

CYNGOR CYMUNED
YNYSYBWL & COED-Y-CWM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Cefnodion Cyfarfod y Cyngor

MINUTES of the MONTHLY meeting of the Ynysybwl & Coed-y-Cwm Community Council Held

By

REMOTE TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL on Tuesday 5th January 2021

at 6.45pm

Clerk.....

PRESENT:- Councillors A Burnell, RC Evans, C Jones, H Osborne, Mrs A Ellis, Mrs M Jones, Mrs C Banwell

1. DISCLOSURES OF PERSONAL INTEREST

The Chair, Cllr A Burnell, disclosed an interest in the discussion of the Gwyl Festival in item 14.2, Draft Budget.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr R Isaac, G Haines, D Baish

3. PUBLIC BREAK

There was no public break.

4. POLICE

4.1 The police report had been received earlier in the day and circulated to members prior to the meeting. Cllr C Jones believed this was received too late. No further comments were forthcoming on the police report.

5. TO APPROVE MINUTES

5.1 Cllr C Jones did not agree with the minutes and did not want to approve them. However, it was pointed out that, as he was not present at the meeting in December, he was unable to comment. Cllr Ellis moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Cllr M Jones. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes from December 2020.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.1 To receive the report of the Community Warden

Cllr Jones felt the report was received too late (received and sent to councillors on 4th January). Cllr Burnell stated that the Warden had only returned to work that day following the Christmas break. The director of RCT Streetcare services, Nigel Wheeler, visited the village on 4th January and all issues brought up by the Community Council and residents in recent weeks had all been dealt with. It was agreed that the Warden quickly deals with any problems brought to his attention.

6.2 Provision of skips throughout the community to combat fly tipping

Nigel Wheeler was contacted regarding this and did not recommend providing community skips due to problems encountered such as being set on fire and people from outside the community using them as a rubbish dump. Cllr Banwell confirmed that skips that had been installed at the Rec in previous years had been set alight. It was **RESOLVED** not to proceed with this in view of the comments from RCTCBC. Cllr RC Evans suggested contacting RCTCBC to see if waste collection could be improved to combat fly tipping. It was **RESOLVED** to speak to the Community Warden regarding this.

6.3 Establishing a local Chamber of Trade – progress

Cllr C Jones is keen to get this up and running and has spoken to 3 business people in the village who would like to be included and are also happy to be involved in the next festival. It would be good to involve YRP and the Visions group to look at ways of raising funds to get started. Cllr RC Evans moved to take this forward, seconded by Cllr Banwell. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk contact Barbara Castle of YRP with regards to this. Cllr C Jones recommended contacting Maureen Webber, Deputy Leader of RCTCBC, who has previous experience in this area and also suggested trying to attract younger people to the venture.

6.4 Policy announcement: Compulsory Purchase – update

Cllr Ellis has completed the questionnaires and will send out to everyone tomorrow.

6.5 Consultation on establishing the Town & Country Planning (Strategic Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations – update

As 6.4

6.6 Distribution of Christmas Hampers to previous attendees of Senior Citizens Christmas Dinners – feedback

The Chair informed members that he has received nothing but praise for this project and expressed thanks to Robert Grant for all his help and assistance, and to the Community Centre committee for allowing YCC to use the centre as a distribution point, with all relevant restrictions in place. The Clerk has written a report which has been sent to all members. Other councillors have received positive comments although it has been noted that many pensioners did miss attending the centre for the annual Christmas dinner. Cllr C Jones felt that it could have been extended and that the Community Centre, being strategically placed, needs to be used more often. Cllr M Jones reminded members that the Community Centre is guided by regulations from RCTCBC and is currently being run according to those regulations.

6.7 CCTV to be installed on Garlands shop in Robert Street – update

The owner of the building has requested photographs and sizes of the camera prior to making a decision on whether to let Neighbourhood Watch erect it. These have been sent to the owner but no reply has yet been forthcoming. NHW are now considering using the YRP building on the opposite side of the street but this needs further discussion with the owners. NHW will keep the Community Council informed of developments.

6.8 The possibility of a picnic area on the Lady Windsor trail – update

The Clerk had contacted Carl Davies regarding this and the family have agreed that YCC can develop the land into a picnic area, providing that any ideas and suggestions are approved by them. It was **RESOLVED** to arrange a meeting, probably at the site (outdoors and socially distanced) to discuss this. With regards to bins in the area, the Clerk had contacted the Community Warden who felt it unlikely that

RCTCBC would provide bins there. The Clerk has also spoken to members of Daerwynno who advised putting up signs for users of the area to take any rubbish home. Any further rubbish left would be monitored by a working group. Cllr Ellis proposed to establish a working group to continue with this project, seconded by Cllr RC Evans. Cllrs Burnell, Ellis, RC Evans and the Clerk volunteered to be part of this group and it was **RESOLVED** to meet in the near future to discuss further.

6.9 Speed signs – update on obtaining these from RCT/cost of speed signs in the event of the Community Council purchasing

The Clerk and Chair have contacted Tim Phillips of RCTCBC Highways department on several occasions but have still not received a reply. Cllr Ellis felt that a decision needs to be made next month, so if nothing is heard from RCTCBC, we should look at buying our own speed signs. The Clerk had received costings from Elan City, a company that provides signs, Cllr Haines had previously looked at these and thought that the prices were good. Cllr RC Evans agreed with Cllr Ellis but felt that it was a lot of money for YCC to pay and needed more thought before going ahead. Cllr Ellis proposed looking at purchasing our own speed signs if RCTCBC are not forthcoming by the next meeting, Cllr Banwell seconded. All present agreed with the exception of Cllr C Jones who is against. It was **RESOLVED** to make a decision on this at the next meeting.

7. CHAIRPERSONS REPORT

7.1 The Chair thanked both the Clerk and Cllr Ellis for their continued support over the past few months and leading up to the Christmas break.

8. CLERKS REPORT

8.1 Audit report and annual return for approval by council. Issues raised – going forward.

YCC received a successful audit report for 2019/20. The Clerk thanked Cllrs Ellis and Osborne for all their help in achieving this. Cllr Banwell offered apologies for not being able to help as in previous years.

Cllr Ellis informed members that, in the issues arising report, the external auditor has pointed out that council has not answered box 14 in error in the Accounting Statements – Trust Funds Disclosure Note of the annual return. In prior years the council has answered 'N/A'. They recommend that in future years, 'No' is entered instead of 'N/A' as the council does not act as the sole trustee for and is not responsible for managing trust funds or assets.

Also, the comparative figures disclosed in the Accounting Statements of the Annual Return did not agree to the audited Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2019. The comparative figures for the year ended 31 March 2019 were restated. The external auditor has reviewed the adjustments made and are satisfied they are correct and no further action is required.

To conclude, the internal auditor has made the recommendation to improve the financial systems of the council as soon as possible or in any event before the end of the current financial year. If the council addresses the issues raised by the internal auditor the council should improve internal controls which will help to prevent and detect error and fraud and assist the council to operate in an effective and efficient manner. The Clerk has since implemented a monthly cash book system which corresponds with the bank statements. It was **RESOLVED** that, in future, the Clerk attach the monthly bank statement with the

paperwork for each month's agenda. Cllr Osborne has kindly agreed to help with financial preparation for the coming year.

Cllr C Jones informed council that issues will arise in the next few months with regards to the audit as he is appointing someone to look in depth at it due to the fact that he believes there are illegalities. Cllr Osborne asked Cllr C Jones to provide an instance of illegality to which he was given the answer 'the budget'. Cllr Ellis asked Cllr C Jones if he believed the Community Council was acting illegally. Cllr C Jones answered 'no, but without agreement'. Cllr Ellis stated that an outsider could not be appointed to investigate internally and that a meeting should be held as soon as possible to discuss this serious issue. Councillors stated that they were very unhappy with Cllr C Jones actions.

8.2 Setting the precept for 2021/22

Cllr Ellis has not increased the precept in the draft budget this year. There is quite a substantial carry over due to Covid and it would be good to spend this on the community in the coming year. It could be decreased if members felt the need. Cllr C Jones moved to keep the precept the same as last year, seconded by Cllr Banwell. It was **RESOLVED** to keep the precept the same for 2020/21 at £57,000.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

9.1 21st Century Schools Proposal from Lowri Chinnock - help and support requested from YCC

Cllr Ellis has read the informative letter from Lowri, she has contacted Heledd Fychan and is currently awaiting a reply. Cllr Ellis will contact Lowri on receipt of a reply from Heledd. Members are happy for Cllr Ellis to deal with this and it was **RESOLVED** to write to Lowri to inform her of YCCs actions regarding this.

9.2 Welsh Audit Office – 3 year audit cycle

Noted - a full audit will take place next year.

Cllr C Jones stated that YCC needs to look after everyone in the village with a more 'global' network as he feels there is limited support for younger people. The Chair disputed this as we currently have, or are working with, several projects aimed at younger residents. Cllr C Jones said that more needed to be done in Coed y Cwm. He was informed that Cllr Ellis has been in talks with residents there regarding this.

9.3 Wales Air Ambulance – request for donations

It was **RESOLVED** to award a donation of £100 from the Wellbeing fund.

9.4 Taking part in the Census 2021

Cllr C Jones felt that this involved too much work for the Clerk. The Clerk will be speaking to Darren Alderman, Census Engagement Manager for Rhondda Cynon Taf & Merthyr Tydfil at the Office for National Statistics tomorrow to look at how the community can participate in this.

10. TO CONSIDER:

Town & Country Planning Applications

No planning applications received.

11. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Cllr C Jones moved to accept the accounts for payment, seconded by Cllr Ellis. It was **RESOLVED** to accept accounts for payment for January for the amount of £2575.98

12. GRANT AID (S137)

No applications had been received.

13. TO CONSIDER (Items brought to the Agenda by members of the Council)

13.1 Ynysybwl Bowls Club

Cllr Ellis received a call from the Bowls Club before Christmas who are concerned that their facilities fall below those of other bowls clubs in RCT. They have asked if the Community Council would be willing to support them in their pursuit to obtain better facilities. There is a lot that needs to be done including the upgrading of the toilets under the stand. It was **RESOLVED** to pursue this, contacting RCTCBC to arrange a site meeting and to obtain costings to bring back to council. It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Ellis reply to the Bowls Club.

13.2 Provision of flowers for 2021 – quotes received for plants plus maintenance and watering

The flowers were a great success again in 2020, helping to cheer up the village during the coronavirus situation. More people liked them than disliked. Quotes have been received from Boverton Nurseries and Sions Lawns, which include the provision and maintenance of plants on the Cenotaph. All members agreed with the quotes with the exception of Cllr C Jones. It was **RESOLVED** to go ahead with the flowers again for 2021 by all except Cllr C Jones who asked that it be noted that he is against this decision.

13.3 ‘Lest We Forget’ soldier at the United Services Inn (the Bomb) – making it safer

The Chair had received several requests from residents to look into this as it was felt that, at the current angle, it could be unsafe. Cllr RC Evans informed council that this was supposed to be rectified before Christmas but, unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond his control this could not be done. He has contacted builders who will hopefully sort this out in the very near future. In the meantime, the board is completely safe as it is held in place by a wire winch.

13.4 Covid-19 preventative behaviour and symptoms study

The Clerk had been contacted by the University of Southampton who are looking to recruit members of the public to take part in a large international survey on the preventative behaviours people are taking to avoid catching COVID-19 and the long-term effect of those that have suffered from COVID-19 during the pandemic. The Clerk will add the details to the YCC website and Facebook page so that members of the public can access the survey.

Cllr C Jones has provided information regarding ‘impromptu’ pubs set up during Covid to the Neighbourhood Watch, who in turn have informed the local PCSO.

13.5 Flood money to RCT – Can RCT give assurances that, as a result of this money, is the White Bridge and drainage of the Clydach river, to be included within this. We would also like the Community to feel that they are being listed to, and that the infrastructure of Ynysybwl will be part of this investment.

Cllr Ellis has been made aware that the White Bridge falls under Cadw and that they are holding up any progress. Cllr M Jones stated that Cadw are telling RCTCBC what will be required from them for the White Bridge to re-open and the time scale could be closer to 5 years than 2. It was **RESOLVED** to write to RCTCBC, Cadw and Welsh Water for more information.

13.6 Replacement of crash barriers on the Ynysybwl Road (New Road straight)

The crash barriers on the Ynysybwl Road disappeared when the underpinning of the road was carried out and have been replaced by plastic barriers. It was **RESOLVED** to write to Glenn Fortt of RCTCBC, copying in Nigel Wheeler and Cllr Sue Pickering, to find out if permanent barriers will be installed.

13.7 Caban Guto – new café erected at Daerwynno Outdoor Activity Centre, Llanwynno

Louisa at YRP had sent through photographs of the new café and visitor centre, set in a converted freight container. It cannot open at the moment but it is hoped that if restrictions are lifted it will open in March. Cllr Ellis commented that it looks fabulous and when Covid is over, it is hoped that the forestry will become a tourist attraction. Cllr Burnell said that the forestry has been well used during lockdown. Cllr C Jones enquired as to where the revenue streams were coming from. It was **RESOLVED** to make enquiries regarding this.

13.8 Possibility of disability play equipment being installed at the Rec

The Chair and Cllr Ellis have been looking into the provision of disability play equipment at the Rec. Cllr Ellis felt that the community is severely lacking in disability facilities and that installing a disabled swing in the Rec would be a small gesture to start the ball rolling. It will be expensive but money well spent. RCTCBC are on board with this. If agreed at this meeting to go ahead, we can take forward in February. Cllr Banwell enquired as to how it will be maintained. Cllr Ellis explained that the more expensive swing will need a jacquard key to unlock and lock it, which was felt unworkable. It was **RESOLVED** to go ahead with the basket swing and the Clerk will contact Lisa Austin at RCTCBC to arrange a meeting

13.9 Provision of Christmas lights and tree for Coed y Cwm in 2021

The Christmas tree and lights installed at Coed y Cwm were a fantastic success and attracted a lot of people for the switch on, all socially distanced. Thanks to Jessica O'Donovan in Coed y Cwm who was instrumental in getting lots of people involved and organised the children's Christmas decorations for the tree. Thanks too to Anthony Gough of Centregreat who gave up his free time on a Saturday to carry out the switch on and to Glenn Fortt and RCTCBC who created the area for the tree and, on receipt of the tree, erected it. In 2021, YCC will order a 23ft tree as opposed to a 15ft tree as when erected, 3ft goes straight into the ground, immediately making it shorter. The Chair has been in contact with Anthony at Centregreat for costings for decorations for Coed y Cwm for 2021, specifically garlands that can be wound around lampposts rather than lights, which we have been informed in the past by RCTCBC, are not suitable for the posts on the estate. Cllr Burnell proposed investing in these decorations for next Christmas, all were in agreement. It was **RESOLVED** to progress with this. Cllr Banwell enquired as to whether the garlands could also be purchased for New Road and if Ynysybwl could also have a Christmas tree. Cllr Burnell stated that suitable locations for a tree in Ynysybwl had been looked at and unfortunately none were available.

13.10 Free training for members of the public and Community Councillors when restrictions are lifted. Basic first aid skills/Paediatric first aid skills/Emergency first aid at work for anyone actively seeking a job/Food safety for any volunteers who prepare or serve food for residents

Cllr Haines was absent from the meeting but had contacted Cllr Ellis regarding this. He is able to offer free certificated training to anyone in the community once restrictions are lifted. It was **RESOLVED** to accept Cllr Haines offer of training. Cllr M Jones asked that Cllr Haines be told that the Community Centre will be made available for this.

- 13.11 Community First Responders – There are currently only 2 first responder volunteers, both work full time, so the village has a very low level of first response cover. More volunteers are needed in the community. Anyone who has free time, whether retired, currently between jobs or any other reason is encouraged to look into volunteering. An ambulance will take a minimum of 17 minutes to get to a patient if there is one available at the time. A person can die in 5 minutes if no help is available.**

It was **RESOLVED** to contact Cllr Haines and request information that can be added to the YCC Facebook page and website.

- 13.12 Speed Awareness Group – Due to CV-19, training for the speed awareness group has been put on hold. Anyone wishing to volunteer their time to help awareness of speeding vehicles in the village can contact Cllr Haines. There is also a group on Facebook for anyone who has concerns about traffic and/or speed in in and around the community <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SpeedWatch>**

Due to Covid-19, training unfortunately cannot be completed at this time. It was **RESOLVED** to write to Cllr Haines and thank him for his input into this matter.

- 13.13 Parking on the grass verges in Dan y Cribyn**

The Chair had been contacted by several people regarding the churning up of grass on the verges in Dan y Cribyn from cars being parked on them. It was **RESOLVED** to write to RCTCBC regarding this, copying in Cllr Sue Pickering.

14. BUDGET

14.1 Budget

Cllr Ellis informed members that RCTCBC owe us £3 from the precept. The total precept was £57,000 and we have been paid 3 amounts of £18,999. It was **RESOLVED** to contact RCTCBC regarding this. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the budget.

14.2 Draft Budget

It was **RESOLVED** to keep the precept the same for 2021 at £57,000. Cllr Ellis informed members that there were lots of new headings in the draft budget, such as Speed Signage, Picnic Area and Grandstand Renovation, but that there is a lot of flexibility and these can be changed in the next meeting or even throughout the year. Cllr Osborne felt that it was a balanced guide and a good move forward, Cllr Banwell agreed.

The Gwyl Festival budget has been increased to £7000 for 2021 when previously it had been agreed to decrease this (May 2018, item 14.1). It was **RESOLVED** to accept the increase in the Gwyl Festival budget.

Cllr RC Evans enquired as to whether the community skips had now been removed from the draft budget. Cllr Ellis ensured that this item had been removed.

It was agreed that YCC need to work together with YRP and YEP (Ynysybwl Enterprise Programme) and Cllr Ellis has spent time and effort building up a good relationship with them in order to work in partnership.

Cllr Ellis proposed to accept the draft budget, Cllr Osborne seconded. It was unanimously agreed to accept the draft budget.

15. TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

15.1 The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 2nd February at 6.45pm.

Closure of official business of the council

Verbal report of the Community Councillors

Meeting closed at 8.15pm

Signed: Date.....