

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMUNITY COUNCIL LIAISON SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, TREDOMEN ON WEDNESDAY, 18TH SEPTEMBER 2002 AT 7.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

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

Councillors:

H.A. Andrews, D. Bolter, Mrs. M.E. Hughes, M.H. Newman, J.E. Newnham, H. Price

Representing Community/Town Councils:

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| Aber Valley | - | J.E. Roberts, Mr J.S. Humphreys (Clerk) |
| Argoed | - | Mr D.R. Parry (Clerk) |
| Bargoed | - | |
| 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 J.R. Hanson, Mr W.M. Thompson (Clerk) |
| Maesycwmmmer | - | Mrs J.H. Rao |
| Nelson | - | Mr A. Hoskins (Clerk) |
| New Tredegar | - | E. White |
| Penyrheol, Trecenydd & Energlyn | - | Mrs A. Nash, Mr R.B. Williams (Clerk) |
| Rhymney | - | Mrs M. Betts |
| Rudry | - | H. Williams, Mr J.L. Matthews (Clerk) |
| Van | - | |

Together with

L. Evans (Street Lighting Manager), P. Gomer (Head of Lifelong Learning and Leisure),
A. Isaacs (Head for Corporate Finance), H.C. Morgan (Senior Committee Services Officer)

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. E. M. Aldworth, Ms. E.E. Forehead, D.J. Potter and K.R. Snell, Community Councillors A.S. Williams, Mrs. G. Howell and Mrs. M. Derrett and Mrs. H. Harris, Mr. D. Allinson, Mr. I. Palmer, Mr. D. Cooper, Mr. W.T. Powell and Mr. J. O'Brien (Clerks of Bargoed, Bedwas, Trethomas and Machen, Blackwood, Maesycwmmmer, New Tredegar and Van Community/Town Councils respectively).

1. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th June 2002 (a copy had been sent to each member) were received and noted.

2. **MATTERS ARISING**

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

The current position in respect of proposals by Safeway to introduce a fee reclaim system for their trolleys was requested. It was agreed that the information be sought from the Environmental Health Manager and the Town Council be advised accordingly.

TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS LIAISON COMMITTEE

Consideration was given to the following items raised by the Community/Town Councils.

3. **CHRISTMAS LIGHTING GRANTS**

Mr. L. Evans, Street Lighting Manager, reported that £30,000 has been made available for Christmas decorative lighting and requested that application forms be submitted by the end of September. He indicated that a criteria has been adopted to assess each bid and that those areas that have little or no display will be given priority. It was anticipated that the applications will be assessed in October and notification sent by the first week of November.

In response to a query, it was noted that the sum allocated to the proposed scheme at Deri Square which, in view of the timescales had been unable to proceed last year, had been retained until the scheme is able to proceed.

Irrespective of the outcome of the bids, Mr. Evans requested details of proposed lighting arrangements and the contractor appointed to undertake the works.

It was suggested that, if possible, Community/Town Councils should provide an inventory of their investment in Christmas declarative lighting over the years to indicate their ongoing commitment to the project.

4. **COMMUNITY CENTRES CONSTITUTION**

Mr. P. Gomer, Head of Lifelong Learning and Leisure, indicated that the revisions to the Constitution had arisen following consultation with the Charities Commission to enable the Management Committees to seek charitable status and access various sources of funding that are currently unavailable to them. He confirmed that the document has been accepted by the Community Centres Forum and the Community Centre Management Committees and is in the process of being adopted at their respective Annual General Meetings. It was agreed that a copy of the Constitution be sent to each Clerk.

Reference was made to the future funding of community centres and it was noted that all budgets are set on an annual basis and unfortunately if budget savings have to be made the community centre budget would not be isolated from this process. As far as the wording of the document is concerned in relation to the funding of maintenance works, this has not changed and funding will continue as budgets permit.

Reference was also made to the difficulties in recruiting volunteers to serve on the Management Committees and it was noted that there is a dedicated Officer to assist its members in their role.

5. **BUDGET PROCESS**

Mr. A. Isaacs, Head of Corporate Finance, referred to the budget process which is followed each year, and to the wide range of submissions received from the Community/Town Councils, which are also considered at that time.

He suggested that the Community/Town Councils identify their priorities and submit the details early in October in order that they can be forwarded to the appropriate department to be assessed. The representatives were reminded that the Council has faced huge challenges in setting previous years budgets in order to maintain existing service delivery and whilst worthwhile projects will undoubtedly come forward, there can be no guarantee any of these will be able to be accommodated in next years budget.

The representatives requested feedback on whether their schemes had been successful or otherwise.

6. **OFF ROAD MOTORCYCLING**

Members were pleased to note that an event had been held on a site in Rhymney and, while a full report has yet to be received, initial indications are that the event did not cause any problems either for the participants or the general public.

Despite the lack of interest from private landowners in allowing motorcycle clubs to use their land Officers are still pursuing this avenue. Recent meetings with local motorcycle clubs have indicated that they are very keen to assist the Council and the Police in combating this problem and there are ongoing discussions with them to determine how this can be achieved.

7. **ANIMAL TRESPASS PROBLEMS**

It was noted that a meeting is to be arranged with interested parties to discuss animal trespass issues and that representatives of the relevant Community Councils will be invited to attend. Written advice is awaited from Barristers on the use of available legal powers and will be reported to a future meeting. With regards to the charging arrangements, the increased charges for impounded animals came into force on 1st September 2002 and letters have been sent out notifying farmers of these changes. It is too early to report back on the impact of these changes at the moment but information will be provided at the next meeting. Following a query, it was confirmed that animals not collected from the pound are either sold or destroyed depending on their condition.

8. **CCTV OPERATIONS**

Reference was made to the number of CCTV schemes operating (and proposed) and to the role of the mobile CCTV vehicle, which is deployed most evenings, and at weekends in known trouble spots. Locations identified by Community/Town Councils will be considered for inclusion on this scheme.

It was noted that the system is monitored 365 days per year 24 hours per day by 11 full-time and 3 part-time members of staff with 2 operators on each shift. All staff are fully trained and operate the system in accordance with strict Codes of Practice. All screens are monitored live and in addition, a simultaneous video recording is made of the pictures from each camera. The monitoring station has a direct communications link to Police Headquarters at Croesyceiliog so that any incidents noticed by the controller can be switched so as to be viewed by the Police simultaneously. When the police become involved and video evidence is necessary, tapes are handed over in accordance with a set protocol and any decision on what action is necessary is a matter for them.

Details of the summary of CCTV statistics would be sent to each Clerk.

9. **DEVELOPMENT OF A WASTE TRANSFER AND MATERIAL RECYCLING FACILITY AT PANTGLAS INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, BEDWAS**

It was reported that as part of the consultation process in the approved charter, arrangements have been made for a special meeting to be held on 16th October 2002 (6.00 p.m.) when a presentation will be given by the Public Services Manager, Mr. Mark Williams, on the proposed development of a waste transfer and material recycling facility at Pantglas Industrial Estate, Bedwas.

The meeting closed at 7.45 p.m.