TONYREFAIL & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CYNGOR CYMUNED TONYREFAIL A'R CYLCH

CLERK: JO VAN TONDER

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c/o TRANE CEMETERY
GILFACH ROAD
TONYREFAIL, PORTH,

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held at the Council Meeting Room, Trane Cemetery, Tonyrefail at 6:30pm on Thursday, 18th January 2024

Present: Cllr Linda Michel (Chair)
Cllr Austin Davies
Cllr Mary Davies
Cllr Glenn Evans (Vice Chair)
Cllr Danny Grehan
Cllr Debra James
Cllr Dan Owen-Jones
Cllr Amanda Richards
Cllr Ceirion Skym
Cllr Karen Webb

Officers: Ms Jo van Tonder (Clerk & RFO)

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Greg Powell.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

3. Public Questions

There were no members of the public present or online.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting: 16th November 2024

It was proposed, seconded and

Resolved: To agree the minutes of the Meeting held on 16th November 2023 as a true and accurate record.

5. Consultations and Meetings

a) RCTCBC Corporate Plan 2024 – 2030

Members noted the proposed Corporate Plan objectives set out by RCTCBC for the period to 2030.

It was broadly felt the objectives, whilst admirable, were unachievable in the current financial position RCTCBC finds itself in. It was felt it would be up to the Council to bring together community groups who may be in a position to meet some of the growing need during this cost-of-living crisis.

It was agreed a small group of members would meet the following week to complete the consultation document in advance of the deadline of 29th January.

6. **Finance, Governance and Administration**

a) Recommendations of Finance Committee

i) Budget 2024/25

The Clerk presented the draft Budget for the financial year ending 2025 and advised members of the Finance Committee's recommendation to adopt the Budget as presented.

Following discussion, it was proposed, seconded and

Resolved: To accept and adopt the budget as presented for the year 2024/25 that included income in the amount of £47,260 and expenditure totalling £382,748.

ii) Precept 2024/25

It was proposed, seconded and

Resolved: To request a Precept of £317,000 for the year 2024/25.

b) Payments made – November and December 2023

The following payments were made since the last meeting:

	Cheque No.	**Amount**
The Windmill Restaurant	EFT	450.00
Rycon Power Tools	EFT	993.54
Forest Park & Garden	EFT	23.40
Amazon	EFT	215.78
Forest Park & Garden	EFT	146.45
Central Bar & Catering	EFT	69.12
Central Bar & Catering	EFT	49.34
Griffiths Security	EFT	102.00
Cleanmate	EFT	223.04
ICCM	EFT	150.00
Forest Park & Garden	EFT	245.23
C & L. Gardening	EFT	1,351.00
LITE (Christmas Illuminations)	EFT	2,366.94
Lewis Merthyr Band	EFT	250.00
The Windmill Restaurant	EFT	2,600.00
The Wash Shop	EFT	105.00
RCTCBC (Superannuation)	EFT	4,521.81
HMRC	EFT	5,893.63
Higgs Locksmiths	EFT	240.00
Barclays Bank – Bank charges	DD	0.00
Unity Bank – Bank Charges	DD	41.85
Biffa Waste Services	DD	213.54
Certras Energy	DD	88.21
Certras Energy	DD	176.84
Certras Energy	DD	1.20
Certras Energy	DD	189.82
Peac UK Limited	DD	222.00
SSE (Staff Base) Gas	DD	779.82
SSE (Staff Base) Electricity	DD	74.69
SSE (Office) Electricity	DD	459.51
SSE – Electricity	DD	681.47
Function 28 – website hosting	DD	48.00
ICE Communications – Telephone & Broadband	DD	0.00
RCTCBC – Rates	DD	83.00

Thesaurus Software – payroll	DD	8.41
Xero – accounting software	DD	39.00
DVLA	DD	28.00
Welsh Water	DD	26.00
	Total Payments	**£23,157.64**

c) Accounts for payment – January 2024

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

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

		Cheque No.	**Amount**
Unity Bank EFT	Sovereign Steel		240.00
	Taff Ely Ladies Choir		250.00
	Central Bar & Catering		171.93
	Town & Country		249.87
	Town & Country		185.00
	Cleanmate		223.04
	Rycon Power Tools Ltd.		767.28
	Shutter Door Services		216.00
	The Wash Shop		103.00
	Joanna van Tonder (Clerk’s Expenses)		528.09
	Viking Office Supplies		139.02
	Yr Efail (Tonyrefail School) Balance Payment (Xmas Event)		5,567.00
	C & L Garden and Tree Services		615.00
	RCTCBC Pensions (December 2023)		3,612.45
	ICCM		102.00
	HMRC (Tax and N.I.) December 2023		3,678.02
	Rycon Power Tools		838.80
Direct Debit	Barclays Bank – Bank charges	DD	0.00
	B.T.	Credit	-182.03
	Biffa Waste Services	DD	37.66
	Certras Energy	DD	1.20
	Certras Energy	DD	28.80
	Certras Energy	DD	28.80
	Certras Energy	DD	66.35
	Certras Energy	DD	95.21
	Function 28 – website hosting	DD	48.00
	ICE Communications – Telephone & Broadband	DD	0.00
	RCTCBC – Rates	DD	83.00
	Screwfix/B & Q	DD	32.73
	Screwfix/B & Q	DD	59.98
	Screwfix/B & Q	DD	106.36
	Screwfix/B & Q	DD	30.97
	Screwfix/B & Q	DD	105.63
	Thesaurus Software – payroll	DD	8.41
	Toshiba	DD	105.97
	Xero – accounting software	DD	39.00
	DVLA	DD	28.00
	Welsh Water	DD	26.00
		Total Payments	**£18,236.54**

7. Matters pertaining to Cemetery

a) Quotations for drainage works

Members considered the two quotations received; one for works to improve the drainage at the upper and lower garages, the other to survey the site's drainage system.

It was proposed, seconded and

Resolved: To accept the quotation from Lanes Group Cardiff for drainage survey works in the amount of £1,500 (excl. VAT)

b) Procurement of grant-funded plants, equipment and benches to complete Willow Dome Contemplation spaces project

It was proposed, seconded and

Resolved: To approve the procurement schedule as presented.

c) Preparation of draft submission of a bid for a Shared Prosperity Fund grant to refurbish public toilets

The Clerk reported that the application window for the final tranche of RCT Shared Prosperity Fund grants would be opening at the beginning of February with applications due by the end of February.

The Clerk suggested the Council could make a submission with a view to funding the refurbishment of the upper public toilets.

It was proposed, seconded and

Resolved: To prepare a bid to the SPF for works to refurbish the upper public toilets.

8. Quotation received for summer flowers

Members considered the quotation received and noted that a second quotation had not been sought from the other contractor on the grounds of the poor-quality supply the Council had received that summer.

It was proposed, seconded and

Resolved: To accept the quotation from Boverton Nurseries for the supply of summer bedding plants in the amount of £2,058 (excl. VAT).

9. CCTV

Cllr D Owen-Jones advised that enquiries had been made as to the Council's progress on this matter and asked if the Clerk had received the quote from SW Police. The Clerk reported she had not.

Clerk to progress this further.

10. Provision of a memorial for the victims of the Coedely tragedy

Cllr D Owen-Jones advised he was in daily contact with the victims' families and would keep the Council informed should there be an opportunity for the Council to assist in any way.

It was agreed this was not a matter for the Council.

11. Committee Updates

a) Finance Committee

Cllr A Davies reported the Finance Committee had, at its recent meeting, scrutinised the draft budget and considered the levels of both general and earmarked reserves.

b) Events Committee

Members were advised that the Christmas event at Tonyrefail Community School had been a success, as had the Seniors' Dinner and Remembrance Day Service. It was agreed the Christmas tree lights switch on and street lights had been very well received.

12. Planning & Development Control

a) 23/1270/16 – Reserved matters application for the construction of a B1/B2/B8 employment unit including details of layout, scale, appearance and landscaping on Plot C4 of Coed Ely Strategic Employment Site at Plot 4, land at Former Coed Ely Colliery, off the A4119, Coed Ely

No objection.

b) 23/1305/38 – Discharge of conditions 3 (foul and surface water disposal), 4 (flood risk strategy), 5 (highways design details), 6 (construction method statement), 7 (habitat management plan), 8 (boundary treatment), 9 (CEMP), 10 (contamination site investigation), 11 (wildlife protection plan), 12 (landscaping scheme) and 13 (foundation design) of planning permission 22/0828/10 at Land off Gilfach Road, West of Trane Cemetery, Tonyrefail, Porth

Noted.

c) 23/1327/38 – Discharge of condition 6 (site investigation for contamination) of planning permission 22/1004/16 at Rhondda Bowl Skittle Alley, Waunrhydd Road, Tonyrefail, CF39 8EW

Noted.

d) 23/1360/10 – Change of use from light industrial/warehouse unit to an A1/A3 use for Greggs and associated works at Unit 3, Del Guerra Court, Gelligron Industrial Estate, Tonyrefail, CF39 8ES

No objection.

e) 23/1364/12 – Part retrospective - rear extension and detached garage (Listed Building Consent) at Tylcha Wen Farm, Gelli'r Haidd, Tonyrefail, CF39 8AQ

No objection.

f) 23/1370/10 – Part retrospective rear extension and detached garage at Tylcha Wen Farm, Gelli'r Haidd, Tonyrefail, CF39 8AQ

No objection.

g) 23/1346/10 – Orangeries to front elevation at 16-18 Maes-y-Bryn, Tonyrefail, CF39 8LA

No objection.

h) 23/1363/10 – Detached garage to front at 18 Graig y Mynydd, Thomastown, Tonyrefail, CF39 8FD

No objection.

i) 23/1400/10 – Erection of a high paladin fence, with pedestrian access gate, manual vehicular access gate and retaining wall at Unit A, Waldron UK Ltd, Parc Eirin, Tonyrefail, CF39 8AW

No objection.

j) 23/1423/23 – Prior notification of demolition for part of the existing unit at Unit A, Waldron UK Ltd, Parc Eirin, Tonyrefail, CF39 8AW

No objection.

k) 23/1446/23 – Proposed portable container at Plot 3, Rhiw Garn Fach Farm, Rhiwgarn Road, Trebanog, CF39 8AX

Following discussion, it was agreed to submit a comment of no objection on the proviso that Natural Resources Wales had been properly consulted as the proposed container would be sited on SSSI land.

l) 24/0010/10 – New opening hours and a new proposed 10 cars for sale instead of 6, additional 4 cars at Unit 1, 116 Mill Street, Tonyrefail, CF39 8AF

Following discussion, it was agreed to submit a comment of no objection in principle but that the Council had concerns about the impact on traffic the increase in frequency of vehicle transport trucks would have as well as the generally poor access to the site.

m) 22/1356/10 – Change of use of ground floor unit from A1 shop to A3 hot food takeaway at 18 Mill Street, Tonyrefail, CF39 8AA

No objection.

13. Members' Reports – for information only

Cllr D Owen-Jones:	a) reported flooding on Bethania Hill with contaminated water coming off the hillside as a result of a change in the drainage system; also flooding in the vicinity of Concorde Drive and Mill Street. It was noted that the installation of new pipework under Mill Street had been added to RCTCBC's capital works schedule.
	b) discussed the discharge of sewerage into waterways; Cllr G Evans advised that the Council had sent letters to NRW and RCTCBC several months ago about this issue. It was noted Dŵr Cymru had visited the site of the discharge into the Ely at Mill Street but came away flummoxed. Cllr D James advised that Olly Wicks (SE Wales River Trust) was looking into this matter and would update.
Cllr D James:	a) advised Olly Wicks (SE Wales River Trust) had asked to be invited to a Council meeting to update members on work being undertaken on local rivers. It was agreed to invite him to a meeting at the earliest opportunity.
	b) reported horses in a field near Tyn-y-Bryn had been highlighted to various welfare charities as a result of their poor state of health. It was noted inadequate fencing was in place allowing the animals to escape onto the surrounding area and into the carriageway posing a danger to themselves and to others. It was agreed to write to RCTCBC.
Cllr M Davies:	a) reported she had contacted RCTCBC regarding rubbish along Penrhiwfer Road and was advised a team would be sent to clean the site. Cllr G Evans advised the Tonyrefail Environment Group could add this location to their list for picking.
Cllr A Richards:	a) reported broken glass from a smashed window near the garage at the end of the Community Centre parking. It was noted the glass was on private land.
Cllr G Evans:	a) updated members on latest developments with the Rugby Club and their new changing rooms. It was noted that works had stalled having encountered problems with the sewerage system. Cllr A Davies advised that the Club could have had access to a grant if they had been the landowner of the site; a Community Asset Transfer was being looked into.
Cllr D Grehan:	a) advised Trivallis would shortly begin construction works on the old school site on School Street.
	b) advised a "grot spot" next to the charity shop had been reported to the RCTCBC Enforcement Team.
	c) suggested the Pantybrad route needed addressing.

	d) advised there would be speed restrictions on Llantrisant Road; it was hoped these would be in place before the Hafod Wen development was completed.
	e) reported long-awaited works to install dropped kerbs had begun.
Cllr C Skym:	a) reported dangerous parking around Cwmlai Primary School. Cllr A Davies advised it was almost impossible to enforce. It was suggested anyone with dashcam footage could upload their images to *Operation Snap*.

8:03pm – Cllr Danny Grehan left the meeting.

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

14. Update on Cemetery expansion land purchase

Members noted the correspondence received from the Council's conveyancer.

Following discussion, it was proposed, seconded and

Resolved: To accept the Clerk's recommendation in respect of amendments to the draft contract.

15. Staffing

a) Confidential staffing matter

Two motions on this matter were proposed, seconded and put to the vote.

By a majority of 3 votes to 2 with 4 abstentions, it was

Resolved: To accept the first part of the Clerk's recommendation.

b) Changes to staff contracts

Members considered the Clerk's report and a proposed amendment to staff contracts.

Following discussion, it was decided not consider any such amendment at this time.

16. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 15th February 2024.

Meeting closed at 8:30pm.