



Minutes of the Meeting of the Council
held at the Council Meeting Room, Trane Cemetery, Tonyrefail
at 6:30pm on Thursday, 19th October 2023

Present: Cllr Glenn Evans (Vice Chair)
Cllr Danny Grehan
Cllr Debra James
Cllr Greg Powell
Cllr Amanda Richards
Cllr Karen Webb

Officers: Ms Jo van Tonder (Clerk & RFO)

Residents: x1

PCSO Allan Blackburn of South Wales Police met with the Council in advance of the meeting to discuss their concerns. Afterwards, Allan was congratulated on reaching his twentieth anniversary as a PCSO and was given a round of applause.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Austin Davies, Mary Davies, Linda Michel and Dan Owen-Jones.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

3. Public Questions

The member of the public present did not wish to raise a question.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting: 21st September 2023

It was proposed, seconded and

Resolved: To agree the minutes of the Meeting held on 21st September 2023 as a true and accurate record.

5. Minutes of the previous extraordinary meeting: 27th September 2023

It was proposed, seconded and

Resolved: To agree the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 27th September 2023 as a true and accurate record.

6. Co-option to fill Casual Vacancy: Coedely ward

a) Co-option Application process

It was proposed, seconded and

Resolved: To adopt the Procedure for Co-option and Application Form as presented.

b) Timetable for applications and co-option

It was noted no by-election had been called to fill the Coedely ward vacancy and that the Council had been invited to co-opt.

It was agreed to advertise the vacancy with a deadline for applications of 6th November in order for the Council to be in a position to co-opt at the next meeting on 16th November.

7. Sanctions for Members with poor attendance

Cllr G Evans addressed members, saying greater levels of attendance by members were needed to ensure a fair spread of the workload and quorate committee meetings. It was mentioned that the Clerk did not always receive apologies.

It was noted that, in law, non-attendance at meetings for six consecutive months would result in a member being disqualified.

The Clerk was asked to advise members on what other sanctions might be applied and it was suggested members who failed to attend a certain number of committee meetings could be removed from that committee.

Cllr G Powell reiterated that he required paper copies of the meeting summons and papers delivered to his address.

Clerk to recirculate the Committee membership and calendar of meeting dates.

Clerk to write to all members notifying them of the possibility of the introduction of sanctions.

It was agreed to draw a line in the sand and members were encouraged to improve their attendance.

8. Finance, Governance and Administration

a) Half-yearly Financial Accounts April – September 2023

The Clerk presented the accounts for the six months from April to September 2023.

Members discussed the projections for the forthcoming six months and it was noted the level of general reserves was predicted to fall as a result of building works at the Cemetery that had not been budgeted for.

b) Preparation of Draft Budget 2024/25

Members were reminded that budget setting would begin in the following few weeks and were asked to pass on to the Clerk any suggestions, projects or known issues that might affect the budget for 2024/25.

c) Payments made – September 2023

Members noted the schedule of payments made from the Council's Barclays account for August totalling £10,289.70, and Unity Bank account for August and September totalling £18,201.91 and £19,786.89, respectively.

The Clerk advised there was no report for September for the Barclays account as the paper bank statements received through the post had not yet arrived.

d) Accounts for payment – October 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	Love Tablecloths		229.50
	RCTCBC – Superannuation Payment for Sept. 2023		2,676.00
	HMRC – Tax and N.I. Payment for Sept. 2023		2,541.54
	Mel & Ron Watkins – Refund of Duplicate Payment		250.00
	Town & Country Fencing		220.00
	Amazon Business		133.89
	Viking Payments		88.18
	Rycon Power Tools		1,606.08
	Friends of Tyn-y-Bryn Park		250.00
	Cleanmate Ltd.		223.04
	Amazon Business		66.98
	J.G. Pest Control		1,139.99
	DPS Construction & Maintenance – Part Payment		8,909.81
	Tonyrefail Community School – Part Payment Xmas Event		7,500.00
Direct Debit	Barclays Bank – bank charges		29.34
	Biffa Waste Services		170.83
	Certras Energy		330.60
	Function 28 – website hosting		48.00
	ICE Communications – telephone & broadband		0.00
	RCTCBC – Rates		83.00
	Screwfix/B & Q		109.53
	Thesaurus Software – payroll		5.60
	Xero – accounting software		39.00
	DVLA		25.37
	Welsh Water		26.00
	Toshiba		212.93
	Total Payments		£26,915.21

9. Request for financial contribution to Capel fireworks display

Cllr G Evans read a letter of request received from Capel Community Centre for funding towards their annual fireworks display.

It was noted the organisation had received £500 – 600 in past years.

The Clerk was asked to advise and suggested the Council's Small Grants Policy was the most appropriate mechanism through which to decide this request.

It was agreed that the applicant would be made aware of the correct procedure for applying for a grant in future.

The point was raised that a number of other communities within the Tonyrefail district were also putting on public fireworks and should be considered for funding.

The Clerk left the room temporarily to consult past Minutes.

Following further discussion, it was proposed, seconded and

Resolved: To give a grant in the amount of £250 each to both Capel Community Centre and ACE (Action for the Community of Edmondstown) towards their fireworks events.

10. Committee Updates

a) Finance & Governance Committee

No update was received.

b) Cemetery Committee

No update was received.

11. Prevalence of litter throughout the district

Members considered the ongoing problem of litter throughout the area. Cllr D Grehan reminded members that RCTCBC were having to impose significant cutbacks to their services. It was felt there was little more the Council could do other than to continue reporting to RCTCBC.

In response to Cllr G Evans' call for feedback on how residents felt about the changes to the waste and recycling collections service, members reported receiving numerous complaints that the food waste bags fell apart and that the three-weekly refuse collection was making the litter problem worse.

It was noted RCTCBC were not open to dialogue on this matter.

Following further discussion, it was agreed to write to RCTCBC reminding the Labour-run Council that their manifesto had made promises not to change the two-weekly refuse collections. The letter would also make mention that the smaller food waste bags are too weak to be used in the larger food waste bin without liners.

Clerk to draft letter and circulate prior to submission.

12. Planning & Development Control

a) 23/1108/38 – Discharge of condition 5 of planning permission 23/0290/10 at WR Bishop & Co. Fruit and Veg Wholesale, Penrhiwfer Road, Tonyrefail

Noted.

b) 23/1076/15 – Variation of condition 3 of planning permission 23/0842/10 at Unit A, Parc Eirin, Tonyrefail

Noted.

13. Members' Reports – for information only

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| Cllr D Grehan: | a) wished to thank ground staff for working on the paving around the bench in Parklands.

b) reported that progress was being made on the dropped kerbs; Cllr L Michel had recently met with RCTCBC.

c) reported speed restriction road signs needed addressing on the approach to Mill Street – Cllr D Grehan to contact RCTCBC.

d) reported that a den had been built at Capel Stores and was being used for the purposes of consuming drugs and alcohol. |
| Cllr D James: | a) had received a report of a wasps' nest at Penrhiwfer Allotments. The Clerk had advised to take no action as the wasps would be dying off or relocating within the next few weeks. |
| Cllr K Webb: | a) reported trees behind the old post office in Thomastown were very big and were blocking out sunlight to neighbouring properties affecting the residents' ability to use their solar panels. It was noted this would in all likelihood be classed as a civil matter.

b) reported an elderly resident had been denied a taxi ride as the taxi driver refused to park and assist her to the vehicle, expecting her instead to wait on the curb. |
| Cllr G Powell: | a) reported scramblers on the cycle path past the railway house along the old river bed. Cllrs G Powell and D James to look to take it forward and report back. |

Introduction of Standing Order 3(d) – exclusion of members of the press and public

14. Legal advice pertaining to land purchase

Members noted the correspondence received following the Council's request for further advice with regards to the purchase of a parcel of land for the purposes of extending the Cemetery.

It was proposed, seconded and

Resolved: To authorise the Clerk to amend the contract in line with members' discussions, return to the Council's conveyancer and await a response.

15. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 16th November 2023.

Meeting concluded at 8:01pm.