

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMUNITY COUNCIL LIAISON SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, TREDOMEN ON WEDNESDAY, 27TH MARCH 2002 AT 7.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

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

Councillors:

Mrs. E.M. Aldworth, P.J Bevan, M.H. Newman, J.E. Newnham, D.J. Potter, H. Price

Representing Community/Town Councils:

Aber Valley	-	Mr J.S. Humphreys (Clerk)
Argoed	-	A.S. Williams, Mr D.R. Parry (Clerk)
Bargoed	-	H.M. Farrant, Mrs H. Harris (Clerk)
Bedwas, Trethomas & Machen	-	
Blackwood	-	J.B. Criddle
Caerphilly	-	Mrs M.J. Hallam, Mr M. Evans (Clerk)
Darran Valley	-	C.R. Roberts, Mrs P. Cooper (Clerk)
Gelligaer	-	Mrs M.R. Richards, Mrs A. Davies (Clerk)
Llanbradach	-	Mrs E.A Reed, Mr W.M. Thompson (Clerk)
Maesycwmmmer	-	Mrs J.H. Rao, Mr D. Cooper (Clerk)
Nelson	-	
New Tredegar	-	Mr W.T. Powell (Clerk)
Penyrheol, Trecenydd & Energlyn	-	
Rhymney	-	
Rudry	-	Mr J.L. Matthews (Clerk)
Van	-	D.G. Hill, Mr J. O'Brien (Clerk)

Together with

M. Williams (Public Services Manager), D. Price (Principal Parks and Open Spaces Officer),
H.C. Morgan (Senior Committee Services Officer)

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors H.A. Andrews, J. Bevan, P.D. Ford, Mrs. M.E. Hughes and Mrs. J.A. Pritchard, Community Councillors J.E. Roberts, Mrs. G. Howell, B. Mills, W. Gabb, Mrs. A. Nash and G. Llewellyn and Mr. W.G. Woodroffe, Mr. I. Palmer, Mr. A. Hoskins and Mr. R.B. Williams (Clerks of Bedwas, Trethomas and Machen, Blackwood, Nelson and Penyrheol, Trecenydd and Energlyn Community/Town Councils respectively).

1. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd January 2002 (a copy had been sent to each member) were received and noted.

MATTERS ARISING

2. **Assessment of Traffic Calming Requests (minute no 3)**

Reference was made to the proposed traffic calming measures at Gellideg Heights, Maesycwmmmer and clarification was sought as to the reasons that this site had been selected as opposed to others in the village. It was agreed to seek the information and advise the Clerk accordingly.

3. **Japanese Knotweed (minute no. 5)**

It was confirmed that the measurement of the success rate of last seasons spraying will take place early July. Mr Derek Price (Principal Parks and Open Spaces Officer) indicated that his staff had won the contract to spray certain areas (three times a year) and would be monitoring re-growth at those locations.

4. **Abandoned Supermarket Trolleys (minute no. 6)**

Concern was expressed that there appeared to be little progress made since the last meeting and that in certain areas of Caerphilly the situation had worsened. It was agreed that the concerns raised would be taken back to the Officer responsible in order that he can visit the stores in question and raise the issue with the respective managers.

Reference was made to a successful prosecution by the Environment Agency under the Water Resources Act and it was requested that the role of the Agency and its policies on abandoned trolleys be presented to the next meeting.

5. **Charter With Community/Town Councils (minute no. 9)**

It was noted that at its meeting on 7th March 2002, Council had agreed that subject to the inclusion of traffic orders in section 3 (consultation on specific subjects), the amended charter be approved.

TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS LIAISON COMMITTEE

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

6. **Christmas Lighting Controls**

The sub-committee noted the report which clarified the reasons for the differing costs of providing and installing the controls for Christmas lighting and noted that the extent of the work will vary dependent upon particular site conditions and estimates will therefore be site specific.

Specific reference was made to a situation that had arisen in Ystrad Mynach in respect of the amount of work required to certain columns to facilitate Christmas lighting. It was proposed that a meeting be convened with the Street Lighting Manager, the contractor and representatives of the community council in order to clarify the situation.

7. **Progress On Schools Anti Litter Campaign**

Mr M. Williams (Public Services Manager) detailed the presentation made to secondary heads on 8th March 2002 and made reference to the briefing note that they had been issued with prior to the start of an enforcement programme against school children (copies had been circulated to each member).

He indicated that the council spends approx £2 million per annum on street cleaning and that calculations have shown that £300,000 of this sum is spent cleaning litter generated by schoolchildren at peak times. Statistical information was presented which detailed the results of a survey (before and after lunch) to ascertain the affect that pupils were having on the cleanliness of the area undertaken during the Autumn Term of streets in the vicinity of all secondary schools. The survey was carried out against strict criteria laid down by Keep Wales Tidy in their 'Local Environment Audit and Management System.

Mr Williams indicated that the Legal Department have confirmed that the criminal age of responsibility for this offence has been clarified as being 10 years of age and that the Environmental Protection Act 1990 allows fixed penalty fines to be issued by Enforcement Officers. He confirmed that if the fine is paid then no further action will be taken. However, if it is not paid the council will instigate legal proceedings and prosecute summarily for the offence.

Overt surveillance will be carried out in the statistically worse areas as a deterrent and to identify specific problems. He indicated that each head teacher of the relevant schools will be contacted advising them of the legislation and their respective responsibilities. They will then be contacted and given a copy of the video as evidence to the problem. Head teachers will be asked via assemblies and other means to ensure that the children attending the school are made fully aware of the legal requirement. If the problems persist, a request will be made to the school to assist in the enforcement work whereby Enforcement Officers will issue fixed penalty notices to school children with copies being subsequently sent to their guardians. At this point, schools will be asked to confirm names and addresses of school children issued with fixed penalty notices.

It was noted that the Council sees a partnership approach with schools as the main way of combating and reducing litter in and around school premises. Mr Williams stressed however that the Council would not hesitate to use its enforcement powers where education and advice have proven to be ineffective.

8. Weekend Cleansing Of Parks

Mr Derek Price (Principal Parks and Open Spaces Officer) attended the meeting to detail the frequency and procedures undertaken by Parks services in order to cleanse parks areas within the borough. He made specific reference to the different works undertaken by the Parks Operation Staff under the grounds maintenance contract during the summer period and the autumn/winter months. He confirmed that during the summer period the cleansing by Parks Staff is supplemented by the Parks Ranges operating under the control of the Parks Outdoor Facilities Manager. These staff also cover the evening and weekends periods hence the cleaning operations where felt required are undertaken mainly later in the day except during weekends when the cleaning is normally undertaken during the early afternoon period.

With regards to open park areas (those which are open formal areas, playing fields, not within enclosed park areas) it was reported that they are given a per cut cleanse by Parks Staff during spring/summer grass maintenance season on a bi-weekly frequency.

Mr Price pointed out that further evaluation of the current operating procedures is being undertaken, in consultation with users, in order to identify savings and Officers are considering changing the current level of cleaning activities. Increases are being discussed and are planned to take place but if implemented will be at the expenses of other parks operations. He made reference to the recognition that there are difficulties in the delivery of cleansing between streets, parks and other relevant land areas and in this regard discussions are taken place on the merger of grounds maintenance and cleansing services.

During discussions on this item, reference was made to the community cleansing team operating in specific areas. It was noted that initially the Clerks had been advised when the team would be in their area (and invited to nominate specific areas) but that they had not been notified when the second visits were undertaken. It was agreed to raise this matter with the Officer concerned.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm