



**CYNGOR CYMUNED
PENYRHEOL TRECENYDD ENERGLYN
COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY, 19th JANUARY 2023 AT 7.00 PM
AT PENYRHEOL COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Present: Councillors: J Davies-Ellis (JD), S Dickens (SD), G Ead (GE), J Scriven (Chair), SJ Skivens (SJS), SL Skivens (SLS), L Whittle (LW)

Also present: Helen Treherne (Clerk)

**Minute Item discussed
Number**

The Chair welcomed Councillors to the meeting.

153. To note members' attendance and to receive and approve apologies for absence

Apologies for absence received from Cllrs R Barry, E Llewellyn and A Minton and apologies accepted.

Resolved: To accept above apologies for absence

154. To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda

Cllr Ead declared an interest in item 170 as he was a member of the Planning Committee.

Resolved: Noted

155. To approve minutes of previous meeting

JD asked that it be noted that she and SD had also attended the Remembrance Service in November. Further to these amendments, Councillors approved the minutes of the meeting held on 17th November 2022.

Resolved: To approve previous minutes as a true record further to the above amendments

156. To discuss Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Resolved: Noted

157. To discuss Police matters

Sargent Pursey and PCSO Williams were present at the meeting. Dog aggression was a big issue at the moment. There was only one dog handler available to identify breeds and although the process was quicker if a dog bit a person, it took a lot longer to go through the court process if a dog attacked another dog, ie a warrant would be required, a dog handler etc, then it would need to go through the court process. Councillors were very concerned about the increase in dog aggression within the wards, especially following

two tragic incidences in Penyrheol involving dog attacks. The Police were considering several initiatives, including the education of dog owners. SJS had also identified a possible initiative that could help with identifying houses with problem animals and he said he would share this with the Police. SJS to meet with Police to discuss the initiative. Gwent Police were also trying other avenues such as Trading Standards with regards to the selling/passing on of these dogs. Residents were encouraged to report a dog behaving aggressively. SD asked why there were no checks or any requirements such as a licence for dogs and was informed that this was down to legislation. Wayne David MP would be bringing up this issue in Parliament to try to get legislation changed. All agreed that it was imperative to bring about change. PCSO Williams added that he was putting together a survey for Penyrheol residents, including questions regarding dogs. JS asked about muzzles and was informed that the Courts could enforce that.

SD reported anti-social behaviour in a bus stop in Penyrheol. PCSO Williams said that anti-social behaviour had increased in Penyrheol and Energlyn again, including at Pleasant Place, the old-aged sheltered accommodation. PCSO Williams added that they had had good results at the Top Shops and that the CCTV cameras had proved very useful. There was a Tik Tok trend at the moment, encouraging people to kick gates/doors. The person who had robbed someone in Aneurin Park had been apprehended and imprisoned and would not be allowed to return to the area. There had been an issue with the theft of cars and also an issue with e-scooters and parking issues in First Avenue, which were all being dealt with.

The Chair thanked the officers for attending and they left the meeting.

Resolved: SJS to meet with Police to discuss dog initiative

158. To discuss items/issues brought up by Councillors

SD reported that she had been liaising with a tenant on the new Ffordd Newydd estate in Penyrheol. She said that the houses were in an appalling condition. She had emailed United Welsh several times to ask for a site meeting, with no response. Celtic Horizons had met with residents, but the issues still remained. Tenants felt they were being let down and ignored, as they were constantly reporting faults. It was resolved that the Clerk would write a letter to United Welsh, asking for a site visit and a deadline of four weeks would be given for a response. There were at least six properties involved and photographic evidence was available. SJS informed Councillors that he had a list of forthcoming strikes and that the issues on the Common would soon be brought up in the Senedd.

Resolved: Clerk to ask United Welsh Housing for a site meeting

159. To discuss Community Empowerment Fund

GE reported that the Fund would soon be ending and that the four County Borough Councillors had approximately £5K each left to spend, with a deadline of 20th February to spend it.

Resolved: Noted

160. To receive reports on meeting/events attended by Councillors

SJS reported that he had attended the Christmas events and the Finance Committee meeting; SLS had attended the Christmas events; JD had attended the Christmas events. JS reported that he had attended the Tree of Life event, had met with CCBC Parks Officer and had attended the Finance Committee meeting. LW reported that he had attended the Christmas events and Finance Committee meeting. GE reported that he had attended the Christmas events and Finance Committee meeting.

Resolved: Noted

161. To receive verbal reports from Chairs of committees

161.1 Finance Committee held on 19th January 2023: the Chair of the Finance Committee reported that Councillors had reviewed the annual accounts to 31st December 2022, including the quarterly financial statement. They had also approved reconciliation of bank statements, considered and made recommendations for the 2023/24 precept and reviewed and made recommendations for approval of the 2023/24 budgets.

Resolved: Noted

162. To discuss Communications, Website and Social Media

GE asked Councillors for updated photos as soon as possible.

Resolved: Councillors to provide GE with updated photos

163. To discuss CIL Funds

GE reported that a drainage survey would be required for the pump track before any further progress could be made and that this would cost approximately £5K. Councillors discussed this and agreed that no further progress could be made until the drainage survey had been completed. Councillors did not want drainage issues further down the line because a survey had not been carried out, as that would be a waste of public money. Councillors approved this request. CCBC had also provided Councillors with a quote for landscaping work to be carried out on Hendredenny Drive. Councillors agreed with the quote in principle, but required more details. Clerk to request further details.

Resolved:

- 1. To give approval for drainage survey, at a cost of approximately £5K.**
- 2. Clerk to contact CCBC re: Hendredenny Drive landscaping quote.**

164. To discuss biodiversity action plan

To be discussed at next meeting due to absence of Cllr Minton.

Resolved: Noted

165. To approve Quarterly Financial Statement

Councillors approved the quarterly financial statement and agreed that no budgetary changes would be required.

Resolved: To approve quarterly financial statement and agree that no budgetary changes would be required

166. To approve 2023/24 Precept and Budgets, following recommendations by Finance Committee

The Chair of the Finance Committee reported that the Committee had discussed the precept and recommended an increase of 2%. Councillors discussed this item in depth and a majority decision was reached to increase the precept by 2%, which would mean an increase of 28p per Band D household per annum. The majority of Councillors felt that this slight increase was required due to rising costs and also the fact that the precept had not been raised since 2020. The Finance Committee had also discussed the 2023/24 budget and recommended Full Council approval.

Resolved:

- 1. To raise the precept by 2% for the 2023/24 financial year.**
- 2. To approve the 2023/24 budgets.**

167. To discuss Clerk recommended pay increase

The Clerk informed Councillors that the Local Government Association had come to an agreement on the 2022/23 rates of pay after the unions had met in November and agreed to accept the offer. The terms of the agreement were as follows:

- With effect from 1 April 2022, an increase of £1925 on all NJS pay points 1 and above.
- With effect from 1 April 2023, an increase of one day to all employees' annual leave entitlement.

Councillors approved the Clerk's pay increase and back-pay to April 2022.

Resolved: To approve Clerk's pay rise and back pay to April 2022

168. To review Christmas events

Councillors agreed that the Clerk arrange an Events Committee to discuss this year's Christmas events as soon as possible.

Resolved: Clerk to arrange Events Committee for February

169. To review Youth Ambassador applications

The Clerk reported that three applications had been received for the Youth Ambassador post and was asked to invite all three to the next meeting.

Resolved: Clerk to invite all three applicants to next meeting

170. To discuss planning applications

- 171.1** 22/0637/NOTT – Land at Grid Ref 315113, Trecenydd to Pwllypant
- Install 20m Telecommunications Monopole comprising of 6 No. antennas and 2 No. dishes, C/W wraparound cabinet at base and associated ancillary works
- 171.2** 22/0961/COU – Land at South Wales Motors, St Cenydd Road, Caerphilly
- Change the use to a B1 use class – car wash and valeting
Councillors asked the Clerk to submit a letter of objection for this application due to access from the highway, close to houses, traffic/congestion and water disposal.
- 171.3** Pre-planning application consultation from Cornerstone – upgrade of mobile phone base station site at Heol Aneurin, Penyrheol.

Resolved: In the general interest of the community, no objections to be raised to 171.1, but an objection be raised to 171.2.

172. To discuss correspondence received:

Letter from Heol Cwm Ifor resident regarding objections to proposed solar farm development at Cwm Ifor Farm. Councillors discussed this letter and asked the Clerk to advise resident to contact CCBC.

Resolved: Clerk to advise resident to contact CCBC

173. To discuss requests for grants

Grant applications had been received from the following organisations:

173.1 Urdd Gobaith Cymru

Resolved: In the interest of benefit to the community, a grant of £200 to be approved

173.2 St Cenydd Presbyterian Church

SJS and JS were requested to visit the food bank at the church on a Wednesday morning to discuss further.

Resolved: SJS and JS to visit the food bank at the church to discuss further

174. To discuss litter-pick group

To be added to agenda for next meeting

Resolved: Noted

175. To approve the following payments:

- 175.1** Clerk's salary – February 2023
- 175.2** Clerk's expenses – February 2023
- 175.3** Clerk's pension – February 2023
- 175.4** Inland Revenue – February 2023
- 175.5** Members' expenses – February 2023

Resolved: To approve the above payments

176. To agree items to be discussed at next meeting

No items agreed to be discussed at next meeting.

Resolved: Noted

177. To agree date of next Council meeting

Date of next meeting was agreed as Thursday, 16th February 2023 at 7.00 pm.

The meeting was concluded at 8.55 pm.