



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 Thursday, 28th September 2023

Present: Cllr Danny Grehan (Chair)
Cllr Glenn Evans
Cllr Debra James
Cllr Greg Powell

Absent: Cllr Dan Owen-Jones

Officers: Ms Jo van Tonder (Clerk & RFO)

1. Apologies for absence

No apologies for absence had been received.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting: 24th July 2024

It was proposed, seconded and

Resolved: To agree the minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 24th July 2024 as a true and accurate record.

Members noted the summer flowers would be ordered before the next meeting.

6:47pm – meeting suspended; resumed 6:49pm

4. Engagement with rural landowners and farmers

Cllr G Evans reported the engagement event with the farmers would still take place, possibly in mid to late November.

Members considered an evening function with soup and sandwiches.

6:55pm – Cllr D Grehan left the meeting, vacating the chair. Cllr G Evans assumed the chair.

5. Open Spaces

a) Council provision of a Street Cleaner

Cllr G Powell asked if there was funding available for a cleaner.

6:57pm – Cllr D Grehan returned to the meeting and assumed the chair.

Members discussed various options to fund a cleaner and were reminded that the Chamber of Trade had, some time ago, offered to contribute.

The overall litter problem was discussed as was RCTC's duty to oversee the collection of litter.

Cllr D Grehan agreed to ask for and share the RCTCBC litter picking schedule of work.

It was agreed to approach the Chamber of Trade for another discussion around a litter picker.

7:07pm – Cllr D Grehan left the meeting. Cllr G Evans assumed the chair.

6. Allotments

a) Findings of allotment inspections carried out to date

Cllr G Evans reported Penrhiwfer and Llantrisant Road Allotments had been inspected. He advised that a number of water butts were missing their safety covers.

Cllr G Powell reported there had been an issue with water and sewerage and that Welsh Water had been turned down when seeking permission to dig. He reported that Welsh Water planned to dig through 21 plots and infill with type 1 hardcore and 4" of compost.

It was agreed to request a map of the proposed route for the works and a timetable. In addition, Welsh Water would be requested to make good the land, fit for purpose.

7:20pm – Cllr D Grehan returned to the meeting. Cllr G Evans retained the chair.

Cllr G Evans reported that the entrance gate for Penrhiwfer allotments was problematic and that the association was getting quotes that would be forwarded on to the Committee.

b) Creation of pack of template documents for use by associations

It was agreed to put together a pack for the associations to use in order to ensure a consistent approach across all the Council's allotments.

7. Rights of Way

a) Consultation on proposal to remove barrier on Footpath 43 Llantrisant, Heol Glannant, Edmondstown

Members noted and discussed the excerpt from an e-mail received from RCTCBC on 21st September 2023 regarding a request to improve access to Footpath 43 Llantrisant running between Heol Glannant and Dinas Isaf Industrial Estate.

It was noted the current barrier did not meet the required standards.

Following discussion, it was agreed to submit a letter of support for the proposal to remove the barrier entirely, on an experimental basis. It was noted that, should any issues arise, a wider barrier or a static chicane stile structure could be installed which would allow access for wheelchairs and pushchairs.

8. Matters for consideration at the next meeting

Cllr D James raised the issue of priority footpaths and suggested she could make a list of those in her area. It was agreed that overgrown footpaths should be reported to RCTCBC in the first instance but then look to galvanise the community to help with clearance if it is left too long.

Cllr D James reported there had been complaints about the section of the Penrhys Pilgrimage passing through Tonyrefail. It was noted that Penrhys Pilgrimage Committee had given RCT money for the installation of three gates that had never materialised. The reason for this appeared to have been a misunderstanding around landowner permissions.

Cllr D James updated members on ancient highway, Crofft Yr Haidd. She reported the gate was now unlocked but the path, severely overgrown. It was agreed Cllrs D James, G Evans and D Grehan would inspect and report back.

9. Date of the next Committee meeting

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

Meeting concluded at 7:38pm.