



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 4th February 2025

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

Apologies for absence received from Cllr Davies.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting: 12th November 2024

It was proposed, seconded and

Resolved: To agree the minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 12th November 2024 as a true and accurate record.

4. Matters pertaining to Open Spaces

a) To consider summer flower arrangements

- I. To agree recommendation to full council for additional flower baskets.

The Deputy Clerk provided a list of existing containers and inserts without corresponding parts and suggested the purchase of the missing items to make up a further seventeen containers for the community.

It was proposed, seconded and

Resolved: To agree a recommendation to full council for the purchase of additional containers and inserts.

- II. To agree location of additional baskets

The committee members discussed the additional seventeen flower containers being split between all their areas and councillors will advise of the locations for installation when the containers are ready to go into the community.

- III. To agree which supplier to use for the 2025 summer arrangements

It was proposed, seconded and

Resolved: To continue to receive floral arrangements for containers from Boverton Nurseries in 2025

b) To Agree Recommendation to full council for additional bus shelters at Capel Stores and Tyn-y-Bryn Park

The Deputy Clerk provided an update on the price and location of proposed bus shelters at Capel Stores and Tyn y Bryn Park.

It was proposed, seconded and

Resolved: To agree a recommendation to full council for the purchase and installation of two bus shelters to be located at Capel Stores and Tyn y Bryn Park.

c) To discuss options for refurbishment of Mill Street telephone box

The Deputy Clerk provided the committee with information on the costs and work associated with a full restoration of the telephone box and explained the alternative of undertaking a basic tidy up and painting of the box at a lower cost. The hazards of undertaking the work including the removal of the original lead based paint were discussed.

Cllr Owen-Jones advised that he had a contact who is a painter and decorator who has previously indicated that they would be prepared to undertake the preparation and repainting of the box at no charge. Cllr Owen-Jones will discuss this with his contact highlighting the necessary safety issues around working with removal of the lead based paint and would update the committee further.

Further discussion was undertaken on the decorating of the box by the community to include murals inside and floral arrangements.

5. Matters pertaining to Allotments

a) To discuss ongoing building of wall at Penrhiwfer Allotments

I. To receive update on inspection of wall

Discussion began on the building of the retaining wall at Penrhiwfer allotments. The Deputy Clerk sought to clarify with Cllr Owen-Jones whether he had inspected the wall since the last committee meeting and it was established that this inspection had not taken place. Cllr Owen-Jones and Cllr Evans agreed to attend the site within the next couple of weeks to undertake the inspection and report back to the committee along with photographs.

Cllr James also raised concerns about encroachment onto the allotment site from one of the properties at the boundary. This encroachment will also be investigated at the time of the inspection and the property address established so that a letter can be issued to the resident.

II. To consider historic arrangement for building of the wall

The Deputy Clerk updated the committee on historic correspondence to the individual building the wall and committee minutes stating that repairs to the wall had been authorised. However, this appears to have led to confusion with the individual who is referring to building of the wall. The work has been ongoing for some years.

III. To agree route forward for further works

The committee requested that the Deputy Clerk writes to the gentleman currently building the wall, advising him to cease all work with immediate effect and that an inspection would take place after which a decision would be made of the next steps to be taken.

b) To agree allotment rents for 2025/26

The Deputy Clerk presented a table of proposed new rental rates for each Allotment site and explained that the increase shown was as a result of bringing rates in line with the RPI increase required on the new allotment Management Agreement and due to there being no increase in rents in the last nine years.

It was proposed, seconded and

Resolved: To agree an increase in the rent rate per perch at all allotment sites, to £2.00 per perch with effect from 1/4/25.

c) To agree date for allotment competition judging

The committee discussed last years allotment competition and the concerns raised at the time by the Allotment Associations that the judging in August was too late in the season. The Deputy Clerk suggested bringing this date forward to mid July and then to confirm exact dates as the growing season progresses.

The committee requested that the Deputy Clerk contact all Allotment Associations to advise that the competition will be running with judging in July 2025.

6. Matters pertaining to Rights of Way

a) To agree timetable for assessment of priority footpaths to be maintained in 2025/26

The Chair deviated from the agenda to provide an update on the footpath at the Glyn and his site visit to inspect the footpath with the footpaths officer from RCT. There are ongoing issues with erosion of the path and blocking of the right of way.

The committee discussed the need to select footpaths to maintain in the coming year and suggested that all councillors nominate several paths in their own wards to put forward to full committee for a final decision to be made. Consideration must be given to the length of the path, the amount and nature of clearance to be undertaken.

The committee requested that the Deputy Clerk write to all councillors requesting their nominations and for the Clerk to put the list of nominations to Full Council for their decision on which to clear this year.

b) To note update on the end of the Penrhys Pilgrimage Project

The Deputy Clerk updated the committee on receipt of a letter from the Penrhys Pilgrimage Project office advising of the end of the project. The committee discussed how the ongoing maintenance of the paths along the pilgrimage path would fall to RCT.

Cllr Evans will request that the Clerk writes to the footpaths officer seeking their assurance that RCT will be maintaining the paths going forward.

7. Date of the next Committee meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will be on 24th April 2025 at 6:30pm.

Meeting concluded at 8:05pm.