



**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY, 21<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2021 7.00 PM**

**The meeting was conducted remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic**

**Present:** Councillors: G Ead (GE), S ap Hywel (SaH), T ap Hywel (TaH), P Owen Griffiths (Chair), J Scriven (JS), SJ Skivens (SJS), SL Skivens (SLS), L Whittle (LW)

**Also present:** Amelia Penny (PCSO), Helen Treherne (Clerk)

**Minute   Item discussed  
Number**

**109.      To receive Chair's welcome and approve apologies for absence**

The Chair welcomed Councillors to the meeting. No apologies received.

Councillors held a minute's silence for former councillor and friend of the Community Council, Menna Battle. Cllr Whittle paid tribute to Menna and said that she would be sadly missed by everyone who knew her.

**Resolved: Noted**

**110.      To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda**

No declarations of interest received.

**111.      To approve minutes of virtual meeting held on 23rd November 2020**

Councillors approved the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd November 2020.

**Resolved: To approve minutes of 23rd November 2020 as a true record**

**112.      To discuss Matters Arising**

School crossing patrol: SJS reported that he had liaised with Aber Valley Community Council, who was fighting the same issue. Aber Valley had taken the lead and SJS said he would follow up and report back to next meeting. (Ref: minutes 19.11.20, item 98).

Letter to Redrow: LW reported that he had written to Redrow, but had received no reply. There had been press coverage in the Western Mail and Caerphilly Observer. LW had suggested that Redrow look at ancient field names. A Councillor suggested that school children could be invited to submit possible street names to CCBC. LW added that there were issues with the marshy area on the entire plot. (Ref: minutes 19.11.20, item 98).

Aneurin House: SJS recommended that some of the Community Council's budget be used to improve the aesthetic look of the building and that CCBC be asked to do more frequent litter collections. The steps were dangerous and even though it was not the Community Council's responsibility, it was difficult to get anything done as the owner lived in Canada. It was agreed that SJS set up a preliminary working group meeting to find out exactly what needed doing and to determine costings for this. SJS to submit proposal to next Community Council meeting. (Ref: minutes 19.11.20, item 98).

**Resolved:**

- 1. SJS to report to next meeting regarding school crossing patrols.**
- 2. SJS to report to next meeting with proposal for Aneurin House.**

**113. To discuss Police matters**

CSO Amelia Penny (AP) was in attendance and reported that there had been complaints regarding anti-social behaviour at the Top Shops in Penyrheol. Police officers/CSO's were working with those involved and their parents. COVID patrols were being carried out and fixed penalty notices had been distributed. Overall, crime had reduced within the wards.

SJS reported that the issue with off-road motorbikes driving on Penyrheol Common had recommenced and residents were having issues with the farmer allegedly not allowing people/dogs onto the common land. AP agreed to investigate.

SJS asked if AP could attend the working group meeting to discuss anti-social behaviour around the Top Shop area. AP said that she would be happy to work with the Community Council. There was a lot of rubbish being dumped there. There were ASB cameras in the area, individuals had been identified and the Police were carrying out intervention work with them.

JS asked for an update on anti-social behaviour in the area of Druid's Close and AP replied that ASB cameras had been set up and individuals had been identified. The Police had received no calls recently, but were still in contact with repeat victims.

PO asked for an update on the anti-social behaviour in Castell Maen, with broken glass being left on the football field. AP reported that no further problems had been reported following a Police intervention project carried out in the area.

TapH reported that someone had been hanging around the back gardens of Hendredenny. AP said that they had received a few calls about this and had been patrolling the area. There had also been a suspicious vehicle driving around and a marker had been placed on the vehicle. Patrols were still being carried out in the area.

**Resolved: Noted**

**114. To discuss items/issues brought up by Councillors/COVID-19 update**

**114.1** GE reported that he, along with PO, SJS and JS had carried out a litter pick in Trecenydd. It was hoped to get more volunteers from the community involved next time as it had been short notice. It was hoped that this would become a regular occurrence. JS said that residents had expressed an interest, but would need more notice. JS said that it would be a good idea for a group of residents to take over the litter picking, encouraging people to take pride in the area in which they lived. PO reported that there was a regular litter pick in Castell Maen and that members of the community ran it on a monthly basis. It was agreed that GE would send a date to Councillors via email for the next litter pick, which would include the area from the Dip Garage, up St Cenydd Road. Some Councillors said that they would also like to support the Castell Maen litter pick and PO agreed to let them know the date of the next session.

**114.2** LW reported that he had received a request from an elderly couple who lived in Ty Isaf, to ask for two seats to be located halfway between Penyrheol and Abertridwr, on the cycle path. It was suggested that these be concrete seats to decrease the possibility of vandalism. Clerk to get costings for two concrete benches.

**114.3** PO reported that the trees were being cut down in Y Felin Ffrwd for safety reasons. LW said that he would ask CCBC to look at all the overhanging trees in the area.

**Resolved:**

- 1. GE to send date of next litter pick to Councillors via email.**
- 2. PO to inform Councillors of date of next Castell Maen litter pick.**
- 3. Clerk to seek costings for two concrete benches.**
- 4. LW to ask CCBC to look at all trees in the Y Felin Ffrwd area.**

**115. To approve quarterly financial statement**

Councillors reviewed the quarterly financial statement and it was agreed to approve the statement and that no changes were required to the budget.

**Resolved: To approve the quarterly financial statement and that no changes be made to the budget**

**116. To approve 2021/22 Precept and budgets**

SJS, as Chair of the Finance Committee, reported that the Financial Regulations and Risk Management document had been reviewed at the Finance Committee meeting. It had been agreed that a few areas needed improving. Councillors to receive updated copies at next meeting. Budgets had been approved at the meeting and it had also been agreed that the Committee now meet bi-annually. A new audit process was being introduced by Wales Audit and the Council would be receiving a basic audit for 2020-21, a large audit for 2021-22 and a basic audit for 2022-23.

SJS reported that the COVID-19 pandemic had resulted in some activities not being run. Councillors had therefore unanimously resolved not to increase the precept.

**Resolved: To ratify the decision of 0% increase to 2021 precept**

**117. To discuss food banks**

LW reported that he had helped at the food banks and informed Councillors of the process, which was carried out with precision and the volunteers worked very hard. Due to COVID restrictions, LW was not able to help out at present, but GE and PO said that they would be happy to help out during the time that LW was not able to.

**Resolved: GE and PO to temporarily help out at the food banks.**

**118. To review Christmas event**

The Chair reported that feedback from the event indicated that the Santa tour had been very well received. Councillors agreed that seeing the joy on residents' faces was well worth the effort. Issues with the vehicle were acknowledged and it was agreed that these issues would need to be ironed out if the event was to be held the following Christmas, in the interest of health and safety of the residents and volunteers. Councillors agreed that Santa (Chris Gibbins of Roly Poly Entertainments) had done an excellent job. It was agreed that the Events Committee meet to debrief and to consider any improvements that could be made. The Clerk was thanked for all her hard work in arranging the event. It was acknowledged that the event reached a lot more children/residents than the indoor events.

**Resolved: Clerk to arrange Events Committee meeting for Christmas Event debrief**

**119. To discuss summer playschemes**

Councillors discussed the 2021 summer playschemes and it was resolved that the Clerk would arrange a Playscheme Committee to review the current situation due to the pandemic.

**Resolved: Clerk to arrange Playscheme Committee meeting.**

**120. To discuss planning applications**

Former 49 Club: Councillors resolved that the Clerk should contact the developer to ask that the Community Council see the design of the building.

**Resolved: Clerk to contact developer**

SJS reported that he had received a complaint from a resident from Gellideg in Penyrheol about a parcel of CCBC land beside his property that had been left to become overgrown. It was resolved that SJS would contact the Planning Department to enquire.

**Resolved: SJS to contact Planning Department to enquire about parcel of land**

**121. To discuss correspondence received**

Community Councillors discussed the following correspondence:

- 121.1 Statutory Notice regarding Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon.
- 121.2 Statutory Notice regarding Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre.
- 121.3 Email from CCBC re: Cabinet meeting agenda pack.

**Resolved: Noted**

**122. To discuss festive lights**

Councillors discussed whether to continue to purchase new festive lights to replace the old, failing lights and it was resolved that £5000 be earmarked for this project in 2021/22.

**Resolved: To earmark £5000 for the purchase of new festive lights.**

**123. To discuss requests for grants**

No request for grants received.

**Resolved: Noted**

**124. To discuss newsletters**

Community Councillors discussed whether the Newsletter should be reinstated following the break due to the pandemic. Some Councillors felt that social media would be a better way of reaching residents, but a Councillor said that some residents did not use social media/computers. It was agreed that the Clerk arrange a Newsletter Committee meeting to discuss the way forward.

**Resolved: Clerk to arrange Newsletter Committee meeting.**

**125. To approve external audit report and discuss future audits**

Community Councillors considered the external audit report and noted that there were no recommendations. The audit report was approved.

**Resolved: To note that there were no recommendations and to approve the audit report.**

**126. To approve payments**

Clerk's salary – January 2021  
Clerk's expenses – January 2021  
Clerk's pension – January 2021  
Inland Revenue – January 2021

Members' expenses – January 2021

**127. To agree items to be discussed at next meeting**

Councillors agreed to discuss the following at the next meeting:

127.1 Newsletter/social media

**Resolved: Noted**

**128. To agree date of next Council meeting**

Date of next meeting was agreed as Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021. Meeting to be held virtually due to ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

**Resolved: To agree date of next meeting as Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 7.00 pm.**

The meeting was concluded at 9.00 pm