

LLANHARRY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 10TH DECEMBER 2014 AT
7.15 P.M. AT THE AMBULANCE HALL, BIRCHGROVE, LLANHARRY.

PRESENT: COUNCILLORS: (MRS) J DILWORTH (CHAIRMAN); I CLARIDGE; (MRS) P
CLARIDGE; D SNOOK; (MRS) B STEPHENS; B STEPHENS AND MRS G LEWIS (CLERK).

1. ELECTION OF MEMBER TO PRESIDE IN THE ABSENCE OF THE CHAIRMAN AND
VICE-CHAIRMAN

The Vice-Chairman Councillor (Mrs) Dilworth took the chair in the absence of the Chairman.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Owen - accepted.

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Councillor Claridge in item 10, Correspondence.

Councillor (Mrs) Claridge in item 10, Correspondence.

Clerk, Mrs Lewis in items 12, Quotations and 20, National Salary Award.

4. COMMUNITY POLICING

No one was in attendance at the meeting.

5. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

5.1 Payment of Accounts

Resolved: To make payment of all accounts presented, as per the list attached to the minutes.

5.2 Bank Reconciliation

A copy of the reconciliation for November was supplied to members.

SIGNED.....CHAIRMAN

2536

DATE.....

5.3 GFNOV14/MANOV14/BESNOV14

Copies of these documents were presented to Members.

6. EXAMINATION AND CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the Special Meeting and Monthly Meeting held on 12th November were confirmed.

7. SIGNATURE OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the meetings were duly signed by the Chairman.

8. MATTERS ARISING

8.1 Playing Field/AFC Matters

Litter Bin/Dog Waste Bins

The Clerk confirmed that the bins had been installed.

8.2 Matters at Tylagarw

Councillor Owen has received a number of complaints from Tylagarw residents that they were not informed of the exhibition of the proposed Solar Farm. The Clerk asked whether Suncredit intended to hold another. They have replied that they took advice from RCTCBC Planning Department and only contacted residents who would be adversely affected by traffic on the construction route. They have sent some leaflets which can be given out and asked that anyone with any concerns contacts them directly.

Representatives of Suncredit will be attending the January meeting to give an update on the application.

8.3 Ambulance Hall Covenant

A reply has been received which states that the covenant cannot be lifted but could at a cost to the Council be amended “to permit the hiring out of the hall commercially for events, etc. for community benefit”. Members asked the Clerk for an indication of the cost involved.

St John Wales “have no objection in principle” to changing the name to Llanharry Village Hall but their solicitor will check there is nothing in the title or covenant that stipulates otherwise.

SIGNED.....CHAIRMAN

2537

DATE.....

Insulation

Members thanked Councillor Snook and his son Matthew Snook, who works for Rockwool Limited, for arranging for a donation of insulation for the Ambulance Hall. The Clerk was asked to write to Rockwool Limited and thank them for their kind donation. Thanks also to the Chairman, Councillor Owen, for collecting the insulation.

8.4 Correspondence from Watts & Morgan regarding the purchase of land to extend the Cemetery

The Clerk reported that Mr Robin Jones of Watts and Morgan had left a message on the answerphone but that she had been unsuccessful in contacting him so far.

Councillor I Claridge and Councillor (Mrs) P Claridge declared an interest in the following item.

8.5 Llanharry Community Centre

Llanharry resident Mrs Julie Olds was in attendance at the meeting and has submitted a letter about the condition of the Community Centre (see correspondence). Mrs Olds was invited to speak by the Chairman. Mrs Olds stated that she was a member of Llanharry and Tylagarw Community Association and that they had planned to use the community centre for a Christmas event which was planned to coincide with the turning on of the Christmas lights. Upon arrival at the community centre it was found to be in such a disgusting condition that they couldn't use it unless it was thoroughly cleaned. Mrs Olds stated that it appeared not to have been cleaned since the last time LCTA used it at the beginning of November. Thankfully the weather was kind and the event, in its entirety, was held outside, including the provision of refreshments! She informed the meeting that she has verbally complained to Councillor Barry Stephens on numerous occasions but that nothing is done to permanently remedy the situation. She has also informed R.C.T. C.B.C.'s Community Centre Manager Mr De Benedictis and expects him to sort this matter out. The Clerk informed the meeting that the Chairman had instructed her to email a complaint to Mr De Benedictis about the state of the community centre on the night in question. Councillor Barry Stephens stated that any complaint should have been made in writing to him as Chairman of Llanharry Community Centre Management Committee. He declined to discuss the matter further stating that it was now in the hands of Mr De Benedictis.

Members asked whether the Clerk has received a reply to the email. The Clerk replied that she hasn't. Members discussed the fact that Mrs Olds has had an immediate reply to her correspondence but that the community council has not. Members stated that we were supposed to be working in partnership with R.C.T. C.B.C. and highlighted the charter that was signed by both parties!

Mrs Olds stated that Mr De Benedictis had promised a full investigation into the matter within the next few weeks and that if the matter was not answered to her satisfaction that she "would take the matter further"!

Members stated that this was not a new problem and that Llanhari PTA had complained to Mr De

Benedictis. Councillor Snook stated that he had told his grievances to Councillor Barry Stephens on at least three occasions but that Councillor Stephens had not acted upon them.

The Chairman directed the Clerk to write to Mr De Benedictis; the Head of Leisure, Parks and Countryside, Mr David Batten; the Leader of the Council, Mr Andrew Morgan and the Chief Executive, Mr Keith Griffiths and bring to their attention that we have written to them on quite a few occasions and that we want this matter addressed.

8.6 Consideration of a logo for Llanharry Community Council

The Clerk produced two designs; one design totally coloured rusty brown and the other a combination of black and rusty brown.

Resolved: to adopt the black/brown logo.

8.7 Site Meeting to consider sites for tree planting

The Chairman, Clerk and Councillors Ian and Peggy Claridge planted 90 saplings in the playing field to create a wood to commemorate all those lost in war. Fifteen saplings were donated to Llanhari Primary School.

9. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND COMMITTEES

There were no reports.

Councillor Claridge and Councillor (Mrs) Claridge declared an interest in the first item of correspondence.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was noted:

Mrs J Olds – letter about the poor condition of the Community Centre – a copy was circulated to members at the meeting - see minute 8.5.

ICCM – The Journal, Winter 2014.

Llanharry AFC – Letter of thanks for the S137 Grant.

The Ramblers' – Walk Magazine.

SLCC – Training; 2015 Regional Roadshows; Practitioners Conference; CPD.

SIGNED.....CHAIRMAN

2539

DATE.....

11 PLANNING

Resolved: to note the following:

- Planning lists from 3rd to 28th November.

The Clerk declared an interest in the following item.

12 CONSIDERATION OF QUOTATIONS FOR THE GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT 2015/2016

Five quotations were received from P & P Gardens, Andrew Vowles, AR Thompson Landscapes, Countrywide Grounds Maintenance and Marcon Services.

Resolved: to accept one of the lowest quotations, that of P & P Gardens.

13 CONSIDERATION OF PROJECTS FOR THE COMING FINANCIAL YEAR

Projects were discussed and some eliminated from the list for consideration. A decision will be made at the next meeting when hopefully the precept will be set also.

14 CONSIDERATION OF PAYING FOR CHRISTMAS TREES FOR TYLAGARW COMMUNITY CENTRE

To be deferred until the January meeting due to the absence of Councillor Owen.

15 CONSIDERATION OF PUBLISHING A COLUMN IN THE DISTRICT DIARY

To be deferred until the January meeting due to the absence of Councillor Owen.

16 CONSIDERATON OF PUBLISHING A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

To be deferred until the January meeting due to the absence of Councillor Owen.

SIGNED.....CHAIRMAN

DATE.....

17 CONSIDERATION OF MEMBERS' DISMAY "THAT SPORT AND LEISURE SERVICES ARE BEING HAMMERED BY THE CURRENT AUSTERITY MEASURES"

To be deferred until the January meeting due to the absence of Councillor Williams.

18 CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIALLY SUPPORTING THE "47" BUS

To be deferred until the January meeting.

19 CONSIDERATION OF MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT AND THE USE OF FACEBOOK

Councillor Claridge reported that in his opinion one member's comments on Facebook were inappropriate and untrue.

The Clerk reminded all members to be mindful of the Members' Code of Conduct in their dealings with the public, each other and social media.

The Clerk declared an interest in the following item and left the meeting.

20 CONSIDERATION OF THE 2014-2016 NATIONAL SALARY AWARD

Resolved: to adopt the new pay scales for 2014-2016 effective from 1st January 2015 and to pay the appropriate non-consolidated (one-off) payment (pro-rata).

The Clerk rejoined the meeting.

21 CONFIRMATION OF THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Resolved: the date of the next ordinary meeting was confirmed as Wednesday, 14th January 2015.

The meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.

SIGNED.....CHAIRMAN

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DATE.....