



Minutes of the Meeting of the Council
held at the Council Meeting Room, Trane Cemetery, Tonyrefail
at 6:30pm on Thursday, 25th July 2024

Present: Cllr Dan Owen-Jones (Chair)
Cllr Glenn Evans (Vice Chair)
Cllr Debbie James
Cllr Linda Michel
Cllr Greg Powell
Cllr Amanda Richards
Cllr Ceirion Skym
Cllr Karen Webb (late arrival)

Officers: Ms Jo van Tonder (Clerk & RFO)
Mrs Aingie Cripps Melody (Deputy Clerk)

1. Apologies for absence

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

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr D Owen-Jones declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 10(h): Planning application 24/0580/10.

3. Public Questions

There were no members of the public present or online.

4. Minutes of the Annual Meeting: 16th May 2024

5. Minutes of the ordinary meeting: 16th May 2024

The Clerk advised minutes of the meetings held in May were unavailable.

6. Minutes of the Extra Ordinary Full Council meeting: 9th July 2024

It was proposed, seconded and

Resolved: To agree the minutes of the Meeting held on 9th July 2024 as a true and accurate record.

6:37pm – Cllr K Webb joined the meeting

7. Rhondda Cynon Taf Community Review consultation

Members considered the consultation with deadline for comment of 30th August 2024.

Following discussion regarding the Community Council's existing boundary, it was proposed, seconded and

Resolved: To respond to the consultation expressing the Council's strong preference for the status quo to be maintained.

8. Finance, Governance and Administration

a) IRPW Members' Allowances 2024-25

Members noted the decisions and determinations contained within the Annual Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales for implementation from April 2024.

Following discussion, it was

Resolved: To note the mandatory reimbursement of members in the amount of £156 per annum (Determination 6), Contribution to Costs of Care and Personal Assistance (Determination 43) and to agree the following optional allowances:

Reimbursement for consumables	Determination 6	£ 52 per annum per member
Travel Allowance	Determination 46	As per IRPW rates
Subsistence Allowance	Determination 47	As per IRPW rates
Financial Loss	Determination 48	As per IRPW rates
Chair's Payment	Determination 50	£1,500 per annum
Vice Chair's Payment	Determination 51	£500 per annum

b) Update on Financial Accounts and Annual Return for year ending 31st March 2024

The Clerk reported there had been a delay in completing the Annual Return for year ending 31st March 2024 and that the accounts were currently with the Internal Auditor.

It was noted the setback was as a result of the RFO experiencing a family health crisis.

Members were advised that an extra ordinary meeting would be called as soon as the internal audit had been completed in order for Council to approve the Annual Return.

c) Payments made since the last meeting – May & June 2024

Capel Management Committee (replace unpaid cheq. 300014)	EFT	250.00
Friends of St Johns (replace unpaid cheq. 300002)	EFT	350.00
Yr Efail Community Group (grant)	EFT	500.00
Lighthouse Project (grant)	EFT	418.80
RCTCBC Pension Fund – May 2024	EFT	2,801.51
HMRC – May 2024	EFT	2,932.11
Forest Park & Garden	EFT	516.60
Amazon	EFT	15.84
Central Bar & Catering	EFT	107.81
Town & Country	EFT	220.00
SSE Energy Solutions (staff) Elec	EFT	1,282.11
Griffiths Security & Smart Technology	EFT	51.00
SSE Energy Solutions (staff) Gas	EFT	122.60
Audit Wales	EFT	200.00
National Eisteddfod of Wales (Events Committee)	EFT	254.00
Function 28 - Website Hosting	EFT	96.00
Families Supporting Families (bus sponsorship)	EFT	175.00
G Buffey – flu jab	EFT	90.00
HMRC NI Contributions – June 2024	EFT	3,556.89
RCTCBC Pension – June 2024	EFT	3,503.84
Biffa Waste Services	D/D	238.62
Certas Energy	D/D	215.16
ICE Communications - telephone & broadband	D/D	52.30

RCTCBC Rates	D/D	87.00
Xero accounting software	D/D	39.00
Bright Pay - Thesaurus Software - Payroll	D/D	260.42
SSE Energy Solutions (office)	D/D	468.67
DVLA	D/D	28.00
Unity Trust Bank	D/D	13.80
Welsh Water	D/D	596.50
		£ 19,443.58

d) Accounts for payment – July 2024

A Cripps Melody – reimbursement of expenses	EFT	74.59
Amazon	EFT	377.97
Boverton Nurseries Ltd – summer flowers	EFT	1,929.60
Central Bar & Catering	EFT	49.34
Cleanmate	EFT	466.40
Forest Park & Garden	EFT	322.04
Green Machines – repair of road sweeper	EFT	315.55
Griffiths Security & Smart Technology – annual on-call charges	EFT	1,236.41
Metal Depot	EFT	144.00
Parish Online – mapping system	EFT	486.00
RCTCBC (repayment of unspent SPF Grant 2023/24)	EFT	65.58
Royal British Legion (wreath)	EFT	20.00
The National Allotment Society	EFT	66.00
Town & Country	EFT	177.28
Woodland Walk Garden Centre	EFT	297.64
One Voice Wales – membership 2024/25	EFT	2,300.00
Biffa Waste Services	D/D	211.98
Certas Energy	D/D	468.82
Function 28	D/D	48.00
ICE Communications - telephone & broadband	D/D	52.77
Peac (UK) Limited	D/D	222.00
RCTCBC Rates	D/D	87.00
Screwfix	D/D	57.98
Toshiba Tec	D/D	33.90
Xero accounting software	D/D	39.00
		£ 9,549.85

9. Membership of One Voice Wales for 2024/25

Members discussed the merits of membership of the organisation and it was suggested the Council make the most of the association. It was proposed, seconded and

Resolved: To renew the Council's membership of One Voice Wales at a cost of £2,300 for the year 2024/25.

10. Planning & Development Control

- a) 24/0557/38 - Land to the rear of 68/72 High Street, Tonyrefail - Discharge of conditions 4 (knotweed method statement), 5 (surface water drainage), 6 (Highways Engineering details),

7 (Construction Method Statement), 8 (Construction & environmental management plan) & 9 (site investigation for contamination) of planning permission 24/0557/38

It was proposed, seconded and

Resolved: To submit a comment in response to the discharge of condition 4 (knotweed method statement) that, until such time as the method statement had been approved, condition 4 should remain undischarged.

- b) 24/0481/39 - Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Tonyrefail, School Street, Tonyrefail - Non material amendment for the rewording of conditions 7 (ecological mitigation) and 8 (engineering details) of planning permission 21/1601/10**

Noted.

- c) 24/0467/10 - 122 Mill Street, Tonyrefail - Rear extension at basement level with balcony above to ground floor level**

No comment.

- d) 24/0549/38 - Land to rear of 68-72 High Street, Tonyrefail - Discharge of condition 3 (biodiversity mitigation & enhancement measures) of planning permission**

Noted.

- e) 24/0508/38 - Land off Gilfach Road, West of Trane Cemetery, Tonyrefail - Discharge of condition 10 (contamination) 22/0828/10**

Noted.

- f) 24/0555/10 - 51 Beechwood Drive, Tonyrefail - Single storey porch to principal elevation**

Noted.

- g) 24/0539/39 - W R Bishop & Co, Penrhiwfer Road, Tonyrefail - Non material amendments to external finishes, front facing gables of planning permission 23/0290/10**

Noted.

- h) 24/580/10 - 21 Parkland Crescent, Tonyrefail - Single storey side & rear extension, outbuildings, alterations to the attic**

Having declared a pecuniary interest in this item, Cllr D Owen-Jones remained in the room but played no part in the discussion.

Cllr D Owen-Jones relinquished the chair to Cllr G Evans

Noted.

Cllr D Owen-Jones reclaimed the chair

- i) 24/0656/10 - 2 The Paddocks, Tonyrefail - Garden room (retrospective)**

Noted.

- j) 24/0678/38 - Plot 4 land at former Coedely Colliery, off the A4119 - Discharge of condition 5 construction method statement**

The Clerk was asked to obtain more information on this condition from RCTCBC.

- k) 24/0595/10 - 110 High Street, Tonyrefail - Change of use of ground floor from vacant retail unit to residential accommodation**

Noted.

- l) 24/0725/10 - 16 Maes y Bryn, Tonyrefail - Proposed dormer extensions together with a single storey extension to form a living / kitchen space**

Noted.

m) 24/0684/10 - 38 Rees Street, Edmondstown, Tonypandy - Single storey extension, shed to rear

Noted.

n) 24/0715/10 - 23 Mill Street, Tonyrefail - First floor extension

Noted.

11. Committee Updates

a) Cemetery Committee

Cllr G Evans reported on a successful Cemetery inspection held recently and it was noted great progress had been made. New gates were due to be installed in the next couple of months and another inspection was scheduled for 6th August 2024.

Cllr Evans reported on the restoration of the monument that was to be undertaken in time for Remembrance Sunday. Members were advised the Cemetery Committee would be considering a separate rededication of the monument once the work had been completed.

Members were reminded that the top wall was in need of repair.

b) Open Spaces, Allotments & Rights of Way Committee

Cllr D Owen-Jones reported that all allotments had been inspected, with the committee pleasantly surprised at the standard of the plots.

Cllr Owen-Jones went on to say that the biggest problem was uncovered water butts. He explained that there was interest in making use of recycled 1,000ℓ “cube” units that could be funded through Welsh Water grants.

Members were informed that the judging for the allotment competitions would be taking place on 7th August with Cllr Owen-Jones’ brother taking on the role. Members discussed the matter of trophies and the Clerk was asked to source quotes for six cups and/or shields. Cllr Owen-Jones offered to make enquiries regarding donated second-hand trophies that may be available.

The Deputy Clerk was thanked for providing comprehensive paperwork to facilitate the inspections.

12. Members’ Reports – for information only

Cllr G Evans: i) raised the matter of footpath maintenance and advised that path 72 from the roundabout to the kennels had been cut back by Council staff; Cllr Evans would be looking to ask the Council to consider the further maintenance of RCTCBC footpaths.

Cllr D James: i) reported complaints of overgrown trees along the main road in Penrhiwfer that were blocking the view of residents. RCTCBC had advised residents they would have to pay £350 to have RCTCBC cut them back.
ii) reported a resident was making a planings path without having acquired planning permission.
iii) reported there were still some A-frame structures on PRoW’s across the district that were no longer legal and needed to be removed.

Cllr C Skym: i) asked for an update on the CCTV. The Clerk reported the order had been placed with the electrical arrangements still to be confirmed.
ii) reported the Chamber of Trade were collaborating with Tonyrefail School and other local groups to arrange for the painting of shops for any interested business owner on 31st July.

- Cllr D Owen-Jones:
- i) reported a complaint had been lodged with RCTCBC regarding the old post office site that appeared to be being used as a building tip; Enforcement and Public Health were investigating.
 - ii) passed on a request from the Penrhys Pilgrimage Committee for a letter of support from the Council for the reinstatement of the Pantybrad bridge opposite Tref-Y-Rhyg School. Clerk to write letter of support.
 - iii) expressed frustration at the ongoing debate around this year's fireworks display and suggested the matter should be put to rest at the upcoming meeting of the Tonyrefail & Gilfach Goch Fireworks Working Group.
- Cllr A Richards:
- i) passed on a compliment received on the floral baskets.
 - ii) reported a resident had asked for a request bus stop at the end of Highfields, Coedely; Cllr D Owen-Jones to follow up.
 - iii) enquired about monies that had been promised from the new road works. Cllr Owen-Jones advised that, according to the contractor, there was no money available only materials and that there had never been a promise of funds. Cllr D James advised that there had almost certainly been talk of money and offered up a contact name.
- Cllr G Powell:
- i) advised he had been unwell.
- Cllr K Webb:
- i) reported overflowing bins and a general abundance of rubbish; discussion was had over RCTCBC's decision to move away from black bins in favour of black bags for refuse.

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

13. Formal Complaint received

Members considered the Clerk's report, as previously circulated and discussed the options open to the Council. It was proposed, seconded and

Resolved: To offer the complainant mediation in the first instance. In the event the complainant rejected the offer of mediation or mediation failed, an investigation would be launched by a sub-committee of the Council to establish the facts.

Resolved: To set up a sub-committee comprising Cllrs L Michel, G Evans and D Owen-Jones for the purposes of investigating the allegations and reporting back to full Council.

14. Confidential matters pertaining to Staffing

The Clerk updated members on ongoing matters of a staffing nature.

15. Confidential matters of a legal nature

The Clerk advised there had been no further progress to report.

16. Date of the next meeting

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

Meeting concluded at 8:28pm.