



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 Tuesday 12th November 2024

Present: Cllr Dan Owen-Jones (Chair)
Cllr Debra James
Cllr Karen Webb
Cllr Glenn Evans

Absent: Cllr Greg Powell
Cllr Mary Davies

Officers: Mrs Aingie Cripps Melody (Deputy Clerk)

1. Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence received.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

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

It was proposed, seconded and

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

4. Matters pertaining to Open Spaces

a) To receive feedback on summer flower arrangements

Feedback from committee members in attendance was that the baskets looked good this year but that they would like more baskets to be available to ensure that they were also spread through Coed Ely and Penrhiwfer. In addition there was no basket outside the Boars Head as this required a specialist basket and watering arrangements.

The Deputy Clerk was requested to obtain quotations for the supply of an additional twelve baskets and liners.

b) To discuss Coedely Gateway Sign

Cllr Owen-Jones provided an update advising that the sign required cleaning and over growth of plants required clearing.

It was requested that the Clerk make staff available to ensure that the sign is kept clean and vegetation cut back in future.

c) To discuss future additional bus shelters

Cllr Owen-Jones advised that a petition with seventy-five signatures had been received, requesting a bus shelter at Capel.

It was also discussed that there were no Thomastown or Tyn-y-Bryn village signs.

The Deputy Clerk was asked to contact the RCT bus stop controller to enquire whether there are any second hand bus shelters available for purchase or whether the existing shelters on the Llantrisant Road that are no longer in use due to the bus route alteration, be moved to the Capel site.

5. Matters pertaining to Allotments

a) Update on Complaint

The Deputy Clerk provided an update on the complaint and that it had been resolved, with mediation being offered to and then declined by the complainant.

c) To discuss allotment rents charged

The Deputy Clerk provided an explanation of the terms perch and plot used in relation to the rental of allotments.

The present system of increasing rental rates per perch was discussed with examples given of increased rates if the RPI was applied per the allotment association agreement with a particular example relating to the nine years since an increase was last made.

Before a rent increase decision can be made the committee requested that the Deputy clerk contact other local councils to enquire on the rates they charge to Allotment associations in their areas to ensure that any increased agreed by Tonyrefail Community Council are fair and just.

b) To discuss outcome of meeting with allotment association

The last Allotment Association meeting of 14th October 2024 was discussed and it was agreed by members that it was a good meeting. The committee were particularly impressed with the new Chair of The Avenue.

Cllr Owen-Jones provided an update on the removal of asbestos identified at various sites. He has spoken to the company Cosgrove, but they are unable to assist in the removal of asbestos. Cllr Owen-Jones queried whether the asbestos was white asbestos in which case it can be bagged up and disposed of by the community council. Cllr Owen-Jones will find out where it can be disposed of and will arrange this himself if the material is suitable.

The Deputy Clerk provided an updated that she had been contacted by a member of the Penrhiwfer allotment association requesting the supply of cement to allow the ongoing building of a wall on site.

During the inspections it was established that the wall being built requires inspection to determine if it is safe and fit for purpose. Cllrs Evans and Owen-Jones will attend an inspection of the wall within the following ten days and a decision will then be made on whether to continue with the supply of further cement for building.

d) To consider Clerks report on Allotment Agreement Terminology

Having read the Clerk report on Allotment Agreement Terminology, the committee agreed that the new Agreement should remain unchanged as advised by the Clerk.

Discussion continued onto the subject of Water butts at all allotments.

Cllr Owen-Jones has begun the process of applying for a grant of £500 for Tonyrefail East, if successful, this grant will be used for the purchase of water butts for distribution across allotment sites in order to standardise them across all sites.

Cllr Webb requested information from the committee on how and where to apply for this grant in relation to Tonyrefail West.

6. Matters pertaining to Rights of Way

a) To receive update on meeting with RCT rights of Way officer in relation to Priority Footpaths

The committee recognised that there are financial constraints, resulting in a cut to non-essential services throughout RCT.

Cllr Evans provided an update on the meeting held with the RCT rights of way officer on 29th October 2024.

Committee members present at the meeting have put to the Rights of Way officer that the footpaths would remain the responsibility of RCT but that the community council would take it upon itself to nominate and maintain six footpaths in the area. It was stated that there would be no funding from RCT in relation to this.

The Deputy Clerk reminded the committee of the current lack of staffing resource available to undertake this additional work and this was acknowledged by the members.

The Committee will take this information to the next Full Council meeting to agree in principle and will then look at means of resourcing it.

c) To receive General update on status of footpaths

Cllr James provided an update on the definitive map. Cllr James advised that she would be serving documents to nine landowners in relation to a black path from Thomastown to Coed Ely.

Cllr Evans spoke to provide an update regarding an overgrown bridlepath that is incorrectly recorded as a footpath. Support is required from the grounds staff to cut back and clear this and other paths in the community.

It was proposed, seconded and

Resolved: To take to full council the recommendation that RCT retains responsibility for maintaining footpaths and that the Community Council would just provide support voluntarily to maintain selected paths for the community.

b) To receive Update on installation of bench

The bench for installation is currently sited on Collena Road and will be moved to a new location on RCT land. Cllr James confirmed that the new location had been agreed with RCT.

Cllr Evans advised he will check the requirements for removal of the bench from its existing location and grounds staff from the Community Council would then be requested to assist in removing it from its present location and placing it into storage. They would then be asked to relocate the bench to its new position and fix it in place.

Cllr Owen-Jones will establish what groundworks are required at the new location in order to progress this request.

7. To consider budget requirements for next financial year

The committee discussed the budget for the next financial year, with a view to increasing flower displays in the community next year and providing resources for maintaining footpaths.

It was proposed, seconded and

Resolved: To request from full council, that a budget of £10,000 be allocated to the OAR committee.

8. Date of the next Committee meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will be on 28th January 2025 at 6:30pm.

Meeting concluded at 8:00pm.