

Appendix

48

18 Graham Simmonds

18 Grange Hill

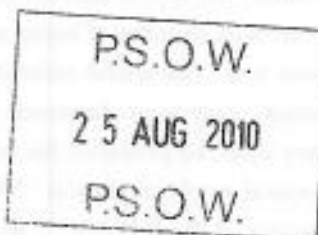
Bonnie View

Blackwood

Gwent

NP12 3PE

19th July 2010



FAO Miss Laura Phillips

Dear Miss Phillips

RE ref no 200900929/LP,

1. I have a brief understanding.
2. Yes
3. Since 1999
4. Training has been provided, I attended on 9th September 2008.
5. Yes, I was a member of the regeneration scrutiny committee
6. I had called for a report on traffic congestion **FOURTEEN** months before the report finally came to scrutiny. As the instigator of the report I spoke on the lack of any of the information I had requested. Not one of the Road Traffic Impact Assessments was included or any of the actual traffic counts.
7. I tried on several occasions to make the point that scrutiny was being thwarted by the quite silly report that had taken **fourteen** months to prepare and contained none of the requested information. I also tried to make the point that Mr Clive Campbell had quite wilfully refused to comply with the Code of Conduct (Qualifying Local Government Employees) (Wales) Order 2001, Welsh Statutory Instrument 2001 N0 2280 (W.170) Mrs Jenkins refused to address the point, and Mr C. Campbell simply ignored the point. The RTIA's had been lost for **FOURTEEN** months, after all.
8. The chair of the meeting Cllr Jenkins refused to address the simple point that the report presented was not the report requested. Any link between the report presented and traffic congestion in Blackwood was by pure accident.
9. The chair Cllr Jenkins refused wilfully to address the point I made to have the Public Servant Mr C. Campbell explain why he had refused to bring the report requested. When the chair called me to order I complied. I should like to point out that scrutiny is a Statutory Function, Mr C. Campbell had failed to comply with his obligations under the act. Cllr Jenkins refused to put the question, of the requested report to him. Cllr Jenkins also refused to address the point of the Code of Conduct (Qualifying Local Government Employees) (Wales) Order 2001, Welsh Statutory Instrument 2001 N0 2280 (W.170).
10. I simply was not asked to leave, when called to order I complied.

11. I had waited fourteen months for the report on traffic congestion in Blackwood, (see previous bundle) the report that Mr Campbell brought to scrutiny was not the report I had requested. Fourteen months of being told by Mr Campbell, every Road Traffic Impact Assessment had been lost. The wilful refusal to run TRICS or White Young and Green traffic assessments was simply very unprofessional. From that base it is impossible to hold the executive to account, they after all prepared the report, they presented the report, and they control every aspect of council implementation. Why would they admit, their lack of consideration for the negative impact of the RTIA's? Caerphilly had spent some £2 million in officer's wages to prepare the UDP, the net impact of the £2 million was to flood Blackwood with traffic. When I called for the report, the Caerphilly LDP was being prepared, it would have been, and I believe the right thing to do. To revisit the RTIA's of the UDP five years on, and see what lessons could be learnt, going into the UDP process. That simple logic was thwarted by Mr Campbell delaying for fourteen months the report I had requested. Strange how the RTIA's were found, just weeks later, when they were of no use.
12. I am afraid I can't recall any interventions, the report was very, very amateurish, but the determination not to be scrutinised on the all too predictable traffic generation post the development in and around Blackwood was absolute. Caerphilly spent hundreds of thousands of pounds on professional reports on traffic generation, and ignored them all, when I requested the impact assessments to come to scrutiny there were all lost for fourteen months.
13. The only question I posed to Mr Campbell was, and I asked this question several times, "where is the information I requested" Mr Campbell refused to answer and Cllr Jenkins refused to instruct Mr Campbell to answer. The statutory function of scrutiny, clearly does not reach Regeneration in Caerphilly.
14. I am unsure of the date but I met with the monitoring officer to express my total dissatisfaction of the scrutiny process in Caerphilly. My ward has borne the brunt of the all too predictable traffic generation post the development in Blackwood, the mitigation measures have been a near zero. I asked about the Code of Conduct (Qualifying Local Government Employees) (Wales) Order 2001, Welsh Statutory Instrument 2001 NO 2280 (W.170) and the requirement to be treated with openness, helpfulness, impartially, respect and equality. I made the point that officers have to be accountable for the decisions they take, no one is responsible for the lost traffic assessments, or the all too predictable traffic congestion in Blackwood and my ward. There was no outcome, the lost reports, the failure to run TRICS or White Young and Green assessments, and of course no one is responsible, ever.
15. There is a political motive driving these complaints, if anyone makes the claim I have threatened them, it is the first I have heard of it. Cllr Jenkins chairs the scrutiny on the basis that officers are there to be thanked, not questioned on outcomes. I was forced to wait fourteen months for the report, fourteen months of being told the TRIA's had been lost. Fourteen months of being told Caerphilly refused to run the figures on TRICS of White Young and Green, Cllr Jenkins refused to see the failure of Qualifying Officers to comply with their obligations. Cllr Jenkins has failed to ensure scrutiny works. I have taken the liberty of including the letter of response I sent to Cllr Jenkins, in reply to her letter of 16th September 2008, the lady has

declined to answer any of the questions I posed to date, despite supplying Cllr Jenkins the letter several times, and finally circulating the letter to the scrutiny committee. Cllr Jenkins has refused to reply. The last regeneration scrutiny I attended, Cllr Jenkins refused to allow me to ask questions on indicators of deprivation, despite the fact that GDP in Caerphilly has fallen by 7% against the U.K. Index since 2000. I complained to the Chief Ex of Caerphilly, who was present at the meeting, but of course nothing followed. This is so typical of scrutiny in Caerphilly

16. No, I have not.

17. Reports in Caerphilly are expected to take two cycles to present, or three months, certainly not the **fourteen** months this report took, reports are also to be accurate, complete and impartial. Mr Campbell failed on all counts, Cllr Jenkins refused to instruct Mr Campbell to explain why, why the RTIA's were not in the report, why the actual traffic counts were not included in the report. Such is the state of scrutiny in Caerphilly, I have come off the regeneration scrutiny committee. I have in fact come off all bar one of the committees I used to be on, there is such a failure to understand, that major developments lead to more traffic, poor education, leads to low value added jobs, or no jobs. Scrutiny is a many million pound failure, delay, prevarication, and meaningless reports, Mr Campbell claimed there were serious problems with traffic congestion in Blackwood. A statement I fully endorsed, why then were none of the RTI's were ever included in any planning application brought to planning by Caerphilly CBC. Yet each of the Blackwood developments had a RTI, or could have been calculated using a system called TRICS, or White Young and Green which is used across the U.K. to determine traffic flows before development takes place, except in Caerphilly it seems. Though scrutiny is a statutory function of local government, it has no voice, local concern, was walked on for **fourteen** months, and then silenced, by apathy.

Yours Truly



Graham Simmonds

18 Grange Hill
Bonnie View
Blackwood
Gwent
NP12 3PE
30th October 2008

Dear Cllr Jenkins

It is with interest I read your letter dated 23rd October 2008, in particular the part about team working. Please be kind enough to inform me where the public who pay the officer wages and councillor's allowances and expenses were represented, within team Caerphilly?

I provided reports detailing the traffic generating developments in Ystrad Mynach, thanks to Dr Peppin seven in all. I also provided the list of developments taken into consideration for traffic assessment, four in total. The difference is between 8,000 and 9000 vehicles per day. You may not be aware but the purpose of scrutiny is to hold the executive to account, for policy decisions and implementation. Not to scurry through reports and offer profuse thanks.

The failure to "do a good Job" is clear, if you listen and read. The fact Caerphilly did neither will now cost some £8 million+, ask Colin where he intends to raise that money? The end result of the failure to comprehend will in addition to the millions, cause eighteen months of total chaos in Ystrad Mynach, with delays and unavoidable hold ups. I am sure you will be very understanding of the inevitable public outcry. You are possibly also not aware scrutiny allows up to fifteen minutes of questioning.

Caerphilly is firmly entrenched in the bottom quartile of education attainment in Wales, 35% of school leavers in 2008 have difficulty with basic numeracy and literacy (WAG information), and this leads through to the fact that despite the much applauded hard work of everyone (your words) we have seen GDP fall by 6% in Gwent Valleys over the period of Structural Funding. The simple fact is despite the claim of securing thousands of jobs and providing thousands more. Those jobs have no value added element to our economy. How can this be? Please be kind enough to give me your personal explanation?

The purpose of scrutiny is to find out why, not to thank people for reports. When international test results place countries like Latvia and Lithuania above Wales in English and maths, remember Caerphilly is in the bottom quartile of attainment in Wales. Please bear in mind the third world nature of Latvia and Lithuania, my expectation was, or used to be, even councillors in Caerphilly should be interested in why, now I am not sure, are we?

The fact is scrutiny is not allowed to work as intended. You are probably not aware but the Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment I asked questions on during the meeting 16th September 2008 the document containing all the quality of life infrastructure support for the public in team Caerphilly. The questions and answers as I explained on 28th October 2008 had not come back to scrutiny, please ensure they do, I have however been told, the document was never intended for implementation.

That is the answer I have received, the question for scrutiny to ask if anyone is in the least interested in the public of team Caerphilly, is why was it not intended for implementation? Without the infrastructure support we are left with a house building programme, as empty as the UDP which Plaid also brought in.

If you believe nothing more of me please be assured I want the service offered by Caerphilly to improve, I want our education to improve, I want our economy to improve and I want scrutiny to improve. None of the above will happen if scrutiny exists to thank people for reports, reports mean nothing, the outcomes are however vital, in Caerphilly all too often the aims don't match the outcomes, in these cases and there are all too many, who speaks for the public in team Caerphilly with scrutiny in such a sorry state?

Yours truly,

Graham Simmonds

Appendix

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Laura Morris

From: Clarke, Rachael [CLARKRL@CAERPHILLY.GOV.UK]
Sent: 06 October 2010 12:16
To: Laura Morris
Subject: RE: Complaint of Mrs. T MacMahon our reference 200901218

The agenda and minutes are sent, no letter.

From: Laura Morris [mailto:Laura.Morris@ombudsman-wales.org.uk]
Sent: 06 October 2010 09:26
To: Clarke, Rachael
Subject: RE: Complaint of Mrs. T MacMahon our reference 200901218

Would it be possible to have a copy of one of the letters sent to Councillor Simmonds enclosing a copy of the minutes?

Laura Morris
Investigator

Public Services Ombudsman for Wales
1 Ffordd yr Hen Gae
Pencoed CF35 5LJ
01656 641168
laura.morris@ombudsman-wales.org.uk

From: Clarke, Rachael [mailto:CLARKRL@CAERPHILLY.GOV.UK]
Sent: 06 October 2010 08:26
To: Laura Morris
Subject: FW: Complaint of Mrs. T MacMahon our reference 200901218

Please see attached minutes.

The notices for meetings are sent to Cllr Graham Simmonds, to his home address, as ward member. He is a member of the Partnership board.

From: Roper, Gaynor
Sent: 05 October 2010 09:05
To: Clarke, Rachael
Subject: FW: Complaint of Mrs. T MacMahon our reference 200901218

Rach, would you be able to give this info?

Thanks

From: Laura Morris [mailto:Laura.Morris@ombudsman-wales.org.uk]
Sent: 04 October 2010 16:22
To: Roper, Gaynor
Subject: Complaint of Mrs. T MacMahon our reference 200901218

Dear Ms. Roper

Apologies for contacting you again regarding this matter however I would be very grateful if you could supply me with some further information. Could you please provide a copy of the previous three sets of minutes prior to the Cefn Fforest Communities First meeting on 9 July 2009. Could you also please confirm if Councillor Simmonds' membership of the Partnership is as a member or not. Please could you also clarify if Councillor Simmonds has been written to in his capacity as a member to advise him of dates of meetings concerning the Partnership.

I appreciate I have asked for a number of pieces of information however I would be most grateful if you could get back to me as soon as possible. If you have any queries please contact me directly. Many thanks in anticipation of your assistance.

Regards

Laura Morris
Investigator

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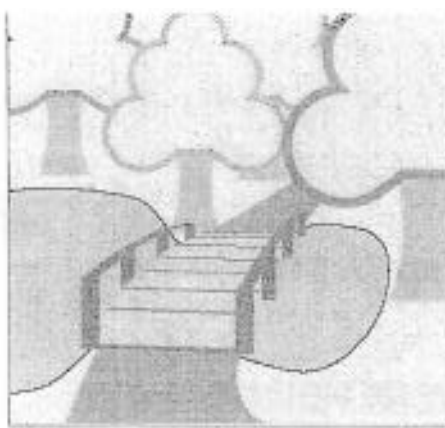
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'Mae'r e-bost yma ag unrhyw ffeiliau trosglwyddwyd ynddi yn gyfrinachol ar gyfer defnydd yr unigolyn neu'r sefydliad cyfeiriwyd ati yn unig. Os ydych wedi derbyn yr e-bost yma mewn camgymeriad rhowch wybod i reolwr eich system. Nodwch taw unrhyw sylwadau neu farn soniwyd amdanynt yn yr e-bost yma ydi sylwadau a barn yr awdur ac nid yn angenrheidiol yn cynrychioli rhai'r Cyngor. I orffen, dylid y person sy'n derbyn yr e-bost sicrhau nad oes firws ynddi nac mewn unrhyw ddogfen sydd ynghlwm i'r e-bost. Nid yw'r Cyngor yn derbyn unrhyw gyfrifoldeb am unrhyw ddifrod achoswyd gan unrhyw firws trosglwyddwyd gan yr e-bost yma.'



Partneriaeth Gymunedol
Cefn Fforest
Community Partnership

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARTNERSHIP
HELD AT CEFN FFOREST COMMUNITY CENTRE
ON 5 MARCH 2009**

PRESENT:

Chris Hawker (Acting Chair)	Partnership Treasurer/Cefn Ff AFC
Meryl Thomas	Sunnybank Health Centre
Alvin Royall	Friends of the EcoPark
Paul Dury	Community Association
Roy Edwards	CFf Community Centre
Marian Edwards	Resident
Muriel Taylor	Resident
Delwyn Davies	Resident
Mike Pritchard	Partially Sighted Group
Peter Kirby	Computer Club
Don Jones	Phoenix Transport
Eileen Williams	Resident
Kevin Childs	Gwent Police/Inspector
Dave Abrams	Gwent Police/PC
Nicola Lewis	Groundwork Caerphilly
Kevin Eadon	Groundwork Caerphilly
Jodie Gwilt	CCBC/Youth Service
Amy Jones	CCBC/CF Support Officer
Neil Jones	GAVO/Lasting Officer
Liz Payne	GAVO/Administrator

Cllr Tom Williams and Cllr Graham Simmonds arrived towards the end of the meeting having first attended a council meeting.

APOLOGIES:

Tom Williams, Colin Thomas, Russell Todd, Jan Munson, Nancy Harris, Jan Billingham, Mike Pickard

<p>1 WELCOME & APOLOGIES</p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Please see above for Apologies.</p>	<p>ACTION</p>
<p>2 REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GWENT POLICE AUTHORITY</p> <p>Kevin Childs introduced himself as the new Inspector for Blackwood (Mike Pritchard expressed disappointment that a member of the Police Authority was not present – see below). Insp Childs will be responsible for Neighbourhood Policing in Blackwood and reported significant change in Gwent Police – currently the station at Blackwood oversees everything in the area, at the end of the month this will change and the Inspector's remit will be Neighbourhood only. There will be dedicated Neighbourhood Teams, an extra PC and PCSO, the number of Special Constables will increased and there will be a better service. Currently Neighbourhood Officers have to back-up other areas but this will no longer be the case. There will be some new personnel in some areas and also some extra staff. Mike Pritchard explained that the reason he had asked the Partnership to invite a member of the Police Authority was because he had been led to understand that senior officers were taking resources from this area to serve in other areas – Mike wanted the Police Authority to hear the problems and try to influence Gwent Police, as it has been noted that the presence of police officers in the area improves the situation in regard to incidences of crime and anti-social behaviour. Mike had been encouraged by the Inspector's report. Mike expressed frustration that senior officers had not attended Partnership meetings when requested and had, instead, sent PCs who were then put in a very difficult position. The Inspector agreed that the police have sometimes got it wrong, but also noted that many things are done well. The Inspector confirmed that he plans to attend as many Partnership meetings as possible in future and will send a Sergeant on the occasions when he is unavailable. Alvin commented that it was good to hear what the Inspector had said, but</p>	

noted that it had been heard before but not borne fruit and people felt let down – however, Alvin hoped that it would be different this time. The Inspector confirmed that good work will be publicised and there will be changes – he agreed that people do not trust the police now - he does not want to chase issues from the past, but wants to improve things for the present and the future – he wants to be involved with local children (as he has been in other areas in the past) and assures the meeting that residents will see differences (Roy noted that there has been a difference since Dave and Sue have been in the area). The Inspector agreed that there had been a massive turnover of Inspectors in Blackwood over the past 10 years and assured the meeting of his intention to stay in the area for 3-5 years. The Chair thanked the Inspector for attending and suggested that things are moving in the right direction. Dave Abrams reported that the police surgeries at the Community Centre were getting a good response and expressed gratitude for the accommodation.

3 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting of 22 January 2009 were accepted with no amendments.

4 MATTERS ARISING

Page 3: Jodie would like to hold another Lantern Parade this year. Neil suggested that funding should, therefore, be discussed at the next meeting.

Page 5: Jodie had made enquiries re football coaching at Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni – the football was held there initially, as the majority of the people who attended lived near the school, however, there are now more young people from Cefn Fforest and Sports Development is negotiating a move to Blackwood Comprehensive School.

5 TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer reported a bank balance of £5199.57p. There are some bills to be paid amounting to approximately £2k.

<p>6 CORRESPONDENCE Correspondence had been received from GAVO's Cwm-y-Mynydd Key Fund Development Officer, Andy Harris. Andy is available to assist groups with applications to the fund. It was agreed to invite Andy to the next meeting.</p>	CHAIR
<p>7 INTRODUCTION OF NEW GROUNDWORK CEN OFFICER Nicola introduced Kevin Eadon, who will succeed Nicola as Groundwork's CEN Officer in the area.</p>	
<p>8 REQUEST FOR NOTICEBOARDS Roy has discussed the request with PCSO Sue Falconer. Roy suggested 3 noticeboards – for the surgery, the square and the Community Centre. Roy circulated photos of cast iron noticeboards at Penllyn. Neil will send a catalogue to the Partnership and will make enquiries re possible funding. Amy will contact the Coordinator at Penllyn for details.</p>	NJ AJ
<p>9 COMMUNITY CENTRE UPDATE Marian reported that the Community Centre had received funding for computer upgrades.</p>	
<p>10 FUTURE OF GP SURGERIES Roy circulated copies of 'Implementation Plans for Integrated Primary Care Estates Strategy'. It was agreed to discuss the document at the next meeting.</p>	CHAIR
<p>11 EQUALITIES MONEY Amy reminded the Partnership that this year's allocation of Equalities funding should have been used to implement recommendations in the VALREC Report on Equalities & Diversity. However, the Report had been rejected by all the Partnerships in CCB. There is an amount of £4700 still available for use this year. After some discussion it was agreed to use £2700 of the money to complete the work on the Community Centre kitchen (thus enabling the formation of a Luncheon Club for older people) and to use the remaining £2k to employ a Ranger at the EcoPark for one month (work would include addressing issues</p>	CHAIR CHAIR

of equality, for example disabled access). **Marian will contact Kevin Dawson re the funding application for the kitchen** – Amy offered to collect the application tomorrow

ME/AJ

12 FRIENDS OF THE ECOPARK UPDATE

- Alvin reported that Friends had held a meeting earlier today
- Copies of the EcoPark Development Plan were circulated
- The Easter Toddle will be repeated this year
- Funding for the Ranger continues to be a priority
- Roy noted that dog-fouling at the EcoPark is becoming a major problem – the Chair noted that the Dog Warden has been informed and that a number of dog bins are available in the park.

13 SPORTS ASSOCIATION PROJECTS UPDATE

- Work on the mural has been slow due to the weather. Jodie reported that the young people will be involved in a week or so, when it is hoped that the weather will have improved. Chris noted that the completed mural will be covered with a resin finish to prevent vandalism. It is planned to invite Nathan Cleverley to the opening ceremony
- Proformas have been issued to members for details of future projects re a new WAG initiative to help Sports Associations

14 SUB-GROUP/OFFICER UPDATES

EDUCATION & TRAINING

A meeting was held last week re Adult Learners' Week – there will probably be an Open Day on the Tuesday to raise awareness of the programme of classes – the group needs new members – the next meeting has not been arranged yet but will probably be a Brunch meeting to plan projects for the rest of the year.

YOUTH

Everyone is welcome to attend the Bingo Evening at Cefn Hengoed Youth Club on Monday 9 March. There will be prizes and a buffet.

CRIME & COMMUNITY SAFETY

There are plans for this sub-group to meet between PACT meetings.

HEALTH

A meeting was held in February to discuss 50+ activities and the proposed Luncheon Club. Age Concern have agreed to be involved. The next meeting will be held on 12 March at 1030am – **Neil will attend to advise on funding** – all are welcome.

NJ

FUNDING

- Neil circulated a Funding Update and noted that an update would be circulated at all future meetings
- the Trust Fund has closed and will re-open on 1 April
- Comic Relief criteria is awaited
- Splash Grant is available for projects re waterways, water activities etc
- there was a discussion re funding criteria – Neil explained that any groups can apply for funding without the Partnership's knowledge, however, it had been agreed that there would be a note in the newsletter requesting that groups notify the Partnership if they are making funding applications
- Amy reported that Russell is visiting groups to explain about the Project Planning Proforma – **it was agreed that Amy will invite Jo and Verity (CF Research Team) to the meeting of the Community Centre Committee on 1 April at 630pm)**
- Neil reported that changes are expected to be announced in April regarding the Trust Fund criteria
- there was a discussion re a new Community Centre – Coalfields Regeneration has agreed to fund a Business Case - the Partnership agreed to support the committee – **Roy will arrange a meeting with Steve Hawkins and others - the Executive, Amy Jones and Russell Todd will attend. Amy will enquire as to the number of demountable Community Centres in CCB**

AJ

RE

EXEC/
RT/AJ

15 PARTNERSHIP OFFICE UPDATE

Russell is still awaiting a date from the Fire Authority.

16 UPDATING PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

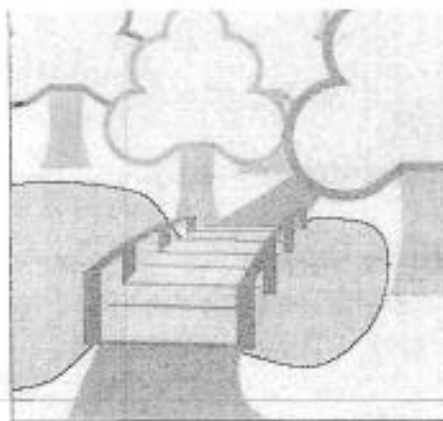
- Graham had received 2 requests for membership – Dorothy Simmonds and L.Parry – **both requests were agreed**
- The list was passed to Neil for Mike Bridgman/GAVO to sign

CHAIR

17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 16 April 2009 at 6.30pm in Cefn Fforest Community Centre

The Chair informed the Partnership that this would be Nicola's and Liz's last meeting and thanked them both for their contributions.



Partneriaeth Gymunedol
Cefn Fforest
Community Partnership

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARTNERSHIP
HELD AT CEFN FFOREST COMMUNITY CENTRE
ON 23RD APRIL 2009**

PRESENT:

Tom Williams
Chris Hawker
Alvin Royall
Roy Edwards
Delwyn Davies
Mike Pritchard
Peter Kirby
Eileen Williams
Dave Abrams
Jodie Gwilt
Amy Jones
Neil Jones
Russell Todd
Cllr Graham Simmonds
Jan Billingham
Colin Haysman
Mike Pickard
David Edwards
Neil Jones
Angela Morgan

Partnership Chair
Partnership Treasurer/Cefn Ff AFC
Friends of the EcoPark
Cff Community Centre
Resident
Partially Sighted Group
Computer Club
Resident
Gwent Police/PC
CCBC/Youth Service
CCBC/CF Support Officer
GAVO/Lasting Officer
CCBC/CF Coordinator
CCBC
GAVO/Learning and Development Officer
Computer Club
Blackwood Comprehensive/Head
Cefn Fforest RFC
Gwent Police/PS
Gwent Police/PC

APOLOGIES:

Nancy Harris, Jane Patterson, Don Jones, Marian Edwards, Muriel Taylor, Dorothy Simmonds, Lynda Parry, Kevin Eadon, Kevin Childs

1 WELCOME & APOLOGIES	ACTION
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The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Please see above for Apologies.

2 Andy Harris GAVO – Cwm a Mynydd Key Fund Development Officer.

Unfortunately due to other commitments Andy could not attend the meeting. It was agreed to defer the item to another meeting.

3 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting of 5th March 2009 were accepted with no amendments.

4 MATTERS ARISING

Page 2. More information re: police involvement with the community. Pupil Project. Mike Pickard, Dave Abrams, and Sue Falconer met with the coordinator for the pupil project. Blackwood Comprehensive is one of the first schools to be involved. The project involves pupils understanding the problems in their local area. The project will identify a target group of young people with low self-esteem. It has European funding.

Page 4. Notice Board. Amy informed the group that she had spoken to the coordinator for Penllwyn. Their notice board cost £2092.70, and a further £458.68 for installation. They paid for theirs out of their area forum budget and an under spend. He also recommended speaking to Irene Dow. Neil agreed that this is the average price and has passed on details to Roy.

ACTION: Neil to look into accessing funding.

Page 4. Equalities money. The work for the community centre has been completed. Discussions are ongoing about clawing the money back from Valrec for the report. All partnerships in the Caerphilly County Borough were against the report.

5 TREASURER'S REPORT

Chris reported that the balance is £4,226.77

6 CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence has been received.

Dave Abrams introduced Neil Jones the Neighbourhood

NJ

Community Sergeant and Angela Morgan the Schools Liaison Officer. Dave asked the group whether there were any questions for the police. David Edwards highlighted a drinking issue at the Welfare Ground. Dave Abrams reported that there had been a couple of asbos issued recently and that the Police are addressing the drinking issue especially with the summer coming. Dave also informed the group that a man had been arrested and charged with a number of offences. Alvin also highlighted the EcoPark as an area that has a problem with drinking. Dave asked that all incidences be phoned in especially as not all officers know about the EcoPark. There are two numbers currently being advertised one on a card that was handed around at the meeting and a 101 number being advertised in the Western Mail. Neil (Police) informed the group that the numbers are for the same people so you can ring either one to report any incidences. Chris highlighted the issue of motorbikes on Britannia Field. Dave informed the group that the police will soon have bikes once they've passed their cycling proficiency which will help them to get around quicker. Delwyn Davies informed the Police that were quad bikes driving through the lane in Pencoed where people are walking their dogs. Chris highlighted the issue of people drinking by the steps in Bonnie View and smashing the bottles down there. Dave emphasised that people need to ring these incidences in, and if you can try to get the number plates of the quad bikes.

Angela explained a bit more about her role to the group. She has been the Schools liaison officer since January. She has a programme of lessons in the Blackwood area. She has been working with the Blackwood Comprehensive School's council, which is made up of pupils in the school. They will be finding out from the other pupils what they think the problems are in their area; what facilities and activities are available to them and whether or not they go; and what they would like – wish list. Angela asked the group for advice on funding. Tom pointed her in the direction of Neil from GAVO.

ACTION: Angela to make a logical list of reasonable requests and their costs to present back to the partnership. Neil then to advise on possible funding sources. Jodie informed Angela that she was already

AM/NJ

working with some young people in the area. **ACTION: Jodie to link in with Angela.**

Dave thanked the Community Centre for providing them with keys to the community centre (not the partnership as previously mentioned by mistake). The police surgeries are ongoing.

7. COMMUNITY CENTRE PROJECTS UPDATE

Roy informed the group that the citizens advice bureau have been using the centre for 5/6 years but will no longer be able to continue to do so unless we can get volunteers to sit in the centre for the 3hrs that they are here. There are 4 people that are doing it at the moment. Jan said she would speak to a volunteer she knows to see if she would be able to do it. **ACTION: People to let Roy know of anyone who would be able to volunteer.**

Unfortunately the Centre was turned down for funding for the computers. Neil is liaising with Marian about other possible funding sources. It was noted that the computers are getting very slow and new ones will be needed as soon as possible for classes to continue. The group had a discussion about the possibility of using area forum money. This has not yet been used by the school. The issue of the CCTV is due to go to cabinet this financial year. All agreed for Russell to ask whether the area forum money would be able to be used for the computers if the school does not claim it.

ACTION: Russell to look into this possibility.

8. OVERVIEW OF MENTRO ALLAN ACTIVITIES IN CEFN FFOREST

Discussions are being held between the rugby club and Mentro Allan about a venue for the archery. David is waiting to hear back from them. It was agreed to put this item on the agenda for the next meeting.

9. IMPLEMENTATION PLANS FOR INTEGRATED PRIMARY CARE ESTATES STRATEGY DOCUMENT

This was the document handed out at the last meeting. Cefn Fforest has the worst primary health indicators in the County Borough. Graham has phoned forward planning and they said that no application has been

JG/AM

ALL

RT

made and there is no land set aside for an integrated health centre. Dr. Colin Palfrey has sent a letter to Graham, which also implies that there is nothing going on regarding this. The new surgery was supposed to be completed by 2008. The group agreed to invite Dr. Colin Palfrey, Irene James, and Don Touhig to a future partnership meeting, or to hold a special meeting if they couldn't make a partnership meeting.

10. FRIENDS OF THE ECOPARK UPDATE

An update was handed out to the group. Alvin gave the update:

£569 was secured from CCW, and was utilised to purchase stone dust, chippings and timber. These materials have been used to undertake some of the works recommended by the Access Audit of the eco-park. Excess materials will be used around the park on other projects and workshops.

Kevin has worked with the Youth Offending Service on a number of days to create a number of passing bays that are designed to allow wheel chair users to pass each other on the path. 5 of the 6 passing bays have been completed to date, and the remaining one should be finished within 2 weeks.

Alongside the passing bays, Kevin will work with the Youth Offending Service to clear grass and other vegetation from the edge of the main path. It is hoped that this will make the existing path wider and more defined.

Tony Hicks from the Youth Offending Service is scheduled to meet a representative from B&Q to discuss donations of timber or money to help to undertake some further access works. This donation/grant would be made to the Youth Offending Service, who would then use this to help us carry out work within the Eco-Park.

The Easter toddle event was enjoyed by all who attended. The weather was not the best, and strong winds and heavy downpours resulted in the event being finished early. Despite this 20 people attended, and the toddlers enjoyed the Easter egg hunt and a spot of toddler dance and other activities that were provided by Katherine Hewer in the marquee.

11 SPORTS ASSOCIATION PROJECTS UPDATE

Chris gave the update to the group. The mural is finished and paid for. We are hoping to have an unveiling of the mural and want to invite Nathan Cleverly, Darcy Blake and local dignitaries. **ACTION: Mike Pickard will get Nathan's number; Jan Billinghamurst will ask about Darcy as she knows his mother.**

MP/JB

12 SUB-GROUP/OFFICER UPDATES EDUCATION & TRAINING

Amy gave the update about adult learner's week. There will be an event on Tuesday 12th May 10am – 6pm in the community centre. All classes held that day will be open to the public to come and get a taster of the class. We will also be promoting the education and training group that day. The next meeting of the group is Monday 27th April at 10am at Cefn Fforest Community Centre.

Jan Billinghamurst explained her new role to the group. She is part of the new learning and development project based with GAVO. The council has underwritten the cost for the salaries for one year. The group is looking to develop into a social enterprise so that the project will be able to continue after the first year. Jan handed out a list of training that will be available through the project. Any training not on the list Jan will do her best to source. Jan is working with the public health service to see if they can fund buffets and venues for the mental health first aid training.

Mike Pickard informed the group that the school has established an allotment from funding secured by their third successful bid to Awards for All. They were awarded £5,000 for fencing around the allotment. The Eco group in school will use it, and there is a raised area for children in wheel chairs to use. Hopefully children will be able to get qualifications out of it.

Mike also informed the group about the school travel plan. This has been published and lots of people came to see the plans on 31/03/09. There will be a follow up meeting on 01/05/09 4:30-5:30pm to consider the consultation results. The school inspection will finish the day before. There are three phases to the travel plan 1. To make Ty Isha terrace one way and to introduce

speed restrictions. 2. This will involve Cefn Road 3. A newly revamped lit footpath from Grove Park to the Showfield. Groups like the partnership will be consulted as part of the consultation process. The School council and the Eco group has worked on this. These plans will address some of the safety issues facing school children.

YOUTH

Jodie gave the update to the group. The Around the World event held in Markham was a good success. There were taster sessions on offer from Jodie thanked Tom for attending. A group of young people went on a residential to Ynys Hywel where they learnt about the Communities First monitoring and evaluation procedure. Jodie has met with Kevin to discuss summer activities at the EcoPark. It won't be anything big though due to funding.

CRIME & COMMUNITY SAFETY

Next PACT meeting is 7th May at Cefn Fforest Community Centre

HEALTH

Russell informed the group that Jane Patterson is the new health officer for the area. The role will be less clinical and more about engaging with the community. The post will be line managed by the CF Coordinator.

FUNDING

- Neil circulated a Funding Update.
- The application procedure for Awards for All has changed. You no longer have to hand in all your documents with your application e.g. constitution. If your application is successful then you will be asked to submit your documents. The guidelines haven't changed though.
- Cefn Fforest's Trust Fund allocation has increased from £10,000 to £20,000. The new forms are not out yet.
- The group had a discussion about groups coming to the partnership before applying for funding. Ideally the groups should come to the partnership so the partnership is aware of what they are

applying for and can give their opinion. Russell informed the group that groups have to state on their application that they've contacted the CF Coordinator, and that he has questioned a few applications in the past. Russell and Neil can ask groups to come to the table but they can't enforce it.

13 PARTNERSHIP OFFICE UPDATE

The office will be open from May.

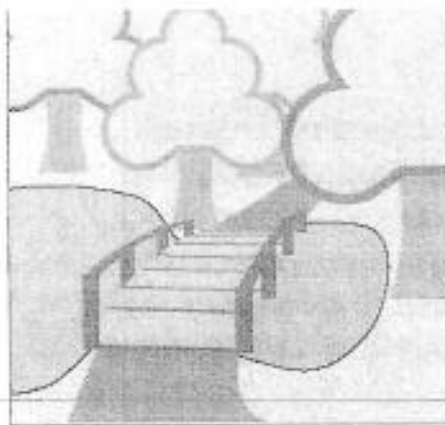
14 UPDATING PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

Most people have signed it. Russell will chase the last few up.

15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 28th May 2009 at 6.30pm in Cefn Fforest Community Centre. This will be an AGM followed by a Partnership meeting.

The Chair informed the Partnership that this would be Russell's last Partnership meeting as he is leaving. Everyone thanked Russell for all his hard work. Tom and Chris asked Mike Pickard to present Russell with a plaque on behalf of the Partnership.



Partneriaeth Gymunedol
Cefn Fforest
Community Partnership

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARTNERSHIP
HELD AT CEFN FFOREST COMMUNITY CENTRE
ON 22 JANUARY 2009**

PRESENT:

Tom Williams (Chair)	CFf Partnership Board
Colin Thomas (V Chair)	CFf Allotments
Chris Hawker (Treas)	CFf AFC
Meryl Thomas	Sunnybank Health Centre
Alvin Royall	Friends of the EcoPark
Paul Dury	Community Association
Roy Edwards	CFf Community Centre
Kevin Dawson	CFf Community Centre
Marian Edwards	Resident
Muriel Taylor	Resident
Delwyn Davies	Resident
Mike Pritchard	Partially Sighted Group
Eileen Williams	Resident
Mike Pickard	Blackwood Comprehensive/Head
Graham Simmonds	CCBC
Nicola Lewis	Groundwork Caerphilly
Nancy Harris	CF Training
Jan Munson	CCBC/LHB Health Devt Officer
Jodie Gwilt	CCBC/Youth Service
Russell Todd	CCBC/CF Co-ordinator
Liz Payne	GAVO/Administrator

APOLOGIES:

Trevor Morgan, Jan Billingham, Royston Evans, Don Jones, Dave Abrams, Sue Falconer, Don Touhig MP, Irene James AM, Neil Jones, Peter Kirby, Amy Jones.

<p>1 WELCOME & APOLOGIES The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished everyone a Happy New Year. Please see above for Apologies.</p>	<p>ACTION</p>
<p>2 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING The Minutes of the meeting of 27 November 2008 were accepted with no amendments.</p>	
<p>3 MATTERS ARISING Item 3: Russell has circulated the list of streets to everyone on the e-mail list</p>	
<p>4 TREASURER'S REPORT The Treasurer reported a balance of £6745.94p – some bills are awaited. The Treasurer will provide a full Report at the AGM.</p>	<p>TREAS</p>
<p>5 CORRESPONDENCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Russell had received an invitation for 2 members of the Partnership to attend an all day event on 16 February at Ty Penallta organised by 50+ Positive Action – the theme will be 'Bridging the Gap with Real People' ● Graham enquired whether any correspondence had been received from Gwent Police – the Chair confirmed that nothing had been received 	
<p>6 MONITORING & EVALUATION FRAMEWORK Russell reminded the meeting that the Framework is a means of reporting on outcome-focussed projects – Russell would like to spend some time on this issue at the next meeting, (however it was later agreed to invite a member of the Police Authority – Item 14. It was, therefore, agreed that there would be a short update at the next meeting)</p>	<p>RT</p>
<p>7 COMMUNITY CENTRE UPDATE The following groups meet regularly at the Community Centre: Tai Chi, Young Carers, Police Surgery and Family History. The PCs are due to be updated and the kitchen is almost finished.</p>	

8 FUTURE OF GP SURGERIES

Please see Health Report at Item 14.

9 LANTERN PARADE EVALUATION & FEEDBACK

Russell circulated details of the Evaluation. Alvin thanked all involved and noted that the event was well-controlled. The Chair commented on the enthusiasm of children and parents. It was suggested that the Parade and the Fayre could be held on different days in future. The Chair expressed thanks to all who contributed to the event.

10 FRIENDS OF THE ECOPARK UPDATE

- Alvin reported that he has written to CCBC re renewing the licence and some maintenance jobs
- Membership is currently 206+
- Around 230 people attended the Christmas Fayre which was a success (some improvements will be made for the future)
- Signs re alcohol restrictions will be erected soon
- Nicola reported that Gwent Probation Service and Groundwork have been working at the EcoPark for the past few weeks and will continue to do so on Wednesdays

11 PARTNERSHIP FEEDBACK ON DRAFT ECOPARK DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Russell noted that this is an evolving document and views are invited. The Chair noted that a lease (or a licence) is being negotiated.

12 SPORTS ASSOCIATION PROJECTS UPDATE

Chris reported that all groups had been represented at the last meeting except the Rugby Club. The Monitoring & Evaluation proforma was discussed. There had been some vandalism of the mural – Craig is unable to work there until the weather improves. The roof of the pavilion and the portacabin have been vandalised – Chris has reported to CCBC.

13 REQUEST FOR CIRCULATION OF DETAILS FUNDING ROUNDS AND DEADLINES

Colin had requested a list of information re grants with closing dates. **Neil to forward the information to Russell to be mailed out with the next minutes.** It was suggested that the information could be included in the next Newsletter.

NJ/RT

14 SUB-GROUP/OFFICER UPDATES

EDUCATION & TRAINING

- Nancy reported that the Victorian Evening, held on 12 December, had been a great success despite the bad weather and illness. Approximately 35 people attended, including representatives from Abertridwr and Cefn Fforest Local History Groups, Cefn Fforest Youth Group and the Family History Group, which meets at Blackwood Comprehensive School. Feedback had been very positive. Nancy expressed thanks to members of the Community Centre Committee for their help on the night. The Education & Training Focus Group will complete the Monitoring & Evaluation Form and begin planning future activities. Anyone is welcome to attend
- Mike Pickard reported that CCBC officer's had met with various groups, before Christmas, re the School Travel Plan – a consultation will follow
- Mike Pickard reported that ground at the side of the tennis courts has been identified as being suitable for a school allotment. An application for funding has been submitted to Awards for All. The area will be ploughed in the near future. Surplus produce will be donated to needy families in the area. Local support would be appreciated
- A School Inspection will take place during the week beginning 27 April – this will be a 'short' inspection, lasting for 4 days (estimated risk of failure is low). Mike announced that he will be retiring as Head at the end of the school year – it is hoped that a new Head will be in place in March for a transition period. Mike will encourage his successor to maintain links with the Partnership. Alvin thanked Mike for the good relationship he has built between the school and the Partnership and expressed the hope that it will continue

<p>YOUTH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jodie thanked the Partnership for its support re the Outcomes Fund – the bid was successful • Jodie thanked Nancy and all who helped with the Victorian Evening and reported that the Young People had found it very enjoyable 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Hub Team has organised a Bingo Evening on 9 March at Cefn Hengoed Youth Centre – members of the Executive are invited to attend • an Around the World all-day event has been organised for 8 April at Markham Community House – the Partnership agreed to contribute £200 (possibly from the Equalities budget) • football sessions are held at Ysgol Cwm Rhymni for young people from Cefn Fforest on Monday evenings (Mike Pickard suggested that a free venue may be available at Blackwood Comprehensive School – Jodie will make enquiries) 	<p>CHAIR</p> <p>JG</p>
<p>CRIME & COMMUNITY SAFETY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Russell apologised that a summary proposal to integrate the Crime & Community Safety sub-group and PACT had not been circulated – Russell had intended to use the proposal as an example to illustrate the use of the Monitoring & Evaluation Framework • the Chair reported that a new Inspector of PCSOs is due in post in the near future • Colin reported that police surgeries are held regularly at the Community Centre and the 3 main PACT objectives are displayed – the next PACT meeting is scheduled for May 2009 • Mike Pritchard noted that the Partnership has access to the Police Authority, which could be of help with concerns re policing in the area, and had understood that Russell would be writing to the Police Authority to invite a representative to attend the Partnership meeting. Russell noted that the invitation was to be to a meeting of the Crime & Community Safety sub-group, not the full Partnership, however the group has not met since 	

October. It was agreed to invite a representative to attend a Partnership meeting

CHAIR

HEALTH

- Jan distributed information booklets re 'Getting Involved in Research' and 'Getting Unplanned Urgent or Emergency Care'
- Jan apologised that she had been unable to arrange a meeting of the sub-group, due to ill-health – anyone interested should contact Jan
- Jan noted that, at the last meeting of the Partnership, she had addressed some of the queries raised by Graham and others. However, Jan had suggested that members should send her their concerns re the Local Development Plan, in relation to health facilities in Cefn Fforest, as she would need more specific information in order to pursue the queries. However, to date, Jan has not received any written request specifying the exact information required
- Graham reported that he had arranged a meeting with the LHB to discuss issues involving Cefn Fforest, however, Colin pointed out that this should not be raised at this meeting if the aforementioned meeting was not arranged in the name of the Partnership
- Graham would like a copy of 'Health Strategies for Caerphilly' and/or 'Health Improvement Strategies'
- Jan has been in touch with Phil Jenkins at RCT, who has access to transport, and is interested in the possibility of longer walks for residents of Ty Bedwellty
- A Tai Chi class meets in the Community Centre on Wednesdays

FUNDING

- Colin enquired whether funding may be available from the Equalities budget for Hygiene courses re the 50+ Lunch Club
- Mike Pritchard asked what would happen to any money remaining in the Equalities budget – Russell confirmed that it would be returned to WAG

<p>15 PARTNERSHIP OFFICE UPDATE Still in progress.</p>	
<p>16 UPDATING PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT Work in progress.</p>	
<p>17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING Thursday 5 March 2009, 6.30pm at Cefn Fforest Community Centre</p>	

Appendix

50

18 Graham Simmonds

18 Grange Hill

Bonnie View

Blackwood

Gwent

NP12 3PE

19th July 2010



FAO Miss Laura Phillips

Dear Miss Phillips

RE ref no 200901218/LP,

1. I have a brief understanding.
2. Yes
3. Since 1999
4. Training has been provided, I attended on 9th September 2008.
5. Yes, I am a representative of the Community Centre.
6. The AGM of Cefn Fforest CFP, held 9th July 2009, became very fractious from the outset. The accounts were unsigned by the treasurer or the auditor. Mrs M. Taylor a member of the partnership and also treasurer of the community centre asked the treasurer Mr Hawker how a cheque she had paid to the partnership months before had been cashed but was not entered in the accounts.

Mr Hawker was forced to admit he and the chairperson had opened a second unauthorised bank account, and had told none of the volunteers of its existence. From that point the meeting became a very heated affair. The treasure and the paid advisors became very vocal and hawkish, in insisting we accept the accounts.

There were a number of question put on the night, the majority of the answers were vague or meaningless. At every opportunity the chair person attempted to stifle the questions and simply accept the accounts. Large value cheques were listed for amongst other things £1,125 to Fantastic Crepes, who attended Cefn Fforest Xmas Fayre to sell crepes at £1.00 each. When at the big cheese, a stall is required in order to sell, at a cost of £235 for two days, a trailer is £75 per meter frontage and £37.50 per meter width. The treasurer was asked why? Why are we paying, when the rest of the county borough charges?

Similarly £1,505.35 was paid for 1,000 carrier bags, to Martin Todd Packaging, at a cost of >£1.50 each, again the treasurer was asked why are we paying more wholesale than the cost of bags for life retail? The answers were not forthcoming. Our paid advisors were all the time interfering and becoming more agitated.

I have received a Freedom of Information response from WAG, the comments contained in those responses is enlightening. In an Email sent 14th October 2009 By Miss Rachael Clark Cefn Fforest Coordinator, to Mr Gareth Llewllwyn (WAG), with the response from the Grant Recipient Body CCBC and GAVO, Miss Clark says "the accounts were checked/audited by Mr Mike Bridgeman GAVO", Miss Clark goes on "Mike Bridgeman was not aware of the second account", and claims "the treasurer (Mr Hawker) did not say he had opened an **unauthorised account**" Mr Mike Bridgeman as stated previously was not aware of the second unauthorised account, negating the accuracy and validity of the accounts, as provided.

I did not refuse to accept the accounts, the amendment to have more time to scrutinise the accounts, and receive meaningful answers, was made by Mr Roy Edwards. A decision I fully support, the second, unauthorised account, rendered the accounts inaccurate.

The accounts were entered on the agenda, with questions after acceptance, the clear intention was to get the accounts accepted before any questions. I have been in discussions with accountancy professionals who describe this as either inappropriate or nonsense. The accounts can only be accepted if they are correct. There is a requirement for the accounts to be full and accurate, only at this meeting did the treasures admit the existence of the second unauthorised account. Clearly all moneys had not been accounted for.

To date Cllr Thomas Williams, Cllr Robert Gough, Mrs Tina Macmahon and their collective staff have refused on no less than FIVE occasions to release any information regarding the accounts. We have asked for the following information.

- The cheque book for the second account, and bank statements?
- Who are the signatories, on the second account?
- On what authority was the second account opened and by whom?
- The cheque stubs for the account of the CFCFP together with bank statements?
- We also want to see any quotes or tenders for services received by the partnership, and receipts?
- We also want an explanation why £1,125 is shown in the accounts as being paid to an individual to come and sell us crepes for £1 each. When at the big cheese, a stall is £235 for two days, a trailer is £75 per meter frontage and £37.50 per meter width. Why are we paying, when the rest of the county borough charges?
- If questions are asked at the upcoming AGM relating to the accounts we fully expect meaningful answer

Cllr R. Gough, Mrs T. Macmahon failed to release the minutes of the three meetings held over the accounts. They have serious errors contained in them, they have never been accepted as a true record by the partnership.

The accounts have been sent to WAG for auditing, I have asked Cllr Robert Gough, who audited the accounts, he in the first instance stated he did not know. When he finally gave me a name, the lady in question flatly rejected any idea she had audited the accounts of Cefn Fforest. Instead she stated she had reviewed the accounts, based on the information available, I am unaware if the second unauthorised account was disclosed.

Below is a list of questions I have asked of Cllr Robert Gough on no fewer than FOUR occasions, in writing.

- So who audited the accounts on behalf of the Welsh Assembly Government?
- Who audited the accounts on behalf of GAVO?
- Can I have a signed copy of both sets of accounts, signed by Mr Hawker, whoever audited the accounts on behalf of the grant recipient body and the auditor acting on behalf of the Welsh Assembly Government?

The meeting of the 9th July 2009 was a farce, the second unauthorised account, the unanswered questions, the threatening, bullying and intimidating actions of the chair, treasurer and paid advisors, was a disgrace. I am delighted the volunteers stood their ground, Mrs Taylor for forcing the disclosure of the second unauthorised account, Mr P. Dury for the detailed and incisive questions, Mr R. Edwards for facing the threatening demands for the withdrawal of his amendment and generally the volunteers refused to be intimidated, by Councillors and paid professionals.

7 I reject any suggestion of aggression or of being disruptive, The only people acting in an intimidating and threatening manner were, Cllr Thomas Williams, Mrs Tina Macmahon, and Mr C. Hawker,

During the meeting in a blatant attempt to threaten, intimidate and bully the volunteers, Mrs Macmahon shouted in a determined and threatening manner to claim "if you don't accept the accounts right now, I shall withdraw my staff" I was speechless, I go for the benefit of my community and my friends in the area. Not to bullied and threatened into accepting a set of accounts, in the knowledge there was in existence a second unauthorised account.

Mr C. Hawker lost all composure, he appeared to be shocked that we asked questions, he could not answer. The second unauthorised account clearly shook him up. He raged on and on about if we did not accept the accounts we were calling Mike Bridgeman a liar. I asked the treasurer on FIVE occasions to withdraw the slur both on us as a partnership, but also on Mr Mike Bridgeman. Cllr Williams did nothing to bring order to Mr Hawker.

By far the most serious incident was by Cllr T. Williams he had abdicated responsibility for the effective running of the meeting, joining in with his treasurer to continually interrupt and make muffled comments. At the end of the meeting Cllr Thomas Williams, turned to Mr Colin Thomas the secretary of the partnership and said loudly enough for many to hear, "this is your fxxxing fault, you and your fxxxing cronies. Mr Colin Thomas to his credit simply left the room. I don't know whether in shock or to minimise the conflict and aggression we were under.

8 I have no knowledge of any incident, I believe this a crude yet determined attempt to continue the threatening, intimidation and bullying tactics, these people are so adept and addicted to using.

9 NO, I have not, I have however been the recipient of threats, bullying and intimidation, from Cllr Thomas Williams, Mr C. Hawker and Mrs T. Macmahon.

10 I believe this is a continuation of the crude attempts to browbeat, threaten, intimidate and bully. The accounts were not acceptable to the vast majority of the partnership, I have been made aware the Welsh Assembly Government is now to commence a fully audit of the accounts of Cefn Fforest, such is the level of concern.

Yours Truly



Graham Simmonds

18 Grange Hill

Bonnie View

Blackwood

Gwent

NP12 3PE

4th June 2010/10th June 2010 17th June 2010 16th July 2010

FAO Mr. R. Gough

Dear Sir,

Re your letter dated 14th June 2010. The fact remains, the executive has been asked on four separate occasions, on four separate occasions, we have been told we can have any, and all information, and as usual, we are still waiting, this is not acceptable. I have since Emailed Cllr Williams for the information requested, still no reply!

As for the information relating to the accounts. We would like to see,

- The cheque book for the second account?
- Who are the signatories, on the second account?
- On what authority was the second account opened and by whom?
- The cheque stubs for the account of the CFCFP?
- We also want to see any quotes or tenders for services received by the partnership, and receipts?
- We also want an explanation why £1,125 is shown in the accounts as being paid to an individual to come and sell us crepes for £1 each. When at the big cheese, a stall is £235 for two days, a trailer is £75 per meter frontage and £37.50 per meter width. Why are we paying, when the rest of the county borough charges?
- If questions are asked at the upcoming AGM relating to the accounts we fully expect meaningful answers.

RE the claim of not knowing the name of the auditor who audited the accounts on behalf of WAG, when I asked, you stated "Philomena something" you then offered to contact me and give me the name, the next day Rachael phoned my wife and stated the auditor was Mrs Philomena Rowles. Mrs Rowles denies ever auditing the accounts.

Mrs Rowles states "the accounts were reviewed on the basis of the information received".

- So who audited the accounts on behalf of the Welsh Assembly Government?
- Who audited the accounts on behalf of GAVO?
- Can I have a signed copy of both sets of accounts, signed by Mr Hawker, whoever audited the accounts on behalf of the grant recipient body and the auditor acting on behalf of the Welsh Assembly Government?

To your final point, relating to the accounts, any volunteer wishing to ask a question about the accounts of Cefn Fforest Partnership, must have the right, to be shouted down by the treasurer, is unacceptable, for the chairman to refuse to call the treasurer to order, is simply not acceptable. The quite disgraceful behaviour of the executive, in dealing with these

accounts must be unacceptable, for paid advisers to threaten and bully volunteers, must be unacceptable, to refuse to conduct affairs according to Communities First Guidelines, must be unacceptable.

The Cefn Fforest Partnership has to be brought back to the basic concept of working for Cefn Fforest.

Yours Truly

Graham Simmonds

In relation to your role in GAVO, I must point out the information requested in relation to the Cefn Fforest Communities First accounts, still has not been provided. Despite being requested on no fewer than FOUR occasions. Can the volunteers on the partnership have an explanation for the failure to provide the requested information?

I also have to point out, I asked you personally "who audited the Cefn Fforest accounts for the Welsh Assembly Government" you stated "Mrs Philomena Rowles, Mrs Rowles has denied she audited the accounts, how could you, have possibly made such a mistake?

If Mrs Rowles did not audit the accounts on behalf of the Welsh Assembly Government, then please be kind enough to let me know who did?

The question Mr Paul Drury was refused permission to ask on the night the accounts were accepted "as being acceptable to the Welsh Assembly Government" he claims shows a difference between the two sets of accounts of some £883, please be good enough to explain the difference?

Yours truly

Graham Simmonds

Cc Mr D. Perkins

Received by

Dated

Appendix

51



Memo

Many thanks Gail, noted.

Laura Morris
Investigator

Public Services Ombudsman for Wales
1 Ffordd yr Hen Gae
Pencoed CF35 5LJ
01656 641168
laura.morris@ombudsman-wales.org.uk

From: Williams, Gail [mailto:WILLIGE@CAERPHILLY.GOV.UK]
Sent: 13 September 2010 16:45
To: Laura Morris
Subject: RE: Cllr Simmonds Complaint 200900929

Laura,

He was first elected in the local election held in May 1999.
Regards Gail.

Gail Williams
Principal Solicitor (Corporate/Deputy Monitoring Officer)
Telephone 01443/863393
Email willige@caerphilly.gov.uk

Appendix

52

Member Code of Conduct
19th September 2008

Cllr Lyn Ackerman
Cllr Mike Adams
Cllr Elizabeth Aldworth
Cllr Allan Angel
Cllr Roger Bidgood
Cllr Lyndon Binding
Cllr Anne Blackman
Cllr Dennis Bolter
Cllr Dave Carter
Cllr Anne Collins
Cllr Jim Criddle
Cllr Don Cullen
Cllr Wynne David
Cllr Tudor Davies
Cllr Michael Davies
Cllr Marlene Derrett
Cllr John Evans
Cllr James Fussell
Cllr Rob Gough
Cllr Michael Gray
Cllr Phyllis Griffiths
Cllr David Hardacre
Cllr Geoffrey Hibbert
Cllr Colin Hobbs
Cllr Graham Hughes
Cllr Lynne Hughes
Cllr Ken James
Cllr Martyn James
Cllr Vera Jenkins
Cllr Stan Jenkins
Cllr Gerald Jones
Cllr Stephen Kent
Cllr Keith Lloyd
Cllr Mark Newman
Cllr Gaynor Oliver
Cllr Malcolm Parker
Cllr David Poole
Cllr Rosa Potter
Cllr Denvor Preece
Cllr Kay Presley
Cllr Dianne Price
Cllr Alan Pritchard
Cllr Les Rees
Cllr Keith Reynolds
Cllr Margaret Sargent
Cllr Graham Simmonds
Cllr Keith Smallman
Cllr Betty Toomer
Cllr Lindsay Whittle
Cllr Tom Williams

Cllr Allan Williams
Cllr Linda Williams
Cllr Robin Woodyatt

Appendix

53

Laura Morris

Subject: RE: Complaints against Councillor G Simmonds 200900929

From: Williams, Gail [<mailto:WILLIGE@CAERPHILLY.GOV.UK>]
Sent: 29 October 2010 09:34
To: Laura Morris
Subject: RE: Complaints against Councillor G Simmonds 200900929

Laura,
Please find below the information received from the Partnership staff that deals with the point that you have raised.

It is not the Council's role to nominate the members of the partnership. However, in the Communities First guidance issued by the WAG it states the role of the locally elected members on the board and the importance of this role. When the CF programme was established in Caerphilly it was decided that no paid staff would have voting rights on the board, this would be the role of the local ward member. Cllr Simmonds has often signed as attending as the Cllr, however, he has also signed as a resident, a member of the community centre committee amongst other things. Therefore it has never been clear what his role is on the board.

Regards Gail.

Gail Williams
Principal Solicitor (Corporate/Deputy Monitoring Officer)
Telephone 01443/863393
Email willige@caerphilly.gov.uk

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