

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMUNITY COUNCIL LIAISON SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, YSTRAD FAWR ON WEDNESDAY, 17TH MARCH 1999 AT 7.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Community Councillor Mrs. E.M. Aldworth - Vice-Chairman (Presiding)

Councillors:

H.A. Andrews, J. Bevan, Mrs. C. Forehead, K. Forehead, C.P. Mann, M.H. Newman,
Mrs. M.J. Thomas.

Representing Community/Town Councils:

Aber Valley	- J. Taylor, Mr J.S. Humphreys (Clerk)
Argoed	- A. Williams, Mr J. Dilworth (Clerk)
Bargoed	-
Bedwas, Trethomas & Machen	- Mrs E.M. Aldworth
Blackwood	- C. Price, Mr I. Palmer (Clerk)
Caerphilly	- Mrs M. Hallam, Mr M. Evans (Clerk)
Darran Valley	-
Gelligaer	- T.J.B. Jarrett, Mrs A. Davies (Clerk)
Llanbradach	- Mr D. Watkins (Clerk)
Maesycwmmmer	- Miss J. Rao
Nelson	-
New Tredegar	- Mr T. Powell (Clerk)
Penyrheol, Trecenydd & Energlyn	- Mrs M. Sargent, Mr R. Williams (Clerk)
Rhymney	- A. Roberts
Rudry	- Dr. N.V. Williams, Mr J.L. Matthews (Clerk)
Van	- Mrs E. Macey

Together with

Senior Solicitor, Head of Corporate Finance, Development Officer, Senior Committee Services Officer

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs A. Blackman, A.I. Evans, P. Fitzgerald, P. Ford, L. Lewis and R. Woodyatt, Community Councillors H. Farrant, W. Bleazard, V. Williams, Mrs M. Bradley and Mrs J. Rao and Messrs W.G. Woodroffe, D. Cooper, A. Hoskins, J. O'Brien and Mrs H. Harris and Mrs P. Cooper (Clerks of Bedwas, Trethomas & Machen, Maesycwmmmer, Nelson, Van, Bargoed and Darran Valley Community/Town Councils respectively).

COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS DR N.V. WILLIAMS AND T.J.B. JARRETT

Members paid tribute to Community Councillors Dr N.V. Williams and T.J.B. Jarrett who are not standing in the forthcoming elections. Reference was made to the valuable contribution they had made to the communities they represent and parts they have both played in the liaison process and they were wished well for the future.

NEW WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR THE COUNTY BOROUGH

Members received a presentation from Mr Mark Williams, Development Officer, who outlined the main points of the new waste management strategy for the borough which takes into consideration any changes necessary as a result of national policy/legislative changes and the closure of the main disposal outlet at Trehir in 2003 and sought comment from consultees.

A copy of the draft strategy was distributed to each Clerk present and it was confirmed that comments on the consultation document were required by 31st May 1999. A request was made for a short précis of the document which could then be circulated to individual community councillors and it was agreed that the overheads prepared for the presentation would be copied to each Clerk for distribution.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th December 1998 (a copy had been sent to each member) were received and noted.

Matters Arising

Community Education Leisure and Library Services - Draft Strategy

It was noted that the document had recently been circulated with comments required on its content by 7th April 1999.

The representatives requested an extension of the deadline to allow consultation with their own members and it was agreed to raise the matter with the Head of Community Education, Leisure and Libraries and advise each clerk of the outcome.

TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS LIAISON COMMITTEE

Consideration was given to the following items raised by the community/town councils.

Cost of Elections - Update

It was noted that discussions are still ongoing with the Welsh Office and the Home Office with regards to the apportionment of costs for the combined European/Community Elections and Officers are continuing to negotiate the apportionment of fees in the best interest of the community/town councils. However, until such time as the Order has been approved by Parliament it will not be possible to provide any further information on the proposed apportionment.

In view of the forthcoming elections on 11th June 1999 and the need for each community/town council to convene an annual general meeting to nominate representatives, it was agreed that the next meeting be rescheduled from 16th June to 7th July 1999.

Japanese Knotweed

The representatives expressed concern that the Environment Agency had not allocated resources to deal with the problem and whilst it was noted that Council was addressing the issue in certain areas as part of a Welsh Development Agency initiative and via the environmental improvement projects, it was felt that the Agency should take a more active role in tackling the matter. As such, each community/town council has written to the Director of the Agency requesting it take a more active role and requested the borough council do likewise.

It was agreed to write to the Environment Agency supporting the issues raised by the community/town councils.

Millennium Update

Reference was made to the Council's plans to organise millennium celebration activities and events over a one year period from August 1999 to August 2000 and that a data base is to be established of activities to be held throughout the borough by any organisation.

Community/town councils were encouraged to contact the council with details of events etc that they are planning to celebrate the millennium to be incorporated on that data base.

Budget Policy

In noting the revenue budget for 1999/2000, which was agreed at the meeting of Council on 24th February 1999, and the fact that details proposals have yet to be considered by the individual committee, concern was expressed that on occasions and due to financial constraints, certain schemes not able to proceed. If community/town councils were aware of that fact at an earlier stage (by means of pre-budgetary consultation), they could consider supporting the projects themselves but would need to cater for such schemes whilst preparing their estimates earlier in the year.

It was confirmed that as there was limited time available to publish the budget, any form of consultation prior to its report to committee would be difficult to achieve. It was suggested however that Liaison Sub-Committee would be the ideal forum to discuss such matters throughout the course of the year.

Statutory Undertakers (SUS Works in the Highway)

Details of the legislation by way of the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 and enabling codes which sets out a uniform set of standards for all works requiring excavation in the highway were noted.

It was reported that a presentation on the Caerphilly Maintenance Plan would be made to a special meeting of the Liaison Sub-Committee when issues of highway reinstatements would also be discussed.

Funding of Citizens Advice Bureaux

It was reported that a meeting of the Citizens Advice Bureau Sub-Committee was scheduled to take place on 18th March 1999 when the issue of funding would be discussed. It was agreed to advise each community/town council of the outcome of that meeting in due course.

