



## COMMUNITY COUNCIL LIAISON SUB-COMMITTEE

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN PARK ON WEDNESDAY 24TH JULY 2013 AT 7.00 P.M.

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PRESENT:

Councillor L. Gardiner - Chairman

Councillors:

Mrs. A. Blackman, C.J. Cuss, H. Davies, C. Hawker, A.G. Higgs, G.J. Hughes, A. Lewis,  
J.A. Pritchard

Community/Town Council Representatives

Aber Valley	-	
Argoed	-	G. Lewis, Mr. G. James (Clerk)
Bargoed	-	H. Llewellyn,
Bedwas, Trethomas and Machen	-	
Blackwood	-	J. Criddle
Caerphilly	-	
Darran Valley	-	T. Powell
Draethen, Waterloo and Rudry	-	
Gelligaer	-	Ms. C. Mortimer (Clerk)
Llanbradach	-	S. Taviner, Mr. W.M. Thompson (Clerk)
Maesycwmmmer	-	Miss. J. Rao
Nelson	-	Mrs. P. Baldwin, Mrs. G. Davies
New Tredegar	-	
Penyrheol, Trecenydd and Energlyn	-	Mrs. H. Treherne (Clerk)
Rhymney	-	
Risca East	-	Mr. G. James (Clerk)
Risca Town	-	B. Hancock, Mrs. C. Mortimer (Clerk)
Van	-	Mrs. E. Macey

Together with:-

Jonathan Jones (Democratic Services Manager), Nick Rutter (Web Editor), Alex Clarke (Information Officer ITU), Mark Williams (Head of Community and Leisure Services), Simon James (Forgotten Landscapes and Crime Prevention Officer, Caerphilly LPU), Lyndon Ross (Senior Environmental Health Officer), Helen Morgan (Senior Committee Services Officer)

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. G. Bevan, D. Bolter, Mrs. D. Ellis, Mrs. E. Forehead, M.P. James, D. V. Poole (Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services), J. Pritchard and J.E. Roberts, Community Councillors D. Davies, Mrs. J. Hibbert, T. Parry, D. Woodman and Mrs. A. Nash and Mrs. S. Hughes, Mrs. L. Tamms, Mrs. S. Chick, Mr. J. Hold, Mr. K. Williams, Mrs. G. Thomas, Mr. A. Hoskins, Mrs. H. Treherne and Mr. J. Dilworth (Clerks of Aber Valley, Bargoed, Bedwas, Trethomas and Machen/Draethen, Waterloo and Rudry, Blackwood, Caerphilly, Darran Valley/Rhymney, Maesycwmmmer, Nelson, Penyrheol, Trecenydd and Energlyn and Van Community/Town Councils respectively).

**2. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

Community Councillor Josie Rao was appointed Chairman of the Sub Committee for the ensuing year.

**3. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN**

Councillor L. Gardiner was appointed Vice-Chairman of the Sub Committee for the ensuing year.

**4. MINUTES – 20TH MARCH 2013**

Subject to it being noted that Councillor H. Davies had been recorded as present when he had given his apologies, the minutes of the meeting held on 20th March 2013 (min. nos. 1 - 10 on page nos. 1 - 4)(a copy had been sent to each member) were received and noted.

**5. WELSH GOVERNMENT GRANT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY AND TOWN COUNCIL WEBSITES**

Mr. Jones advised that the Welsh Government has provided the Council with grant funding to enable community/town councils to develop or improve websites which allow better public accessibility and the publication of documents (a maximum of £500 per community/town council). The Local Government (Democracy)(Wales) Bill requires that community/town councils should publish information and be contactable on-line. Each community/town council must make available electronically information on how to contact it and, if different, details of its clerk, information about each of its members, the minutes of the proceedings of the community/town council's meetings and (in so far as is reasonably practicable) any documents which are referred to in the minutes and audited statement of the council's accounts.

He referred to two alternative offers in order to access the grant funding.

Option 1 - Caerphilly County Borough Council to develop and host websites - this solution will provide for the design and development of a website for community/town councils.

Option 2 - community/town councils commission and host their website - the terms of the Welsh Government grant agreement allows the Council to pass on a maximum of £500 to each community/town council as long as the content of the website is compliant with the requirements of the Local Government Democracy Wales Act 2013. The cost of developing and hosting the website will be reimbursed up to a maximum of £500 and must be developed and be online before 1st March 2014 (claims must be made by no later than 10th March 2014).

With regards to option 1 it was explained that the county borough is able to offer community/town councils an Internet package utilising the £500 grant from the Welsh Government. It will include the development of individual websites for each community/town council allowing them to update the information on the websites themselves using a Content Management System. Mr. Jones advised that it is proposed that the website will be developed using a template similar to the Bargoed Town Council website. This will allow each website to be developed quickly and make it easier to provide ongoing support. Each community/town council will be able to choose their own colour scheme, photographs and tailor the information to give it a local community feel.

As part of the process the Web Editor (Mr. Nick Rutter) advised that he will meet with each community/town council to establish their individual requirements and set out a clear and timely plan for producing their website. A prototype of each website will be produced to allow for feedback and amendments to be made and the content will then be added to the Content Management System before going live. The county borough will train 2 nominated individuals in each community/town council as to how to maintain their website and, where required, host each of the websites, provide technical support for the Content Management System, edit content (text and photographs) if required, offer advice on future requirements, provide refresher training as required and give advice on how to promote usage of the websites and domain name registration. In order to provide this support there will be an annual charge of £500.

The Members were pleased to learn that these options are available to community/town councils already operating websites as well as those that do not. It was confirmed that if a site has already developed but it does not have the functionality required then a grant for funding can be received to improve the website. If the website already has the functionality there is still an opportunity to access grant funding to improve the website.

Mr. Jones advised that he would be writing to each community/town council detailing the options available and seeking confirmation as to which they would wish to take forward.

## **TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS LIAISON COMMITTEE**

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

### **5. PUBLIC TRANSPORT, NELSON**

Concerns were expressed at the timings of the X78 and X38 from Nelson bus station. As there are two buses within five minutes of each other, a request was made that the timings be changed to accommodate more flexibility for passengers.

Alex Clarke (Information Officer ITU) advised that the services involved are all provided commercially and the Council has no control over the times operators choose to run these routes. He advised that the X38 service operates without any subsidy and the recent timetable changes by the NAT Group were designed to improve reliability. The initial service was introduced at short notice in February to replace the former Glamorgan Bus service which was not sustainable, as the timetable was based on one bus operating the service the whole day, (which did not work and caused reliability problems). The new timetable works with another local service in Pontypridd and is timed to meet other services, which allows the operator to schedule a more reliable service. This has resulted in a change to the timetable.

Members were advised of the cut in Local Transport Service Grant funding allocated to the Council from the Welsh Government and the cut in the rate of Bus Services Operator Grant (a rebate on fuel duty for bus operators) which increases the cost of providing bus services. As such operators commercially and review their routes on a regular basis. The process of

Operators wishing to make changes in their timetable was explained.

During the course of the debate reference was also made to the withdrawal of service 7 which allowed residents from Nelson to disembark for Ystrad Hospital. Mr. Clarke explained that the C16 will provide that service.

Members thanked Mr. Clarke for the information provided and for responding to the queries raised.

## **7. UPDATE ON PROSIECT GWYRDD - MARK WILLIAMS**

Mr. Williams confirmed that each of the five local authority partners (Caerphilly, Cardiff, Monmouthshire, Newport, Vale of Glamorgan) have appointed Viridor as the preferred bidder. Viridor proposals involve the development of an Energy from Waste Plant at Trident Park, Cardiff and it is anticipated that the signing of the contract award will take place in the Summer of 2013, Following a transition period after the signing it is probable that the plant will be commissioned in 2015 with full service commencement in April 2016.

Members were reminded that the procurement process commenced in 2008 and a number of procurement stages have been completed (pre-qualification of tenderers, outline solutions stage, detailed solutions stage, final tenders stage and identification of preferred bidder). Details were available in reports on the Council's website (apart for the information of a commercially sensitive/confidential nature).

Further information was requested on the type of incinerator (grate type, operational temperatures, flue gas cleaning equipment, flue gas temperature etc) and Mr. Williams advised that he did not have the information to hand but would seek the detail and attend the next meeting.

Following the request at the last meeting that the slides that were tabled at the meeting be reissued without the colour background and in a larger font size, it was noted that as they had been downloaded from the website it had not been possible to change the format. At that time details of the financial implication had also been requested and the information that is available (and not commercially sensitive) had been sent to each Clerk for information.

## **8. NUISANCE QUAD AND OFF ROAD BIKES ON MOUNTAINS**

Simon James (Forgotten Landscapes and Crime Prevention Officer, Caerphilly LPU) and Lyndon Ross (Senior Environmental Health Officer) attended the meeting to discuss nuisance quad and off road bikes on mountains/roads.

As raised at the last meeting, Mr. James advised that illegal off road motorcycling (particularly motocross/ scrambling) is a major problem in all parts of the county borough and throughout Wales. The activity causes damage to land, some of its participants damage fences and gates to gain access to land, it creates a danger to other members of the public and can be a major noise nuisance. He confirmed that the activity of off road motorcycling is not in itself illegal. It is a recognised sport and is subject to rules and regulations issued by its governing bodies. Where it is properly regulated and carried out with the permission of the landowner it is an attraction for participants and spectators and, in some areas, can be a boost to the local economy.

Mr. James advised that his role has developed and he now covers the whole of the county borough. Whilst he would wish to be able to do so, in view of the geographical area he advised that it not possible to cover all areas at the same time. In that he concentrates on problems areas he requested details of any areas that are perceived to be problematic in order that the areas can be monitored and targeted accordingly. Several Members made

reference to specific problems in their areas and were advised to provide the information in order that they can be logged and investigated (simon.james@gwent.pnn.police.uk). Mr. James advised that Community Officers are able to assist by serving a Section 59 Notice. Whilst the wardens do not replace Police, Rangers or any other kind of wardens, they complement existing services and help ensure a co-ordinated response to problems in the local area.

During the course of the debate, reference was made to those vehicles which use the highway and it was noted that some do meet the requirements of a motor vehicle and as such, if they meet the required legislation (insurance/tax) they are permitted to use the highway. Mr. James advised that from experience those that comply with the regulations will stop at his request but those who do not comply will not. He advised that he is able to follow such vehicles on the mountain but not those on the road. Those that are displaced from one location usually find an alternative site elsewhere. Members expressed concerns that there appear to be a growing number of people who are not aware of the rules and regulations or do not wish to comply with them and ride wherever they wish without the consent of the landowner and without regard to the needs of other land users.

Mr. Ross advised that the Countryside and Landscape Section and Environmental Services Division will continue to work with Gwent Police, the Forestry Commission and local landowners to try and control the problems caused by the illegal driving of vehicles off road, particularly those riding motorcycles who use them for motocross. The approach adopted has been to try to tackle the problem, through the identification of suitable sites for legitimate off road use for motocross, publicity about the law and enforcement of the law. Given the topography of the county borough and the close proximity of centres of population to the rural areas it was accepted that it would prove difficult to find a site for regular use for motocross within the county borough which is satisfactory to the general population. It was also recognised that if such a site is identified, not all would use the facilities and there would still be a problem with illegal off road motorcycling.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm

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CHAIRMAN