



Minutes of the Meeting of the Council
held at the Council Meeting Room, Trane Cemetery, Tonyrefail
at 6:30pm on Thursday, 15th June 2023

Present: Cllr Linda Michel (Chair)
Cllr Austin Davies
Cllr Maria Balestrazzi
Cllr Glenn Evans (Vice Chair)
Cllr Danny Grehan
Cllr Debra James
Cllr Greg Powell
Cllr Amanda Richards

Officers: Ms Jo van Tonder (Clerk & RFO)

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Mary Davies, Dan Owen-Jones and Karen Webb.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

3. Public Questions

There were no members of the public present, either remotely or in person.

4. Minutes of the Annual Meeting: 25th May 2023

It was proposed, seconded and

Resolved: To agree the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 25th May 2023 as a true and accurate record.

5. Minutes of the previous meeting: 25th May 2023

It was proposed, seconded and

Resolved: To agree the minutes of the Meeting held on 25th May 2023 as a true and accurate record.

6. Matters arising from the minutes

Cllr A Davies noted he had inadvertently put himself down for the Staffing Committee and asked to be excused from this committee. It was agreed Cllr L Michel would substitute for him for this council year.

7. Consultations

a) PEDW Consultation: Wind farm consisting of 7 turbines and associated access and grid connection infrastructure

Members considered the application submitted to Welsh Government under The Developments of National Significance (Procedure)(Wales) Order 2016 by Pennant Walters Ltd for the proposed wind farm to be located 1km east of Trebanog and 600m south east of Glynfach.

Cllr G Evans commented that the proposed site was adjacent to an SSSI site and that, on plans circulated in 2021, areas had been set aside for conservation. Later versions had shown those same areas included within the development. It was noted that, whilst the applicant had reduced the height of the turbines, these would still be larger than most others.

Members discussed the carbon footprint of the 10,000 tonnes of concrete to be used in the construction and pondered on what the applicant's plan was to offset said carbon impact.

It was agreed Cllr G Evans, L Michel and any other member who wished to contribute would draw up a Council response for circulation and agreement prior to submission.

It was noted deadline for comment was Wednesday, 28th June 2023.

8. Finance, Governance and Administration

a) Financial Statements for the year ending 31st March 2023

The Clerk presented the final accounts for the year ending 31st March 2023 and explained some of the budget variances such as the overspend on Summer flowering. Members were informed the additional expense incurred was to purchase more baskets for the 2023/24 season.

The Clerk explained the £6.5k overspend on hire of Cemetery equipment was as a result of the Council having disposed of the JCB and hiring the required equipment for the remainder of the financial year.

It was proposed, seconded and

Resolved: To approve the Financial Statements for the year ending 31st March 2023, as presented.

b) Annual Return: Accounting Statements 2022/23

The Clerk presented the Accounting Statements 2022/23.

It was noted *Total other payments* for 2022/23 was significantly higher than that of 2021/22. The Clerk advised she would report the reasons for that variance to Council at the next meeting.

It was proposed, seconded and

Resolved: To approve the Annual Return: Accounting Statements 2022/23, as presented.

c) Internal Audit report 2022/23

The Clerk advised that, due to the Council's regular internal auditor having been unavailable, KLG Internal Audit & Bookkeeping Services had been instructed to carry out the internal audit. She advised members that it was good practice to change internal auditors every few years in order to gain a different perspective and ensure a thorough review of the Council's financial practices.

Members noted the comments and recommendations made. A thorough review of the Internal Auditor's recommendations would be made by the Finance & Governance Committee at the earliest opportunity.

d) Annual Return: Annual Governance Statement 2022/23

Members considered the nine points contained within the Annual Governance Statement and resolved to respond in the affirmative for points 1 to 8 and n/a for point 9.

The RFO and Chair signed and dated the document.

e) IRPW Members' Allowances 2023/24

Members noted the decisions and determinations contained within the Annual Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales for implementation from April 2023.

Following discussion, it was

Resolved: To note the mandatory reimbursement of members in the amount of £156 per annum (Determination 4), Contribution to Costs of Care and Personal Assistance (Determination 43) and to agree the following optional allowances:

Reimbursement for consumables	Determination 4	£ 52 per annum per member
Travel Allowance	Determination 46	As per IRPW rates
Subsistence Allowance	Determination 47	As per IRPW rates
Financial Loss	Determination 48	As per IRPW rates
Chair's Payment	Determination 50	£1,500 per annum
Vice Chair's Payment	Determination 51	£500 per annum

f) Payments made – April & May 2023

No report was available for presentation.

g) Accounts for payment – June 2023

The following payments due were presented to members where it was proposed, seconded and

Resolved: To approve the payment of invoices due by cheque or bank transfer.

Unity Bank EFT	Grant Buffey (reimbursement of hayfever jab)		90.00
	Travis Perkins		208.08
	KLG Accounting (Internal Audit fees)		600.00
	PJE Solicitors (purchase of Cemetery extension land)		38,182.99
	One Voice Wales (training)		38.00
	Town & Country		220.00
	Rycon Power Tools		1,534.08
	RCTCBC (VAT on previous invoice)		163.67
	ICCM (Memorial testing training)		540.00
	HMRC PAYE – May 2023		2,557.68
	Cleanmate		204.92
	Amazon Business		18.55
Direct Debit	DVLA		25.37
	BT (Cloud Voice / Broadband)		317.08
	Theasauras Software		5.09
	Biffa Waste		213.54
	SSE - Meter E11Z33252 (Elec. - Staff Base)		28.10
	SSE - Meter - 19L2636241 (Elec. - Office)		0
	Welsh Water		26.00
	Certras Energy		213.55
	Xero Accounting		33.60
	Bank Charges		22.14
	Total Payments		£45,242.44

9. Provision of CCTV equipment

The Clerk reported she had asked for and received further information from RCTCBC regarding the provision of a CCTV unit. The South Wales Police's suggestion, previously made to Cllr D Owen-Jones, of two camera units that could be set up at the Waunrhydd Road / Mill Street intersection

would require a different configuration to the one proposed by RCTCBC and would incur ongoing fees to relay the images back to the control room.

The Clerk was asked to put together a paper on all options for CCTV together with their associated costs for consideration at the earliest opportunity.

10. Successful Shared Prosperity Fund grant application

Members noted the Council's success in being awarded £5,045.22 from the UK Government Shared Prosperity RCTCBC Community Fund. The funds would pay for the materials and labour costs to provide five willow dome contemplation areas within the Cemetery. Bench seating would be provided within the shelters.

Members discussed which sectors of the community would benefit most from being invited to take part in the community engagement element of the project; to be decided at a later date.

11. Purchase of Parish Online maps

Members discussed the benefits of an online mapping system and the merits of Parish Online. It was noted all members and staff of the Council could have access to the maps.

It was proposed, seconded and

Resolved: To subscribe to Parish Online at a cost of £450 + VAT per annum.

12. Members' Motions

a) Proposal: TCC embarks on a consultation process with some of our local farmers and rural landowners – Cllr G Evans

Cllr G Evans outlined a proposal to embark on a consultation process including both face-to-face and on-site meetings with local farmers and rural landowners in order to gain a wider appreciation of their concerns and land management priorities. It was widely agreed these members of the community held a wealth of information and expertise.

It was agreed to pursue active engagement with this sector.

13. Planning & Development Control

a) 22/1129/05 – To construct and operate a wind farm consisting of up to 7 wind turbines and associated infrastructure (Development of National Significance) on Land to the East of Trebanog

Noted.

b) 23/0525/38 – Discharge of condition 4 (Construction Method Statement) and 6 (Portable water scheme) of consent 22/0385/10 on Land to the East of Hafod Wen, Tonyrefail

Noted.

c) 23/0527/39 – Non-material amendment to vary conditions 3 and 7, and remove condition 10 of consent 22/0385/10 on Land to the East of Hafod Wen, Tonyrefail

Cllr D Grehan to revert to members with further information on the proposed removal of Condition 10.

d) 23/0541/39 – Non-material amendment to previous planning permission 21/1511/10 – amend site drainage proposals at Site within Tynybryn Park, Tynybryn Road, Tonyrefail

Noted.

e) 23/0580/10 – Dropped kerb to allow vehicle access onto the property with white line at 42 Tynybryn Road, Tonyrefail

No objection.

f) 23/0589/10 – Single storey rear extension at 110 Worcester Court, Tonyrefail

No objection.

g) 23/0598/10 – Two storey rear extension at 3 Tylcha Fach Terrace, Tonyrefail

No objection.

h) 23/0599/38 – Discharge of condition 11 (Safe Routes in Communities Assessment) of consent 22/0385/10

Noted.

14. Members' Reports – for information only

Cllr M Balestrazzi: requested that litter, especially in the vicinity of Tref-y-Rhyg, be put on the agenda at the earliest opportunity.

Cllr D Grehan: advised he had previously provided TCC officers with a list of proposed locations for a number of dropped kerbs the Council had agreed to fund from CIL reserves. The Clerk was asked to make contact with Simon Pritchard (RCTCBC) with a view to progressing this matter.

Cllr D James: 1. advised she had been invited to a meeting with residents of Penrhiwfer who had been promised a community centre within the new school. The school's Head had converted the room into a classroom thereby removing any possibility of community use. She advised she would be progressing this matter further with the respective County Borough Councillors on behalf of the residents.

2. advised the previously accessible football field in Penrhiwfer had been fenced off preventing community use.

3. advised that the Penrhiwfer Residents' Group would be applying to the Council's Small Grant Scheme for funds to host a summer event.

Cllr G Evans: advised there was a significant prevalence of litter with both litter and dog waste bins apparently disappearing. Cllr D Grehan suggested the bins had been misused and removed by RCTCBC but would be replaced in due course.

Cllr G Powell: commented on the overflowing dog waste bins.

15. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 20th July 2023.

Meeting concluded at 8:31pm.