doctor’s Surgery**.

The Vice Chairman said they are in the middle of the Flu Campaign and take up from under 65’s was not too good to date, although over 65’s was good.

He said they held a session for children with the Fire Service last week.

He reported that last year 1983 people died of flu in the UK

**14 Soar Chapel**.

Cllr Hunt said NPTCBC Legal Team had been investigating and found the Crown will probably sell the ground as they do not want liability. They will be making further investigations and will advise.

**15 Defibrillators**.

Discussed under item 11

**16 Celtic Energy**.

The Clerk had been advised by Will Watson to write to Welsh Government and had done so.

**17 Conclusion of Audit**.

The Clerk reported that the external audit had been concluded satisfactorily. The only item to note was a date missed from the annual return.

**18 Retention of the Railway Bridge**

Cllr Hunt said Network Rail would keep the bridge in situ for repairs, which could take up to two years. He said Network Rail described it as a right of way but he was still working to make this official. He thanked Kelvin Roberts for his petition in the post office

2019/19

**19 Bus Stop Mary Street**

The Clerk had written to NPTCBC but no-one appeared to know anything about the bus stop being moved.

Mr Davies said it was unsafe to get off the bus.

Cllr Hunt said he would ask for it to be moved back to the previous location.

**20 Any Other Business**

Mr James thanked Friends of Seven Sisters for all the poppies around the village, including the crocheted ones. Also, Gareth Wheeler for putting them on the lamp posts.

The Vice Chairman thanked Carol for her work on helping people obtain their bus passes.

Mr Davies reported that the food bank at the Rugby Club would be open tomorrow from 10a.m. to 1p.m.

The Chairman thanked the RFC for providing the food bank.

The Chairman then closed the meeting

Chairman : D C Thomas Date : 2nd December 2019

2019/20