**Seven Sisters Community Council**

**Cyngor Cymuned Blaendulais.**

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held Virtually via Zoom on 7th December 2020**

Present: Chairman: Mr. L C Jenkins

Councillors: Mr J Davies, Mr E Francis, Mrs N Herdman,Cllr S Hunt,

Mr. G. James, Mr D John, Mr L Parfitt, Mr M Rivers,

Mrs. G. Smith, Mr D C Thomas and Mr P Totterdale

Clerk: Mrs L Oliver

**1 Apologies for Absence**.

There were no apologies

**2 Declaration of Interests**.

There were no declarations

**3 To Receive the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held virtually on 2nd November 2020**.

After a minor alteration it was RESOLVED that the minutes were a true record of the meeting.

**4 Matters Arising**.

Cllr Hunt said the police had visited the mine road but cannot do anything until the gate is installed.

**5 Community Hall and CHAOSS**.

Mr Parfitt said the hall was still open as Craig Griffiths has said this is ok. He said we could meet at the hall now, but Mr John said why take the risk. The Chairman said Neath Port Talbot now had the highest case rate in Wales. The Vice Chairman said there was no atmosphere when using zoom. The Chairman said the meeting was much quicker using zoom. Cllr Hunt said we should help anyone who has difficulty using zoom but attendance was better with virtual meetings and there were still high risks meeting personally.

It was agreed that the January meeting would be held via zoom and a decision made then as to the future.

**6 BMX Track**

Mr Parfitt said he had met with the contractor who had quoted £1570 for the repairs, which CHAOSS would pay. It was agreed that this was a fair price and RESOLVED to accept it. He could not start for two weeks but it was thought that everyone would be busy at the moment and the track was temporarily closed.

**7 Planning Matters**.

There were no planning matters to discuss

**8 Correspondence**.

Helen Griffiths re Elaine Burgess award – circulated 26.11.20

It was unanimously agreed that Elaine should be congratulated, and the Clerk was asked to arrange flowers which the Chairman would present to her on Thursday at noon in the hall.

NPTCBC – new Chief Executive Karen Jones – circulated 24.11.20

**9 Clerk’s Report**. Noted

# Income £ p

# CHAOSS – Rent/BMX 6570.00 Cemetery Accounts for payment

L Oliver, November 333.80

C Freeman, November as per contract

Spick ‘n’ Span – Fit motorcycle barrier 200.00

Came & Co. Insurance 3867.72

BT 164.28 inc VAT

NPTCBC – School Crossing April to September 2756.00

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**10 Doctor’s Surgery**

The Chairman gave a detailed report to Councillors regarding recent activity at the surgery

**11 Parking on Dulais Road**

The Clerk read out an email from Inspector Matt Otteson saying that the local PC would be in touch. PC Andrew Wallen said he would check the area and see what could be done.

Mr Davies said it was disappointing that nothing had been done to date and said there was now a pick-up jutting into the road. The Chairman said four cars were now having to park on the opposite side of the road. Mr James said he had to mount the pavement to allow a bus to pass. The Vice Chairman said NPTCBC should be involved now but the Clerk said NPTCBC had said it should be a police matter.

Cllr Hunt said he had reported that NPTCBC had visited the site a number of times and reported the vehicles are legal. Obstruction is a police matter. He said the cable is not there now and the vehicles keep being moved.

Mr John said it had been established he was running a business from home and queried is he was paying business rates and taxes.

Mr Davies suggested Councillors meet on site with the police. He said he had looked at the land opposite and queried if there could be a compulsory purchase order for parking. The Chairman said at one time it was offered to us but residents were not interested.

Cllr Hunt said it would cost approximately £100,000 to put hardstanding there because of a stream and drainage. Lighting would also be needed.

The Vice Chairman said Highways have powers and so do the police. The Chairman said it had already been proposed to have a joint meeting

After discussion, the Clerk was asked to arrange a joint meeting with NPTCBC and Police to meet with Councillors in the daytime, raising points such as business rates, planning and trading standards.

**12 Any Other Business**

The Chairman said that when Mrs Khan passed away, he had asked the Clerk to send flowers and asked Councillors to ratify this, which they did.

Mr James said he had removed the poppies from the war memorial but those on the lamp posts need to be removed. Cllr Hunt said he was arranging this.

Mr Davies said ‘Policing Matters’ had been taken off the agenda and the Clerk was asked to reinstate this. He queried whether we could ask the police to join us on zoom for a short time and possibly the new CEO of NPTCBC as well. Mr Francis said he agreed and thought zoom was easier to get people to join in.

Mr James said every morning he walked past the Salom Chapel and said it was so overgrown people have to step off the pavement to pass. The Vice Chairman said the area belongs to the house owners. Cllr Hunt said he would ask NPTCBC to clear it.

The Chairman said he would like to donate £50 of his yearly allowance to the Xmas dinner at the hall and this was agreed. Clerk to send cheque. He said he thought flowers should be sent to Carol in recognition of her hard work and Mr Parfitt agreed to organise this.

The Chairman asked ‘what is the state of the fund for toys’, and Cllr Hunt said it was oversubscribed.

It was suggested when meetings resume at the hall, a computer screen should be there for people to join remotely if they cannot attend.

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Mr Davies asked if we could invite people to the meetings and the Chairman said they could attend but not join in. He suggested they could make their comments at the end or beginning of the meeting for discussion at the next one. Mr John said we could mute them or record the meeting. Cllr Hunt suggested if a person requested to address the meeting this could be done beforehand and put on the next agenda or discussed under any other business. Mr Parfitt read out an article from the National Association of Local Councils saying a 20-30 minute session could be held for public to ask questions or make comments. The Chairman was in agreement.

The Clerk was asked to add ‘How we Publicise meetings’ to the next agenda.

Mr Davies asked if he could volunteer the Clerk, Cllr Hunt and Mr Parfitt to check how other local councils were holding their meetings. This was agreed.

The Chairman then thanked Councillors for their contributions during the year and closed the meeting.

Chairman : L C Jenkins at virtual meeting Date 4th January 2021

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