



## COMMUNITY COUNCIL LIAISON SUB-COMMITTEE

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, TREDOMEN ON WEDNESDAY, 26TH APRIL 2006 AT 7.00 P.M.

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PRESENT:

Community Councillor C. Roberts - Chairman

Councillors:

Mrs. E.M. Aldworth, D. Bolter, Mrs. A. Collins, C.P. Duggan, K.M. Derrick, G.G. Hibbert,  
C.P. Mann, M.H. Newman, A.S. Williams

Representing Community/Town Councils:

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

Together with

Mr. B. Screen (Electoral Services Manager), Mr. I. G. Medicott (Monitoring Officer),  
H.C. Morgan (Senior Committee Services Officer)

### APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J. Bevan, L. Gardiner and Mrs. J.A. Pritchard, Community Councillors Mrs. M.J. Hallam, J.E. Roberts, Mrs. J. Sweet, I. Hughes, D. Roberts and Mrs. G. Bevan, Mr. J. Dilworth, Mr. D. Allinson, Mr. I. Palmer and Mr. A. Hoskins (Clerks of Aber Valley, Bargoed and Rudry, Bedwas, Trethomas and Machen, Blackwood and Nelson Community/Town Councils respectively).

**1. MINUTES - 18TH JANUARY 2006**

Subject to it being noted that the details of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman have been transposed and should read - Community Councillor C. Roberts - Chairman and Councillor L. Gardiner - Vice - Chairman, the minutes of the meeting held on 18th January 2005 (a copy had been sent to each member) were received and noted.

**2. MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

**TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS LIAISON COMMITTEE**

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

**3. COMMUNITY REVIEW**

Mr. B. Screen (Electoral Services Manager) highlighted the content of the report which advised of the need to conduct a review of the communities within the county borough and the procedures which need to be followed in order to achieve this.

It was noted that Local Government Boundary Commission (Wales) are anxious to ensure that all authorities undertake a review of the Communities in their area by December 2006 to facilitate their Review of Principal Councils during 2007/2008. The review would entail looking at both (a) the establishment, dissolution, amalgamation and boundaries of the community areas and (b) the administrative arrangements of existing and any proposed changes. i.e. warding arrangements and the number of community councils.

It was confirmed that whilst the principal council has a responsibility to undertake the review of Community areas recommendations for change are made to the Boundary Commission for Wales who in turn would make any recommendations, based on the Councils findings, to the National assembly for Wales to make an Order implementing any change with or without any modifications.

Mr. Screen pointed out that in undertaking the review, regard must be made to the legislative process, which includes setting a timetable for advertising the review, consultation on draft proposals, holding any inquiries and providing the final report.

He then went through the content of the community review draft and highlighted specific guidance on warding arrangement, electorate statistics, unitary development plan proposals, demographic changes, Councillor allocations and warding arrangements. He confirmed that there are three stages during the review at which comments and submissions may be made. During the introductory stage, submissions will be welcomed and will assist in drawing up draft proposals (to be received by the end of June 2006). Draft proposals will be published in July 2006 and a three-month consultation period will follow with the deadline for submissions being October 2006. Final proposals will be published in November 2006 for adoption by Council by the end of December.

During the course of the discussion, it was pointed out that, with regards to the Councillor allocation in table 5, the rating for Aber Valley should read 1.43 and not 1.34 as detailed and that within Community Councillor statistics, the number of Councillors for Van have been transposed and should read Brynau 2 and Lansbury 4.

In conclusion, Mr. Screen indicated that a report is to be presented to Council on 16th May 2006 seeking approval of the proposed timetable and that community/town councils would be formally consulted after that time.

#### **4. CODE OF CONDUCT**

Mr I.G. Medlicott (Monitoring Officer), attended the meeting to detail changes to the Code of Conduct in respect of standards and the impact on town and community councils, in particular looking at where the Ombudsman can investigate complaints against community councillors and clerks, identifying the process and the possible impact.

It was noted that with effect from 1st April 2006, the Ombudsman became the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (now dealing with Assembly and Health Service complaints as well) and now has jurisdiction to investigate complaints of maladministration against community/town councils.

It was pointed out however that a maladministration complaint can only be made about something which has happened after 1st April 2006 (if the alleged maladministration is before that date then the Ombudsman does not have jurisdiction) and that the Ombudsman will expect a complainant to have raised the concern with the council first and that it will have tried to resolve the matter or have investigated the complaint before he will look at it.

In relation to the code of conduct, Mr. Medlicott reported that the draft regulations from the Assembly to review the Code of Conduct were withdrawn at short notice and is now proposing to go out to a further consultation exercise on changes to the Code. He indicated that had the original proposals proceeded, he had anticipated being in the middle of training but until the consultation is carried out, the existing code applies and the Ombudsman's role remains unchanged. Training for members will be carried out once the regulations are in place.

#### **5. SECTION 17 - CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998**

Reference was made to the provisions of Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act which provides that all relevant authorities (which include community/town councils) must have duty to consider the impact of their decisions on crime and disorder in their communities and to the request for advice as to how this should be progressed.

In view of the nature of the provisions of the Act and its implications, it was agreed that a seminar be held for all Community/Town Councillors at the Tredomen Chamber on Monday 22nd May 2006 commencing at 6.30pm.

#### **6. CLEANSING OF PARKS AND OPEN SPACES**

Consideration was given to the report which provided information on the current situation in parks and open spaces in relation to the collection of litter, emptying of litter bins and sweeping of footpaths.

Details of the revised parks cleansing schedules as outlined in the appendix to the report were noted and it was agreed that the schedule be monitored over the next few months and its content be discussed further at the meeting scheduled for 19th July 2006 when the Principal Parks and Open Spaces Officer, Mr. D. Price, will be present.

The meeting closed at 8.00 p.m.