

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CAERPHILLY MOUNTAIN COUNTRYSIDE SERVICE JOINT MEMBERS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, PONTLLANFRAITH, BLACKWOOD ON FRIDAY, 17TH SEPTEMBER 1999 AT 2.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Representing Caerphilly County Borough Council:

Councillors P.J. Bevan, J.E. Fussell, Mrs. K. Gwynne and M.H. Newman
Mr. P. Jayne (Manager - Countryside and Landscape Services)
Mr. N. Liversuch (Principal Planner, Policy and Specialist Services)
Mr. A. Morgan (Group Accountant, Mr. R. Allen (Senior Legal Assistant)
Miss S.M. Kauczok (Committee Services Officer)

Representing Cardiff County Council:

Councillors Mrs. G. Bird, I. Brown, Mrs. C. Priday and J. Regan
Mr. M. Lewis (Group Leader, Natural Environment)

Representing Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council:

Councillors M. Brittain, I. Jones and W.L. Langford
Mr. A.W.G. Reid (Assistant Director of Planning)

Representing Caerphilly Mountain Countryside Service:

Mr. D. Workman

APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received from Richard Jones, Countryside Council for Wales.

CHAIRMAN

Councillor Ian Brown, Cardiff County Council, was appointed Chairman of the Joint Members Committee for the ensuing year.

VICE CHAIRMAN

Councillor Phil Bevan, Caerphilly County Borough Council, was appointed Vice-Chairman of the Joint Members Committee for the ensuing year.

INTRODUCTION TO THE CAERPHILLY MOUNTAIN COUNTRYSIDE SERVICE

For the benefit of newly appointed members to the Joint Management Committee the Countryside Officer, Mr. Dai Workman, gave a short presentation on the history and role of the Caerphilly Mountain Countryside Service.

To summarise, the CMCS, which was established by a partnership of local authorities in 1979, helps to look after the countryside separating Cardiff from the Valleys. It seeks to:-

Identify and resolve conflicts between farming, conservation and recreation;
Encourage access and recreation;
Bring about small environmental improvements;
Prepare management plans for sensitive areas;
Provide and education, information and interpretation service;
Promote tourism in the area.

In conjunction with community councils and groups such as the Ramblers Association and the British Horse Society the CMCS is constantly working towards improving existing footpaths and bridleways and has reopened many miles of paths and restored many ponds throughout the area. In addition, it leads schools and youth groups in a range of environmental activities, helping schools to design and build wildlife areas in their grounds and in the summertime it runs play schemes to encourage children to care for and enjoy their local environment.

Following the presentation the Countryside Officer responded to members' questions.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th November 1998 were approved as a correct record.

BUDGET 1999/2000 AND BUDGET OPTIONS 1999/2000

Consideration was given to the report of the Co-ordinating Treasurer and to the subsequent report of the Joint Officer Working Party (Agenda Items 5(a)(i) and 5(b)(i)) which sets out the funding position of the Countryside Service in the 1999/2000 financial year and proposes options to finance the Service in the current year (Appendix 1 attached).

Following detailed consideration and having regard to the considerable financial difficulties currently faced by Rhonda Cynon Taff CBC, it was RESOLVED that:-

- (i) Option 3, as set out on the attached appendix, be referred to the constituent authorities for adoption subject to confirmation being received from Rhondda Cynon Taff CBC by 30th September 1999 that they will be able to meet their contribution;
- (ii) a report be presented to the next meeting of the JMC examining other possible future sources of funding e.g. Objective 1.

OUTTURN 1998/99

The report presents the financial outturn of the Caerphilly Mountain Countryside Service (CMCS) for 1998/99.

The appendix attached to the report sets out the outturn for the service compared with the budget for the year. It was noted that no ERDF monies had been drawn down at this stage and that the shortfall that needed to be met from ERDF monies was £5,156 resulting from an overall underspend in the year of £3,296.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

GWAUN Y BARA FARM - WORKSHOP/STORE

It was reported that the property had been inspected and that a schedule of works had been drawn up. Funding for the works, which were estimated at £10,000 had been found from Caerphilly County Borough Council's Historic Buildings budget and the contract had been awarded to Rogers Building Services. Works would commence as soon as Listed Building Consent had been received and as soon as the bats had vacated the roof space for their winter roost. It was confirmed that provision would be made for the bats to return.

However, the delay in starting the work could result in costs increasing beyond the budget allocation. If this is the case officers have requested that it be reconfirmed that the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) monies be used to meet any shortfall.

Members' attention was drawn to the minutes of the meeting held on 6th November 1999 which authorised officers to use the excess of £1,077 remaining from the 1997/98 budget towards the cost of repairs at the farm.

Consequently, it was RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the action of officers in letting the contract be approved;
- (ii) subject to the approval of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Joint Members Committee the excess remaining from the 1997/98 budget and if required, monies from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), be used to fund any shortfall in the cost of the repair works.

REPORT OF COUNTRYSIDE OFFICER

Consideration was given to the report of the Countryside Officer.

The Countryside Officer updated Members on work undertaken by the Countryside Service during the past four months and outlined future proposals.

Reference was made, in particular, to the following:-

General

Service Plan 1999/2002

Staff Changes - It was requested that a letter be sent to Dave Penberthy congratulating him on his appointment to Senior Planner in the Countryside and Landscape Section and thanking him for the important contribution he had made to the Countryside Service as Assistant Countryside Officer during the past eight years.

Break-ins at Countryside Centre

Litter

Minibus

International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience - IAESTE

Landscape Conservation and Enhancement

Landscape Conservation and Enhancement

Community Conservation Area at Fairmeadow Fields, Pentyrch

Woodland Management Scheme - Coed Waun Cynllyfan (Graig y Rhacca)

Nantgarw Infants School

Llantwit Fardre Primary School

Hawthorn Infant School - Llandaff North

Transportation, Planning and Economic Development Scrutiny - 19.10.99

Biodiversity/Nature Conservation

The Views Woodland Ty Rhiw
Creigiau Pond

Countryside Access and Enjoyment

Public Rights of Way Campaign - Llanbradach, Pwll y Pant, Senghenydd and Abertridwr Areas
St. Fagans, Radyr and Morganstown Area
Lisvane
Tai Mawr View Point
Public Rights of Way Database
Taff Trail - Access for All
Horse Riding Scheme

Environmental Education, Visitor Information and Understanding

Guided Walks Programme
Taff Gorge Countryside Centre
Machen Forge Trail

Proposed Activities - Biodiversity/Nature Conservation

Local Biodiversity Action Plans
Frog Pond - Creigiau and Fairmeadow Fields - Pentyrch

Countryside Access and Enjoyment - Public Rights of Way Campaign

Cardiff County Council Area
Llanbradach, Pwll y Pant, Senghenydd and Abertridwr Areas
More Capital Walks - Ramblers Association, Cardiff Group
Public Paths - Post 2000
Woodland Management Scheme - Coed Waun Cynllyfan (Graig y Rhacca)

Environmental Education, Visitor Information and Understanding

Machen Forge Trail
Service Plan 1999/2002 - the Final Service Plan will be presented to a future meeting.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was proposed that the next meeting of the JMC be held in November at County Hall, Atlantic Wharf, Cardiff. Confirmation of the arrangements would be sent to Members at the earliest opportunity.

The meeting closed at 3.45 p.m.

APPENDIX

CAERPHILLY MOUNTAIN COUNTRYSIDE SERVICE		
<p>ORIGINAL BUDGET OPTION 1</p> <p>Neither CCC nor RCT will be able to find the full sum of the contribution shown.</p>	<p>Caerphilly</p> <p>Cardiff</p> <p>RCT</p> <p>Income</p> <p>TOTAL</p>	<p>56,040</p> <p>43,459</p> <p>14,868</p> <p>1,500</p> <p>115,867</p>
<p>REVISED BUDGET OPTION 2</p> <p>Non filling of vacant post</p> <p>Revised budget shared to agreed formula - but no RCT contribution</p> <p>Unacceptable shortfall of £12,824</p> <p>SHORTFALL</p>	<p>Caerphilly</p> <p>Cardiff</p> <p>RCT</p> <p>Income</p> <p>TOTAL</p>	<p>48,337</p> <p>37,486</p> <p>0</p> <p>1,500</p> <p>87,323</p> <p>12,824</p>
<p>REVISED BUDGET OPTION 3</p> <p>Non filling of vacant post</p> <p>CCBC maintains original budget estimate</p> <p>CCC contributes revised estimate sum</p> <p>RCT makes up shortfall</p>	<p>Caerphilly</p> <p>Cardiff</p> <p>RCT</p> <p>Income</p> <p>TOTAL</p>	<p>56,040</p> <p>37,486</p> <p>5,121</p> <p>1,500</p> <p>100,147</p>