

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMUNITY COUNCIL LIAISON SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, YSTRAD FAWR ON WEDNESDAY, 20TH DECEMBER 2000 AT 7.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor C.P. Mann - Chairman
Community Councillor C.R. Roberts - Vice-Chairman

Councillors:

C.P. Mann, M.H. Newman, H. Price, Mrs. J.A. Pritchard

Representing Community/Town Councils:

Aber Valley	-	Mr. J.S. Humphreys (Clerk)
Argoed	-	
Bargoed	-	H. Farrant
Bedwas, Trethomas & Machen	-	
Blackwood	-	
Caerphilly	-	Mr. M. Evans (Clerk)
Darran Valley	-	C.R. Roberts
Gelligaer	-	Mrs. M.R. Richards, Mrs. A. Davies (Clerk)
Llanbradach	-	Mr. W.M. Thompson (Clerk)
Maesycwmmmer	-	Mr. D. Cooper (Clerk)
Nelson	-	A.P. Candy, Mr. A. Hoskins (Clerk)
New Tredegar	-	J.R. Jones
Penyrheol, Trecenydd & Energlyn	-	
Rhymney	-	
Rudry	-	Mr. J.L. Matthews (Clerk)
Van	-	J.E. Newnham, Mr. J. O'Brien (Clerk)

Together with

N. Gatehouse (Chief Environmental Health Officer), H.C. Morgan (Senior Committee Services Officer)

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors H.A. Andrews, J. Bevan, P.J. Bevan, D. Bolter, Mrs. A. Collins, P.D. Ford, Mrs. C. Forehead, I.G. Franklin, Mrs. M.E. Hughes, G. Jones, D.J. Potter, R. Woodyatt; Community Councillors J.E. Roberts, A.S. Williams, Mrs. E.J. Gale, J.B. Criddle, Mrs. M.J. Hallam, Mrs. J.H. Rao, W.H. Allen, G. Llewellyn, Mr. J. Dilworth, Mrs. H. Harris, Mr. W.G. Woodroffe, Mr. I. Palmer, Mrs. P. Cooper, Mr. W.T. Powell and Mr. R.B. Williams (Clerks of Argoed, Bargoed, Bedwas, Trethomas & Machen, Blackwood, Darran Valley, New Tredegar, Penyrheol, Trecenydd & Energlyn Community/Town Councils respectively).

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th October 2000 (a copy had been sent to each member) were received and noted.

MATERS ARISING

2. Cleansing of Parks, Rear Lanes, Weed Cleansing Programme

Reference was made to the report in relation to cleansing standards which had been sent to each Clerk and details of the specific zones within that report were discussed.

Further information was requested on the policy for the cleansing of parks and the Chief Environmental Health Officer indicated that he was currently examining the cleansing of parks as part of the general review of cleansing services following the recent merger of the client contractor function and would report further in due course.

He indicated that over the past few months there had been 31 fixed penalty litter notices issued, 13 dog fouling notices, 14 written warnings, 99 verbal warnings, 7 cases dealt with in Court for none payment of fines and 58 other approaches to the public. The representatives were invited to suggest specific areas that could be targeted by the Enforcement Team.

It was suggested that details of this nature should be published in Newline to promote more public awareness of the issue and the action that the Council are prepared to take against offenders.

Reference was made to the recent newspaper items in relation to the proposed strike by the litter pickers and it was reported that the strike had not proceeded as planned and that the matter is currently in the hands of ACAS.

TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS LIAISON COMMITTEE

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

3. Christmas Decorative Lighting

It was noted that the Council had not allocated additional funds to allow the immediate replacement of the identified defective street lighting columns which supported Christmas decorative lighting at Blackwood, Llanbradach, Maesycwmmmer and Nelson for 2000.

It was confirmed that a growth bid has been included for the financial year 2001/2002 to allow the accelerated replacement of defective units which support Christmas decorative lighting. It was stressed however that this bid joins many other competing items. The representatives of those areas affected requested details of the success or otherwise of the bid in order that they can make alternative arrangements if necessary.

4. Animal Trespass

It was confirmed that since the previous sub-committee, meetings have been held with local representatives at New Tredegar and Rhymney. Investigation into the location and frequency of complaints indicate that over 80% of the problems associated with straying animals are within the Upper Rhymney Valley area. Accordingly the majority of the officer's time is spent in or around that area or undertaking works resulting from visits to that area. Details of current impounding statistics were requested. It was reported that efforts to repair damaged fencing in the area are thwarted by vandals.

Reference was made to the practices adopted for the cleansing of playing fields generally and on a more specific note, a suggestion was made that a cattle grid placed before the bridge to Grove Park, New Tredegar playing fields would prevent future trespass. The Chief Environmental Health Officer indicated he would examine this proposal.

5. Traffic Calming Selection Process 2000-2001 Programme

Details of the traffic calming selection process and the costings of those schemes which have been approved for 2000/01 were noted. It was confirmed that the assessment process for traffic calming is on-going and requests that meet the criteria will be included on a list where they compete for inclusion in the capital programme in future years.

Those present expressed concern at the limited annual budget for traffic calming works and suggested that the sum should be increased in order that additional schemes can be undertaken. The report indicated that the National Assembly allocated additional grants to local authorities to progress safety schemes and as such, a further £159,000 has been made available for works this year which has provided a substantial boost to the number of schemes it is possible to undertake.

Reference was made to the approved Charter for Community/Town Councils and a view was expressed that certain of the specific subjects for consultation (i.e. major traffic management schemes and road safety schemes) are not being adhered to. It was agreed that Officers be reminded of the content of the Charter and to ensure that the necessary consultation is undertaken at the appropriate time.

6. Feasibility Study by Gwent Police Authority into the Possible Merger of 'C' and 'E' Divisions of Gwent Police

It was noted that the Police Authority has requested a meeting with representatives of the Council to discuss the issue further. Representatives from each political party will be attending the meeting with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Police Authority and the Chief Constable on 16th January 2001.

The representatives expressed concern that the Police Authority had not consulted them on the study and indicated that they would be raising the matter with those concerned when discussing the Annual Policing Plan.

7. Emergency Response Service Arrangements

Detail of the interim information note on the specific topic of arrangements for emergency response to conditions caused by severe weather such as heavy and prolonged rain, strong winds etc were noted. It was noted that winter maintenance is covered within the Winter Maintenance Plan (updated copies of which for 2000/2001 have recently been sent to all community/town councils). It was reported that it was intended that a special meeting be arranged in the New Year on this issue which will also summarise recent organisational changes and provide a general overview of the roles and responsibilities of the merged Highway Infrastructure Group.

It was agreed that a representative of the Gwent Authorities Planning Service be invited to attend that meeting.

8. REVENUE BUDGET STRATEGY - 2001/02

Information was requested on the current situation in respect of the budget, particularly in relation to the individual items that had been submitted by the community/town councils for consideration as part of the process. It was noted that a report is to be presented to Cabinet on 2nd January 2001 and agreed that a copy of the details would be forwarded to each Clerk for information and that they would be advised of the final budget allocations in due course.

9. UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

It was noted that the inquiry for the plan is scheduled for January/February 2001.

The meeting closed at 8.10 p.m.