



COMMUNITY COUNCIL LIAISON SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT COUNCIL OFFICES, PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH ON 14TH MARCH 2018 AT 7.00PM

PRESENT:

Community Councillor Ms J. Rao - Chair
Councillor J. Ridgewell - Vice Chair

Councillors:

C. Andrews, A. Gair, L. Jeremiah, C. Thomas, A. Whitcombe, R. Whiting, B. Zaplatynski
Cabinet Member for Social Care and Wellbeing - Councillor C. Cuss

Community/Town Council Representatives

Aber Valley	- T. Richards, Mrs. S. Hughes (Clerk)
Argoed	- W. Williams
Bargoed	- H. Llewellyn
Bedwas, Trethomas and Machen	-
Blackwood	-
Caerphilly	-
Darran Valley	-
Draethen, Waterloo and Rudry	-
Gelligaer	- J.A. Pritchard, Ms. C. Mortimer (Clerk)
Llanbradach	- Mrs. A. Reed, Mr. W.M. Thompson (Clerk)
Maesycwmmmer	- Ms. R. Kedward (Clerk)
Nelson	- Mrs. G. Davies, Mr. T. White (Clerk)
New Tredegar	-
Penyrheol, Trecenydd and Energlyn	- Mrs. H. Treherne (Clerk)
Rhymney	- D.T. Williams
Risca East	- J. Blackburn, Mr G. James (Clerk)
Risca Town	- B. Hancock, B. Campbell (Clerk)
Van	- J. Leek, Mr. J. Dilworth (Clerk)

Together with:-

L. Rawlings (Armed Forces Covenant Co-ordinator), J. Reynolds (Sport and Leisure Facilities Manager) and R. Hartshorn (Head of Public Protection) and Emma Sullivan (Senior Committee Services Officer).

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A. Angel, A. Farina-Childs, A.G. Higgs, P. Leonard, Mrs T Parry, J. Pritchard, Mrs M.E. Sargent, J. Taylor and B. Zaplatynski.

Community Councillors D. Woodman (New Tredegar) and Mrs. S. Hughes, Mr. G. James, Mrs. L. Tams, Mrs. J. Dalton, Mr. P. Davy, Mr. G. Williams, Mrs. G. Thomas, D. Gronow, G. Williams and G. James (Clerks of Aber Valley, Argoed and Risca East, Bargoed, Bedwas, Trethomas and Machen, Blackwood, Caerphilly, Darran Valley and Rhymney, Draethen, Waterloo and Rudry and Penyrheol, Trecenydd and Energlyn, New Tredegar, Rhymney and Risca East Community/Town Councils respectively).

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Community Councillor J. A Pritchard declared a personal interest in relation to Agenda Item No. 9 details are minuted with the respective item.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th November 2018 (a copy had been sent to each member) were received and noted.

4. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL LIAISON COMMITTEE

Consideration was given to the following items raised by the Town and Community Council Liaison Committee.

5. WORLD WAR ONE COMMEMORATIONS

Ms L. Rawlings (Armed Forces Covenant Co-ordinator) gave a presentation outlining her role and the work being done to support the Armed Forces in the County Borough and regionally.

Awareness raising and remembrance events were outlined and possible funding streams for commemorative community projects were detailed. It was noted that there would be a number of small and larger scale events scheduled for the forthcoming year. In terms of the ending of World War One commemorations Ms Rawlings confirmed that there were no specific plans as yet however Community Councils were encouraged to look at other remembrance options such as the 'Silent Soldier', which can be purchased for £250.00 or the 'There Not There' translucent figures which Churches have taken on board.

An update was provided with regard to Armed Forces Day and National Armed Forces Day which this year would be held in North Wales and reference was made to the 'Thank You' campaign.

In relation to commemorative ideas and celebrations Ms Rawlings outlined various grant funding opportunities that would welcome applications from Community Councils. Grant criteria and award amounts were discussed and the Officer confirmed that she would be happy to assist with any applications that come forward. It was explained that the awards

come from the Ministry of Defence and as long as the proposals were robust and illustrated clearly that the money would be spent in the integration, recognition or commemoration of armed forces they would be considered favourably. There was a rolling deadline for submissions so applications can be taken at various intervals throughout the year.

Reference was made to the digitalising of historical data, such as enrolment lists, letters etc. and a current project in Risca was explained, it was noted that funding would be available for this type of project.

Clarification was requested as to whether grant funding would be possible to commemorate those that served in the Korean War and it was confirmed that every proposal would be looked at on its own merits and it was always worth submitting a bid.

Ms Rawlings agreed to circulate further information once the specifics of the grants were made available by the Ministry of Defence.

The Chair thanked the Officer for her attendance and presentation.

6. UPDATE ON COUNCIL'S LEISURE PLANS AT PONTLLANFRAITH

Mr R. Hartshorn, Head of Public Protection provided an update on the present position of leisure provision at Pontllanfraith.

Following the call-in of the Cabinet Decision and subsequent Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet meetings further consultation in connection with the proposal to close Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre has been agreed and was being undertaken. A further report would be considered at Cabinet on the 28th March 2018 in light of that consultation and the statement from the Leader of Council to take another look at the decision in relation to the 10 Year Sport and Leisure Strategy.

The Chair thanked the Officer for the update.

7. PUBLIC HEALTH WALES BILL

With the permission of the Chair and agreement of the Liaison Committee this item was brought forward on the agenda.

Mr R. Hartshorn, Head of Public Protection provided an update on the present position of the Public Health Wales Act which had now received royal assent. The act concentrates on various public health points including obesity, extending current smoking bans, registering tobacco retailers and new licensing legislation around body piercing, tattoos and body modification procedures.

In terms of the Local Toilet Strategy there has still been no clarity from Welsh Government in terms of approach. Although stating that toilets should be available for public use it does not compel local authorities to provide them. WG are currently consulting on the statutory guidance to which Officers are preparing a response.

Clarification was sought in relation to funding for local business such as pubs and shops that make their toilets available to the public. The Officer confirmed that this scheme was no longer in operation due to poor take up.

Reference was then made to the Local Toilet Strategy consultation and the Liaison Group Members were encouraged to access it and send a response. With regard to the Nelson toilet block a Member confirmed that a petition of 480 signatures had been gathered demanding the reopening of the facility and emphasised the importance of this facility to the people of Nelson. Clarification was sought in relation to Welsh Government Funding and the possible use of

underspends and reserves. The Member then referred to a communication from CCBC Property Services to Nelson Community Council with regard to the public toilets as to whether there was still public interest in the toilet block and emphatically stated that there was and always would be interested from the community of Nelson in the reopening of its public toilets.

Mr Hartshorn confirmed that CCBC would be responding to the consultation and reiterated that there was nothing within the legislation to compel local authorities to provide public conveniences. In the midst of austerity measures the local authority has had to look hard at discretionary provision and prioritise its funding to its statutory services such as education and social services to ensure their sustainability. In terms of broader provision he agreed that public houses would perhaps not be a good fit for all users, but there are other resources where toilets could be utilised e.g. public buildings, council offices, libraries etc. and this broad basket of provision must be taken into account within any strategy. The Officer apologised for the insensitivity of the generic email sent to Nelson Community Council and explained that this was an automatically generated response in relation to non-operationally active buildings. Part of the process in relation to surplus land would be to contact stakeholders and this is what happened in this case.

In terms of giving clarity to provision a common signage system would be looked at going forward so that toilets that are available to use by the public are clearly posted and easily recognisable across the board in order to prevent any embarrassment or discomfort to the public.

The Chair thanked the Officer for the update.

8. DATA PROTECTION REFORM (GDPR) BRIEFINGS

Mrs Emma Sullivan, Senior Committee Services Officer confirmed that Town and Community Council Clerks and Members would be invited to attend the current series of briefings facilitated by the CCBC Information Governance Unit. An email had been sent to all Clerks confirming dates and times and Mrs Joanne Jones, Information Governance Manager had agreed to spend additional time with Clerks following the meeting in order to take specific questions.

9. A468/A469 PWLLYPANT ROUNDABOUT

An updated briefing note on the progress of works had been circulated to all Clerks prior to the meeting, it was noted that the dedicated link on the CCBC website provided continuous updates as the scheme progressed and in addition to this the Council operated an email update service for those people who have registered.

10. BUDGET PROPOSALS 2018/19 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2018/2023

Community Councillor J.A. Pritchard declared a personal interest as she was a Member of the Intergenerational Luncheon Club provided at Lewis Boys School.

A Member expressed a generally feeling of dissatisfaction that little consideration had been given to the objections and comments made by the Community Councils and made reference to the decommissioning of Nelson Luncheon Club, Stoke Association and AGE Cymru Hospital Discharge contracts. The Members also referred to page 12 of the report in relation to PFI Review and savings in relation to catering and cleaning. As a user of the Intergeneration Luncheon Club at Lewis Boys Schools the Member had first hand experience of the impact of a change in catering provider, and outlined the poor value and small portions that had resulted in a drop in numbers attending and requested clarification from the Cabinet Member for Social Care and Wellbeing.

Councillor Cuss confirmed that the comments from consultees had been very much taken into account in the preparation of this budget and some savings had been deferred. Where luncheon club services had been decommissioned efforts would be made to ensure a good path to alternative provision before withdrawal, if possible. With regard to the Stroke Association contract, the Health Board had since confirmed that they will pick up the shortfall and advised that all local authorities had decommissioned this contract.

With regard to the Age Concern contract there had been a mixed bag of responses from partner authorities Blaenau Gwent, Monmouthshire and Newport along with CCBC have decommissioned however there were proposals to continue the service but introduce a charge, discussions in relation to this arrangement are on-going.

The Member welcomed the news on those two contracts and queried why reserves could not be used to retrain more services. Reference was also made to Social Services overspends and the possible use of general funds, the Community Councillor felt that there was a lack of public understanding as to why it isn't possible to use these sums to offset savings. Councillor Cuss confirmed that these earmarked reserves would be used to fund improvements such as the 21st Century School Band B proposals allowing the Council to draw down match funding from Welsh Government. As to Social Services overspends he confirmed that there were increased pressures within children services particularly in relation to court mandated out of county placements and that these areas required continued investment in order to safeguard our most vulnerable children. Therefore they must and should be a budgetary priority. The Cabinet agreed to forward on the comments made to the Interim Head of Corporate Finance.

The meeting closed at 8.00pm