



Minutes of the Meeting of the Council
held at the Council Meeting Room, Trane Cemetery, Tonyrefail
at 6:30pm on Thursday, 15th February 2024

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

Officers: Ms Jo van Tonder (Clerk & RFO)

Olie Wicks and his colleague, Paul, of the SE Wales Rivers Trust addressed members and delivered a presentation on the work currently being done on the waterways within the Council's area. The mitigations focussed primarily on improving the migratory passage up the river and streams for the multitude of fish species.

One site in particular was causing concern, that being #7: Nant Caergwerlais located to the rear of the florists. The Council was asked to assist by writing to RCTCBC regarding the concrete block in situ that was proving difficult to address.

Meeting commenced at 6:40pm.

1) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Greg Powell, Mary Davies and Danny Grehan.

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: 18th January 2024

It was proposed, seconded and

Resolved: To agree the minutes of the Meeting held on 18th January 2024 as a true and accurate record.

5) Minutes of the Extra Ordinary Full Council meeting: 29th January 2024

It was proposed, seconded and

Resolved: To agree the minutes of the Meeting held on 29th January 2024 as a true and accurate record.

6) Devolution of County Borough services

It was noted a follow-up meeting was scheduled for 18th March to discuss this matter further.

7) Mill Street telephone box

Cllr D Owen-Jones advised there was sufficient power to the telephone box in order to charge a defibrillator.

Members discussed the state of the telephone box itself and it was noted some of the panes of glass were missing. Cllr Owen-Jones advised that the box would be painted green and yellow at no cost to the council and that he would be donating the defibrillator.

It was agreed to look for volunteers to help with the painting and minor repairs, while the Council's staff would be engaged in jet-washing and disinfecting the telephone box.

The Clerk was asked to write to Treforest Glass to ask for a donation of panes to replace those broken or missing.

It was proposed, seconded and

Resolved: To commission the works required to bring the telephone box into a satisfactory state of repair so as to accommodate the donated defibrillator.

8) Request received to nominate a governor – Williamstown School

The Clerk advised that the seat of governor set aside for a member of the Community Council at Williamstown School was vacant and had been for some time.

No member of the Council was available to fill the vacancy and the Clerk was asked to inform the Chair of Governors accordingly.

9) Finance, Governance and Administration

a) Payments made since the last meeting – January 2024

b) Accounts for payment – February 2024

The Clerk advised that, due to staff absences, no schedule of accounts for payment had been prepared.

10) Committee Updates

a) Cemetery Committee

Cllr G Evans reported the committee had reviewed the Cemetery Fees and agreed an increase to take effect on 1st April 2024.

In addition, Cllr Evans advised that new Workplace Recycling legislation would place additional requirements on the Council to ensure all waste is separated from 6th April 2024.

Members were told that the gate pillar was scheduled for repair imminently and that the committee had awarded the contract for the replacement double gates and side gate to Sovereign Steel. The road sweeper was to undergo repairs and would soon be back in use.

Following heavy rains and the ongoing issues with some of the upper cemetery drains, a drainage survey had been carried out. The Clerk was awaiting the final report.

In conclusion, Cllr Evans reported that 62 large memorials had been tested by an external professional with ten failing the safety test and thus, requiring remedial repairs. Advice was being sought on the best materials with which to clean the War Memorial and reinstate the lettering.

11) Planning & Development Control

- a) **07/0926/13 - Outline application for 30 dwellings (updated OS Plan received 03/06/2020; additional ecology details received 16/05/2023; additional ecological and drainage information received 05/01/2024) at Wildlife Sanctuary, Gilfach Road, Tonyrefail**

Members considered the additional information provided and it was proposed, seconded and

Resolved: To respond to the Planning Authority in respect of this application with a comment that the Council supports the NRW comment submitted and recorded on the planning portal on 2nd February 2024.

12) Members' Reports – for information only

- Cllr D Owen-Jones:
- a) reported that Coedely was starting to look tired and in need of refreshing. He reported he and Cllr Grehan had a meeting scheduled with Highways the following week to discuss traffic calming measures.
 - b) reported the Coedely gateway sign was in need of cleaning. It was agreed the sign could use replacing with something more attractive. To be put on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.
- Cllr C Skym:
- a) reported that the Chamber of Trade had received a quote for a number of CCTV units for circa £3k. This was discussed further and Cllr A Davies suggested the Council could make a donation towards the cost of the CCTV rather than enter into a partnership.
- Cllr D James:
- a) mentioned that the Penrhiwfer bonfire site was starting to be cleaned up following the previous year's Guy Fawkes night fire set up on the verge.
 - b) reported that the dilapidated Penrhiwfer bench had finally been removed and asked if it could be replaced but in a more suitable place. Grounds staff to check on the viability of relocating the Collenna Road bench that has the less desirable view of the two on that road. Cllr James to obtain landowner's permission.
- Cllr A Davies:
- a) reported there was a tree growing out of the wall across the road from his home that was lifting the coping stones. In addition, the site was littered with rubbish. Cllr Evans said Tonyrefail Environment Group would add it to their list of sites to litter pick.

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

13) Policy deemed to be of a sensitive nature

To be deferred to the next meeting.

14) Staffing

a) Staff resignation

Members were advised that the Administration Assistant had tendered her resignation on 31st January 2024, with her contract terminating on 7th February 2024.

b) Confidential staffing matter

Following a report delivered by the Clerk, it was proposed, seconded and

Resolved: To employ the services of an independent HR consultant to carry out a disciplinary investigation at a cost of £56 per hour.

15) Date of the next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 21st March 2024.