

**CYNGOR CYMUNEDOL
COEDPOETH
COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Minutes of Council Meeting
held virtually on
Tuesday 8th February 2022
at
7.00 p.m.

Present: Chair: Councillor M. Dixon (M D)
Vice Chair: Councillor G. Price (G P)

Councillors: Cllr S Edwards (S E), Cllr G. Kelly (G K), Cllr G.A Kelly, S. Scheurleer (S.S) left 20.30, P. Wilson (P W))

Invited stakeholders: Mr M Hughes & Mr Tony Wyatt (left after Big Park discussion)

Council meeting was convened at 7.00 pm

Item No	Item	Action
1	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> Cllr Y McCarroll (Y M), Cllr K Coventry (KC) Accepted	
2	<u>Approve minutes of the last meeting held on 14th December</u> Typographical correction to apologies and correction agreed to point 4 raised by Cllr Price. Proposed – Cllr G A Kelly Seconded – Cllr S Edwards Approved	
3	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> None	
4	To authorise the payment of al invoices presented since last meeting and retrospectively approve/reapprove any payment schedules, invoices and payments as outlined by the internal auditor previously. 15/01/2022 -4/02/2022 NET 27021.47 VAT 1950.75 GROSS 28972.22 22/01/2021-14/02/2021 NET 14635.19 VAT 558.97 GROSS 15194.16 15/02/2021-15/03/2021 NET 16701.41 VAT769.04 GROSS 17470.45 16/03/2021-17/04/2021 NET 17212.22 VAT 833.70 GROSS 18045.92	

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	<p>18/04/2021-11/05/2021 NET 18265.05 VAT707.77 GROSS 18967.82 12/05/2021-07/06/2021 NET 18478.55 VAT 908.08 GROSS19386.63 08/06/2021 -12/07/2021 NET 21055.33 VAT 1367.11 GROSS 22422.44 13/07/2021-22/08/2021 NET 16361.38 VAT 498.39 GROSS 16859.77 23/08/2021-13/09/2021 NET 15827.02 VAT406.43 GROSS 16233.45 14/09/2021- 15/10/2021 NET 19072.29 VAT 699.63 GROSS 19771.92 16/10/2021 -15/11/2021 NET 17750.56 VAT 658.40 GROSS 18408.96 Proposed – Cllr G Price Seconded – Cllr P Wilson Approved</p> <p>Reaffirm retrospective agreement and retrospectively approved the 3rd actuarial payment that was made to the LGPS (Clwyd Pension Fund) of £8400.00 on 24/4/2018 and the repayment of funds to Wrexham Youth & Playable that were held by the Council for the group and returned to them 13/8/2019 in the sum of £2047.50.</p> <p>Proposed – Cllr G A Kelly Seconded- Cllr G Kelly Approved</p>	
5	<p>Amendment to Coedpoeth Community Council current standing orders/ financial agreements</p> <p>i) Standing order 30 B, be reduced from £25,000 to £5,000 to mirror the sums as outlined in section 11b of the Councils current financial regulations so that any proposed supply of goods, materials and execution of works be procured under a formal tender basis.</p> <p>Proposed – Cllr G Price Seconded – Cllr S Edwards</p> <p>Approved.</p> <p>ii) The 3 pre-paid debit cards which are held by the Clerk, Caretaker and Cemetery Superintendent which were issued to avoid the necessity for reimbursement process for small items in the course have a maximum credit limit of £200.00 on each card. Also, that the expenditure records are submitted to Council on a monthly basis for review. The Clerk advised that the Cemetery Superintendent has returned the card and it is not being used as told it had not been activated ever, also no new card had been issued to current clerk and card for previous clerk had been destroyed. The limits for the cards are to be reflected as an agreed amendment in the current Community Council financial regulations.</p>	

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	<p>Proposed – Cllr G A Kelly Seconded – Cllr S Edwards Approved</p> <p>Opening of new account for reserves as recommended by auditor Proposed- Cllr G Kelly Seconded-Cllr S Edwards Approved</p>	
6	<p>Big Park Project – Before taking a vote regarding the 3 proposals, outlined on the agenda an in-depth discussion took place within the Council and additional concerns raised regarding the consultation document that the proposal had been based upon. Whilst the whole Council appreciated the merit of the scheme and its potential to add value to the Community on many levels, several Councillors urged caution and stressed that the consultation document only showed the potential in the project and where funding may be obtained but at this point, there are no guarantees. Cllr Scheurleer plus Mr Wyatt and Mr Hughes offered to try and answer any concerns the Council have. Additionally, it was pointed out to the Council by Cllr Edwards and the Chair how the Council had already agreed several years ago to support the venture move forward to the benefit of the Community and in fact, the Council undertook the consultation report with the help of Cadwyn Clwyd to this end. The Clerk advised the Council that the Council had not yet received reimbursement from Cadwyn Clwyd towards the document as the reimbursement of the grant element only happens retrospectively and as the new clerk, she would like it in the minutes that the Council retrospectively agree their willingness to cover 30% of the cost of the consultation as at the time of the meeting she had not found reference to the exact amount the Council agreed to contribute though she had found reference to matters being taken forward and seeming agreed. Also, the Council have already paid out for the full cost of the survey.</p> <p>Cllr G A Kelly stressed that whilst supportive of the idea of the project, didn't want the Council to be left with an asset that will be a drain on limited resources, a concern echoed by Cllr Price. Mr Wyatt wished it to be noted how saddened he felt at the negativity shown towards the project given how much time and effort it has taken to reach this point. The Chair asked that proposal 6 (i) and 6 (ii) per the agenda have a proposer and seconder, however Cllr Price felt that 6 (iii) better reflected the views of the Council. Prior to the vote the Chair reiterated that the essence of Cllr Price's proposal at 6(iii) was contained with</p>	

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	<p>points 6(i) and (6ii). Cllr Price suggested the matter be differed by another month. The Chair confirmed the following per the agenda:</p> <p>6(i) That this Council shall enquire of Wrexham County Borough Council (WCBC) to establish the process to secure full, unencumbered freehold possession of all parts of the Big Park/ Penygelli Fields and structures thereon, that it does not already own, with a view to securing such title.</p> <p>(ii) WCBC be asked to provide information regarding the running costs of the current facilities and establish that by undertaking these enquiries that Coedpoeth Community Council will not incur any associated costs for making these preliminary enquiries.</p> <p>The Chair clarified further that this only meant the Council would be giving formal permission to approach WCBC to see how we get unincumbered free hold and importantly that these initial enquires do not attract a cost to the Council.</p> <p>Proposed – Cllr S Edwards Seconded – Cllr G A Kelly Abstained- Cllr G Price Approved</p> <p>To ensure that there be clarity and no misunderstanding Chair asked did he have a proposer and seconder minute and retrospectively accept that the Council has made a 30% towards the survey which equated to a cost of £4924.80, so that the Clerk may finalise matter with Cadwyn Clwyd.</p> <p>Proposer – Cllr S Edwards Seconder- Cllr S Scheurleer Agreed unanimously</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">7</p>	<p>Street lighting issues:</p> <p>7(i) Retrospectively approve the emergency survey that was undertaken on strong recommendation by WCBC Highways and lighting department at a cost of approximately £1200. The cost was shared with Council due to the urgency of the matter and agreed with proviso it be noted at this Council meeting. APPROVED</p>	

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	<p>7(ii) Salix loan, upgrading of current lighting stock and inherited issues blocking movement on this matter. The clerk explained that it is unclear as to what had occurred and that there appeared to be historical faults on both sides which she felt unable to attribute to any one person, given that there no documentation to substantiate matter, however the facts are that a salix loan was applied for, not completed, some upgrade work was undertaken but under the authority of persons unknown and there appeared to be a belief that the costs would be covered by the loan which as ascertained was never completed. A period of 4 years has passed and costs have risen and based on our standing orders and financial regulations the Clerk advised that she believed that the Council need to pay for the work completed to date which amounts to around 13k possibly a little less, then obtain quotations to ascertain how much the Council needs to borrow via a Salix loan to upgrade the remaining stock of lighting because repairs are costing a considerable amount of money with it costing £60 per lamp call out fee plus repair cost and in some cases, 5 at least which need total rewiring, if possible the cost would be in excess of £800 each.</p> <p>Cllr G Kelly proposed that Mega be paid for the upgrade work undertaken to date Seconded – Cllr B Brown Agreed unanimously</p> <p>Cllr Brown offered to help the Clerk progress matters regarding quotations and the LED upgrade to enable the Salix loan to be progressed in due course- agreed by Council.</p> <p>7(iii) The Clerk informed Council that she had been concerned about the rising costs of the Lighting and had discovered that the Council was no longer on a preferential contract with our supplier and that the Council had been off contract for a considerable time and given the volatility in the market suggested that she obtain quotes as believed that we could still get a better deal as the cost per unit has almost double. Taking this into account with the aging light stock, the clerk felt that matters must be addressed urgently. Cllr G A Kelly that rather than the Council just give the Clerk authority to obtain several quotations for a better deal that the Council authorise the Clerk to switch to the best deal possible in the marketplace.</p> <p>Proposed – Cllr G A Kelly Seconded- Cllr S Edwards</p> <p>7(iv) The clerk raised the question on unresolved lighting complaints as some of the residents whose lights have more complex</p>	
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	<p>issues such as those needing re-wiring have been waiting a considerable time. The contractors have attended and then advised of the more complex issues involved, also no re-wiring has been authorised for any of the upgraded LED lamps because of the unresolved matters. It was suggested that given all the problems and that it was unfair to prioritise one resident's need over another that lighting repairs be suspended going forward whilst the possibility of the funding the upgrade to LED is resolved and all the other matters.</p> <p>Proposed – Cllr G Kelly Seconded- Cllr P Wilson</p>	
8	<p>Royal Welch Fusilier Commemorative Project – request for donation Donation of £50.00 to be made - unanimous</p>	
9	<p>Signing of all WCBC service level agreement including Play scheme as provided for and agreed in the budget. It was suggested that given the costs that these agreements be review fully over the forthcoming year however as they have been agreed to and budgeted for during 2022-2023, agreed that the Clerk may sign on behalf of Council by the agreed date.</p> <p>Proposed- Cllr G Price Seconded – Cllr G Kelly</p>	
10	<p>Platinum Jubilee Celebrations – deferred due to next meeting due to time</p>	
11	<p>Proposal to hold face to face clinics on a rota basis by Cllr S Edwards – deferred</p>	
12	<p>One Voice Wales training courses. Agreement sought for Councillors to attend at a cost of no more that £60 and where possible usage of any free places</p> <p>Proposed -Cllr B Brown Seconded – Cllr P Wilson</p>	
13	<p>IT support for Council – Clerk advised that Mr Owen's who has provided an ad hoc service for a while, has advised that due to work pressure no longer to provide a service. Clerk suggested that we need more formalised support, to avoid problems as currently being experienced. Cllr G A Kelly requested we check how much the current services have cost over the past year and that the clerk look to see what options are available, supported by the Council.</p> <p>Agreed</p>	

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14	Discussion regarding provision for Hybrid meetings - deferred	
15	Community Council Vacancy on Ysgol Bryn Tabor School- a collective decision was taken by Council to inform the Chair of the governors that the matter will be discussed after the May elections.	
16	Resignation of Cllr D Donaghy – The Chair has informed the Council that Cllr Donaghy has resigned and advised the Council that he has thanked him for his service to the Council. The Clerk requested whether the Council wish the post to be advertised with the proximity to the pre-election period. The Clerk has contacted the Electoral department at the Guildhall who confirmed that the decision was up to the Community Council. The Council decided collectively to leave the matter until after the elections in May.	
17	Update on May elections scheduled on Thursday 5 May 2022 The Clerk confirmed that the Guildhall had stated that they are currently creating an information pack that will be issued shortly. The pre- election period is due to start on 18 March 2022 but as stated all information is due to be sent out prior to this date	
18	Cemetery and delays in payments to current Grave digger. The Clerk confirmed that all payments are up to date once tonight’s schedule has been actioned. Additionally, our current grave digger has advised that from the 1 March 2022 he will no longer be available to provide this service to Coedpoeth Cemetery as he is cutting back on his commitments for a better work/ life balance and given notice that we will need to engage someone else’s services. The Chair suggested that this matter will need to be taken forward by the Cemetery committee.	
	Next meeting – Tuesday 8 March 2022 Items for inclusion on the agenda to be submitted to the Clerk no later than Monday 28 February 2022	

Deborah Edwards - Clerk to the Council

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