



Minutes of the Meeting of the Open Spaces, Allotments & Rights of Way Committee
held at the Council Meeting Room, Trane Cemetery, Tonyrefail
at 6:30pm on Monday, 24th July 2023

Present: Cllr Danny Grehan (Chair) - remote
Cllr Glenn Evans
Cllr Debra James

Cllr Linda Michel (non-member)

Absent: Cllr Dan Owen-Jones
Cllr Greg Powell

Officers: Ms Jo van Tonder (Clerk & RFO)

Prior to the start of the meeting, Oliver Wicks of **Ramblers Cymru** addressed those present. He talked about the "walk for wellbeing" walking routes and explained the group were looking for evidence of need to substantiate future bids for grant funding. Members agreed to complete the questionnaire before the end of August deadline.

Meeting commenced at 6:42pm.

1. Election of Chair

Having confirmed his acceptance of the nomination, it was proposed, seconded and

Resolved: To elect Cllr Danny Grehan to the role of Chair.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Maria Balestrazzi.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

4. Engagement with rural landowners and farmers

Cllr Glenn Evans reported he and Cllr Debra James had met with several farm owners over the recent weeks and had not experienced any hostility so far. Many were keen to engage on matters of mutual benefit.

It was agreed to hold an engagement event with refreshments for all farmers at the Council office in September; date to be agreed at a later stage.

5. Open Spaces

a) Summer flower displays

The Clerk advised members that the intention for 2024 was to grow basket plants in-house to avoid a repeat of the poor standard on display this year.

She went on to explain that the Head Groundsman had planted up one experimental tub with drought-resistant perennials and annuals and would be monitoring the difference in water consumption and presentation between this and the traditionally planted tubs.

The Clerk was asked to revert to the committee with proposals.

b) Replacement of Penrhiwfer bench

Members considered the bench to be removed from Penrhiwfer, deemed beyond economical repair. As the footpath upon which the bench was located had been diverted, it was agreed not to replace the bench but to retain the concrete slab as it posed no risk to health and safety.

c) Use of Parish Online maps to record location of Council's assets

It was agreed to make use of Parish Online to begin logging the Council's assets.

Action: Clerk to set up remaining councillors for access.

d) Prevalence of litter across the District

Members discussed the scale of the problem of litter across the area and agreed a varied approach would be needed to deal with the issue.

A temporary CCTV camera in the vicinity of the Gelli Gron carpark was suggested. Members raised the possibility of the previously discussed community litter-picker towards which the Chamber of Trade had offered to contribute.

A Facebook campaign was considered as a means to reducing roadside littering.

It was agreed to raise concerns with Cllr Andrew Morgan (RCTCBC) and Sir Chris Bryant MP.

6. Allotments

a) Allotment agreements with allotment associations

The Clerk presented a draft Allotment Management Agreement to replace the current agreements. Members noted the revised document offered a greater degree of clarity on each party's responsibilities under the agreement and included some previously missing clauses.

It was proposed, seconded and

Resolved: To adopt the revised Allotment Management Agreement.

It was agreed to set up a meeting with allotment committees to introduce the revised agreement.

b) Timetable for allotment inspections

It was agreed to set a date in mid to late September to carry out inspections.

c) Request to create hardstanding on allotment land in Penrhiwfer

Members were advised that a resident of Church Road, Penrhiwfer had submitted a request for permission to instal an area of hardstanding to the rear of their property, on Council-owned land, upon which to park a caravan.

It was heard the proposal entailed installing wooden beams across the stream sufficient to take the weight of a concrete slab.

Following discussion, it was proposed, seconded and

Resolved: To turn down the request and notify the correspondent accordingly.

7. Rights of Way

a) Maintenance of priority footpaths

Cllr D James advised she had met with the Ramblers with a view to working collaboratively on promoting and improving the network. She reminded members that the Ramblers were currently seeking evidence, as outlined by Oliver Wicks at the start of the meeting.

Members discussed possible routes around the District that could be prioritised and publicised. It was agreed additional resources would be required for the ongoing maintenance of footpaths.

Cllr D Grehan suggested the Tonyrefail Environment Association could lead on some volunteer days to cut priority paths.

8. Matters for consideration at the next meeting

It was felt a report was needed on the state of the footpath network in order to determine which are priorities. It was agreed to set up a meeting with Jason Bragg, Countryside & Rights of Way Officer, RCTCBC.

9. Date of the next Committee meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will be on 28th September 2023 at 6:30pm.

Meeting concluded at 7:28pm.