

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMUNITY COUNCIL LIAISON SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, YSTRAD FAWR ON WEDNESDAY, 21ST JUNE 2000 AT 7.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillors:

H.A. Andrews, D. Bolter, I.G. Franklin, C.P. Mann, M.H. Newman, D.J. Potter, H. Price,
Mrs. J.A. Pritchard

Representing Community/Town Councils:

Aber Valley	-	J.E. Roberts, Mr. J.S. Humphreys (Clerk)
Argoed	-	Mr. J. Dilworth (Clerk)
Bargoed	-	H.M. Farrant
Bedwas, Trethomas & Machen	-	Mrs. E.J. Gale
Blackwood	-	J.B. Criddle, Mr. I. Palmer (Clerk)
Caerphilly	-	Mrs. U.P. Newman, Mr. M. Evans (Clerk)
Darran Valley	-	
Gelligaer	-	Mrs. M.R. Richards
Llanbradach	-	Mrs. J.R. Hanson, Mr. D.J. Watkins/ Mr. W.M.E. Thompson (Clerk)
Maesycwmmmer	-	Mrs. J.H. Rao, Mr. D. Cooper (Clerk)
Nelson	-	A.P. Candy, Mr. A. Hoskins (Clerk)
New Tredegar	-	J.R. Jones, Mr. W.T. Powell (Clerk)
Penyrheol, Trecenydd & Energlyn	-	W.H. Allen
Rhymney	-	Mrs. M. Betts
Rudry	-	Mr. J.L. Matthews (Clerk)
Van	-	Mr. J. O'Brien (Clerk)

Together with

D. Hopkins (Director of Education and Leisure), L. Evans (Street Lighting Manager),
N. Gatehouse (Chief Environmental Health Officer), H.C. Morgan (Senior Committee Services
Officer)

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J. Bevan, P.J. Bevan, Mrs. A. Collins,
P.D. Ford, Mrs. C. Forehead, Mrs. M.E. Hughes, G. Jones, R. Woodyatt, Community Councillors
A.S. Williams, C.R. Roberts, G. Llewellyn and D. Evans and Mrs. H. Harris, Mr. W.G. Woodroffe,
Mrs. P. Cooper, Mrs. A. Davies, Mr. R.B. Williams (Clerks of Bargoed, Bedwas, Trethomas and
Machen, Darran Valley, Gelligaer, Penyrheol, Trecenydd and Energlyn Community/Town Councils
respectively).

CHAIRMAN

Councillor C.P. Mann was appointed to the Chair and in his opening remarks he paid tribute to the
way the outgoing Chairman, Community Councillor Roberts, had conducted the meetings over the
last year.

VICE-CHAIRMAN

Community Councillor C.R. Roberts was appointed as Vice-Chairman.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th March 2000 (a copy had been sent to each member) were received and noted.

Matters Arising

Cleansing Standards - Rear Lanes/Weed Cleansing Programme

Details were requested on the cleansing schedule for rear lanes and the frequency of weed spraying. It was also noted that a report had been requested at the last meeting providing details of the times which each of the categorised areas is required to be cleansed. It was proposed that a report combining all details requested be forwarded to each Clerk rather than wait until the next meeting in September.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the following reports.

Byelaws Prohibiting The Consumption of Alcoholic Liquor in Designated Places

It was confirmed that when the bye-law was made in 1998 it was intended that a review of its effectiveness would be undertaken and that, if it was considered appropriate, further areas would be considered for inclusion as designated areas under the bye-law.

The Home Office have indicated that it is now the role The National Assembly for Wales and the Assembly have indicated that their preferred option would be to revoke the existing by-law and replace it with a new bye-law which would cover the existing designated areas as well as others that might be considered appropriate.

As part of this process the guidance requires that there be a six month review of the extent of the alcohol-related problem in any proposed new designated area as well as public consultation. A review of the effectiveness of the current bye-law is shortly to be undertaken in conjunction with the police and a decision on whether the existing bye-law should be extended and in what areas will be made. Should the decision be taken to extend the bye-law, as part of the process Community Councils will be invited to put forward suggestions for areas that it is felt would benefit from being designated.

TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS LIAISON COMMITTEE

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

Litter - Educational Initiatives

Mr. David Hopkins, Director of Education and Leisure attended to meeting to discuss matters in relation to the problems of litter and educational initiatives. It was acknowledged that there is a problem specifically with comprehensive schools/colleges during the lunch period and the need to target those school children was stressed.

It was confirmed that a Recycling Officer (whose work has primarily involved the implementation of schools initiatives plus other publicity exercises aimed at raising the profile of recycling and changing public attitudes with respect to littering, dog fouling and other general waste management issues), visits schools and provides an extensive programme of schools initiatives. However, the Officer can only attend by the invitation of the school.

Concern was expressed that only 30 schools (1/3 of the total number of schools) had accepted the invitation during 1999. The Director indicated that he would raise this matter at the next meeting he has with all Secondary Head Teachers and encourage all schools to participate in the initiative on a more regularised basis. Those members who sit as Governors were also asked to encourage the initiatives at their respective schools as part of the environmental curriculum activities.

Reference was made to the difficulties involved in serving a Street Litter Control Notice on those premises where the frontages or land in the vicinity continually becomes littered. It was confirmed that to date no notices have been served as the Council is seeking to work in the community to reduce the generation of litter by working with food outlets and community groups. To this end, two litter wardens are to be appointed who will be responsible for issuing on the spot fines for offences regarding litter, illicit tipping and dog fouling. A CCTV camera will be used for surveillance across a wide spectrum including litter offences.

Christmas Decorative Lighting

Reference was made to the use of catenary wires carrying decorative lighting supported by standard street columns and it was confirmed that no new installation suspended between standard columns will be approved and that existing installations will only be allowed for a further two years (structural survey permitting). Councils wishing to continue with their previous arrangements to install decorative lighting spans supported by existing standard columns were requested to advise the Department as soon as possible.

It was noted that an inspection of the relevant columns is to be undertaken in the near future to establish their structural condition and a report will be presented outlining the suitability of the column to support the additional weights and wind loading imposed by the decorations. Each community/town council will be advised of the outcome of that report as soon as the relevant section of columns is completed.

It was also reported that Merthyr Tydfil Borough Council have indicated that its workforce will no longer be available to erect/dismantle the lights and the community /town councils were advise to seek quotations from other contractors, details of which would be sent to the by the Street Lighting Department in the near future.

In respect of the revised specifications, it was reported that certain information is still awaited from one company and that once all details are available they will be forwarded to each Clerk.

The representatives enquired as to whether, in the event that grants are available for the provision/energising of decorative lighting this christmas, additional finance can be allocated to those community/town councils who may have to purchase replacement equipment. It was noted that a sum of money for this purpose has yet to identified and community/town councils will be advised in due course.

The Street Lighting Manager made reference to the impending retirement of Mr Tudor Hughes who has worked in liaison with most of the community/town councils over the last twenty years.

The Chairman requested that a letter be sent to Mr. Hughes thanking him for all his assistance and co-operation, particularly in respect of christmas decorative lighting, and wishing him a long and happy retirement.

Highway Maintenance/Roadworks Progress 2000/2001

It was noted that the requested report which addresses the annual performance of the highway maintenance service during the past financial year 1999/2000 and provides specific expenditure information in respect to the significant elements of the 2000/2001 highway maintenance budget, primarily the footway reconstruction and carriageway resurfacing programmes will be presented to the Technical Environment and Housing Scrutiny Committee on 4th July 2000.

Copies of the report will be circulated to all community/town councils after that date.

Bulky Household Collection Service

Members were advised that Cabinet had considered proposals to introducing charges for bulky household collections but decided to maintain the free existing collection service.

It was confirmed that the service provides for the free collection of up to six bulky household items such as furniture and general household waste. In addition to this free service, the Authority has provided a rechargeable special collection service for items precluded from free collection (e.g. DIY waste, building waste, fixtures and fittings).

It was reported that the operation of the bulky household collection service is to be reviewed in the coming months in conjunction with other refuse collection, street cleansing and waste disposal services as part of the best value service review process.

Animal Trespass Service - Straying Animals

Reference was made to the increase in animal trespass problems in the northern Rhymney Valley and it was requested that Officers review the existing grazing licences on land in that area to penalise those who constantly allow their sheep to stray. The problems being experienced were acknowledge and the Chief Environmental Health Officer undertook to contact both Community Councillors M. Betts and J.R. Jones who raised the matter to discuss the issues further.

It was noted that the Animal Trespass Team continues to provide a reactive service and, in addition, carry out regular patrols of the area and pick up any strays which are encountered. Over recent months, several sweeps have been made in troublesome areas outside normal working hours. This tactic has met with very favourable results.

While discussing the problems, reference was also made to stray dogs and to the fouling of parks and play areas. It was noted that Offices have made 19 prosecutions in recent months with the use of the CCTV facility and, resources permitting would continue to monitor such areas.

The meeting closed at 8.25 p.m.