

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMUNITY COUNCIL LIAISON SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, TREDOMEN ON WEDNESDAY, 21ST APRIL 2004 AT 7.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Community Councillor J.B. Criddle - Chairman
Councillor C.P. Mann – Vice - Chairman

Councillors:

Mrs. E.M. Aldworth, D. Bolter, Mrs. M.E. Hughes, C.P. Mann, J.E. Newnham, D.J. Potter.

Representing Community/Town Councils:

Aber Valley	- J.E. Roberts, Mr. J.S. Humphreys (Clerk)
Argoed	- Mr. D.R. Parry (Clerk)
Bargoed	- H.M. Farrant
Bedwas, Trethomas & Machen	- Mrs. G. Howell, Mr. D. Allinson (Clerk)
Blackwood	- J.B. Criddle
Caerphilly	- Mr. M. Evans (Clerk)
Darran Valley	- Mrs. P. Cooper (Clerk)
Gelligaer	- Mrs. A. Davies (Clerk)
Llanbradach	- Mrs. A. Reed, Mr. W.M. Thompson (Clerk)
Maesycwmmmer	- Mrs. J.H. Rao
Nelson	- Mrs. M.A. Derrett
New Tredegar	-
Penyrheol, Trecenydd & Energlyn	- Mrs. A. Nash, Mr. R.B. Williams (Clerk)
Rhymney	- Mrs. M. Betts
Rudry	- Mr. J.L. Matthews (Clerk)
Van	- Mr. J. O'Brien (Clerk)

Together with

B. Screen (Electoral Services Manager), N. Rutter (Web Editor), 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.J. Bevan, Mrs. A. Collins, M.H. Newman and Mrs. J.A. Pritchard, Community Councillors: A.S. Williams, Mrs. M. J. Hallam, C.R. Roberts, Mrs. M.R. Richards, H. Williams and Mrs. E. Macey, Mr. I. Palmer, Mr. D. Cooper, Mr. J. Dilworth and Mr. A. Hoskins (Clerks of Blackwood, Maesycwmmmer, Bargoed and Nelson Community/Town Councils respectively).

1. MINUTES – 21ST JANUARY AND 18TH FEBRUARY 2004

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st January and 18th February 2004 (a copy had been sent to each member) were received and noted.

MATTER ARISING

2. Attendance at Planning Site Visits

It was noted that the request for a Community Council representative to attend planning site visits is being considered.

TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS LIAISON COMMITTEE

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

3. Election Timetable

Mr. Screen (Electoral Services Manager) indicated that it is not possible to provide apportioned estimated election costs at this stage as it is not yet known which areas will be contested. He pointed out that the closing date for nomination papers is 13th May 2004 and that he would be in a better position to provide information after that time.

He indicated however that the fees for staff/hire of premises will be apportioned at 50% to European elections and 50% to County Borough/Community Council elections and as such, in those areas where there is a contest, the Community Council will contribute 25% to those costs. In areas where there may be no County Borough contest and there is a Community Council contest the contribution would be 50%. The costs of Community Council ballot papers will fall solely on individual Community Councils. Mr Screen pointed out that in areas where there is no contest, there would still be a small cost for those details already printed.

It was confirmed that as in previous years, Community/Town Councils would be permitted to stage their payments over a period of four years.

Mr. Screen indicated that the nomination forms are now available for distribution and should Clerks wish to hand copies to their existing members they should make arrangements to collect them from the Electoral Services Department.

4. Web Site Provision

Mr. Rutter (Web Editor) gave a presentation and demonstrated the aims and objectives of the website, discussed the target audience and pointed out the necessity to ensure that the data contains accurate information and is regularly updated.

He then detailed the options which are available to the Community/Town Councils and indicated that the County Borough would be prepared to provide one page on its website (to include contact details of each Community/Town Council) at no charge. Should the Community/Town Council require a dedicated website, for each page a charge of £150 would be made (as a one off payment). The website would then become the responsibility of the respective Community/Town Council and it would be required to update the information as necessary.

Mr. Rutter requested that individual Community/Town Councils contact him directly should they wish to proceed in order that requirements can be discussed, an assessment of need determined and any necessary arrangements can be made.

5. Allocation of Parks Operations and Outdoor Facilities Surpluses

Details of the report presented to Cabinet on 10th February 2004 which had sought approval to reinvest a percentage of the available declared surpluses generated by the in-house parks grounds maintenance and outdoor facilities DSO sections back into parks areas and sports pavilions were noted.

Mr. Price (Principal Parks and Open Spaces Officer) confirmed that Cabinet had agreed the recommendations as detailed in the report and as such, £24k had been allocated into the parks grounds maintenance front line service and £10k for outdoor facilities to energy reduction measures at several sports pavilions within the County Borough. Parks operations will also be investing a further £88k in a number of areas (including training of staff, fine turf machinery requirement, general mower fleet requirements, security improvements (including CCT development at Abercarn depot) and £20k as part of the agreed depot rationalisation strategy.

A query was raised as to whether any of this finance could be used to enhance the current regime of the cleansing of parks. Mr Price indicated that these finances have been allocated for other purposes but that Officers are currently examining the parks budget to determine whether additional resources can be identified. He pointed out that the current standards being used are being assessed and that Officers are considering a daily clean in those sites (33 in total) which have been identified as problem areas. Consideration is also being given to the provision of an all encompassing cleansing services, an option whereby Park Ranger staff undertake an additional service in the evening, and to a pilot scheme to reintroduce park wardens.

Members were pleased to be advised of these initiatives and it was agreed that further information would be provided in due course.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - 21ST JULY 2004

The Chairman, indicated that the next meeting would not be until 21st July 2004 (after the County Borough Community/Town Council elections) and wished to place on record his appreciation to those who have supported and assisted him during his term as Chairman. He referred to the valuable contributions all have made at the meetings. The Vice-Chairman reiterated the comments made to the members by Community Councillor J. Criddle and also wished to thank him for the role he has undertaken as Chairman of the Sub-Committee.

The meeting closed at 8.15 p.m.