



BRACKLA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting Held in the Boardroom, Oak Tree Surgery Thursday 16 July 2015 at 7.00 pm

Members Present

Cllr J Brett – Chairman

Cllr D Aston

Cllr C Jones

Cllr M Quick

Cllr D Sage

Cllr P Hacking

Cllr T Hacking

Cllr H Townsend

Clerk - Mrs A Wilkes

Assistant Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer – Mr P Ley

225 Community Police Report

PCSO Emma Watkins had provided the crime figure. The PACT priority had been identified as 'Speeding on Coychurch Road'. There is low visibility for pedestrians using the shortcut via Hazeldene Avenue from Coychurch Road and Borough Councillors are hoping for a speed reduction from Erw Hir to Singletons currently 40 mph. The PCSO would arrange for the mobile safety camera van to visit the area of concern.

Emma advised members that a new website and Facebook page for South Wales Police had been published.

226 Public Address to Council

- (a) Mr Lyn Roberts of 9 Heol Glyndwr addressed the Chairman accompanied by his neighbour and handed the Clerk a letter from Mr Andrew Thomas of 8 Heol Glyndwr with concerns about the future of the green open space behind their properties.

Mr Roberts was aware that another resident, Mr Rob Pritchard of 11 Llys Briallen wished to address the Chairman on a current planning application and environmental issue. The Chairman appointed five minutes to each resident. Mr Roberts asked if the Chairman would let him know when his time was up, so that he did not delay Mr Pritchard.

Mr Roberts advised that in 2007 a set of football posts had been installed on the green open space behind his garden without consulting residents. Mr Roberts brought a newsletter which had been distributed by this council on 24 May 2007, which included an article on the proposed installation of the football posts. These posts would be maintained by the residents involved in the installation. The posts were purchased by a resident, never maintained and ultimately corroded.

On 25 May 2007, Mr Roberts stated that he had complained to Cllr David Sage and the Clerk that the residents had not been consulted on the football posts and the following day the posts were installed.

Mr Roberts reported to the Clerk in June 2015, that the posts were in a dangerous state. Following an inspection the posts were removed immediately by a contractor on behalf of this council.

Mr Roberts had complained on many occasions to South Wales Police, Bridgend County Borough Council and Brackla Community Council regarding bad language of young people who had been playing football in the area and the littering. Mr Roberts and his wife were unable to sit outside and enjoy their garden due to the constant bad language of others.

Since 25th June this year there were no problems and the area had been used by many young children. Mr Roberts and his neighbours wish to be consulted if new football posts are to be erected at the same location.

Cllr H Townsend informed members that she had received eight enquires regarding the removal of the football posts and expressed concern at the diminishing facilities for young people in Brackla. Cllr Townsend suggested that this council conduct a public consultation, to include the whole of Brackla, on the need for new football posts.

- (b) Mr Rob Pritchard is experiencing environmental/planning issues with his next door neighbour and requested assistance from this council. The neighbour had submitted Planning Application T/15/37/TPO to remove damaged/diseased Beech trees. Mr Pritchard had made a personal objection to Bridgend County Borough Council.

Many trees had been removed from the site and surrounding area, vermin and dog fouling not being cleaned up within his neighbour's garden. The neighbour is a mobile mechanic and there are vehicles and parts in their garden, which are visible from the street. The neighbour had built sheds within his garden and a further shed erected against Mr Pritchard's boundary fence which has a tarpaulin cover, which flaps all of the time. The chimney for the log fire has been built higher than the original plan due to the excessive smoke as the neighbour is burning 'everything' on the fire. This also caused a terrible stench.

A Bridgend County Borough Council Environment Officer has inspected the property a number of times and found car batteries, cement mixers and tyres in the garden. The neighbour carries out car paint spaying on the road outside his house.

It is the opinion of Mr Pritchard's that his neighbour does whatever he want and due to the lack of communication between BCBC Departments, the above issues are not being addressed.

Cllr David Sage asked Mr Pritchard to provide him with a list of complaints and he would make an official referral to BCBC.

227 Apologies for Absence

Cllr I Hibble - work commitments

Cllr J Spanswick - on holiday

Cllr G Williams - family commitments

228 Declaration of Interest in Accordance with Section 51 of the Local Government Act 2000

Cllr C Jones – Borough Councillor, Bridgend CBC – prejudicial interest on Planning Applications and related issues. Cllr Jones is also an officer of the GMB Union

Cllr M Quick – member of Brackla Community Association

Cllr D Sage - Borough Councillor, Bridgend CBC - prejudicial interest on Planning Applications and related issues.

Cllr H Townsend – Borough Councillor, Bridgend CBC – Cabinet Member - prejudicial interest on Planning Applications and related issues.

229 Ratification of Minutes, Statutory Annual General Meeting 21 May 2015

Deferred to the September meeting - to be ratified by two members in attendance of the May meeting.

230 Ratification of Minutes, Full Council Meeting 21 May 2015

Resolved: that the minutes were proposed by Cllr C Jones, seconded by Cllr M Quick and accepted by council as a true record of proceedings. The Chairman duly signed the minutes.

231 Matters of Report by the Clerk of the Council – no report

231a To consider special Dispensation for Cllr David Sage to continue as a member of this council

Not applicable - Cllr D Sage in attendance.

232 To consider all Correspondence received by this Council

1. One Voice Wales Conference, Saturday 3 October at Bont Pavillion, Pontyrhydfendigaid, Ceredigion.
2. Bridgend County Borough Council, Matthew Gilbert, Transportation Policy & Strategy Officer – Active Travel Act existing routes consultation, expires on 23 October. Emailed to all members 5 July 2015.
3. Y Bont – letter of thanks regarding a Section 137 Donation of £250.00.
4. Brackla Community Chorus – letter of thanks regarding a Section 137 Donation of £500.
5. Cancer Research Wales – letter of thanks regarding a Section 137 Donation of £756.73.
6. One Voice Wales – notice of AGM of the Bridgend/Vale/Cardiff Area Committee on Monday 20 July at the Lesser Hall, Town Hall, Cowbridge. The Chairman, Cllr June Brett would attend.
7. Bridgend County Borough Council, Mr Mark Shephard, Corporate Director Communities – new partnership with Awen Cultural Trust (established by the Council as a means of creating a more sustainable future for arts and culture) and Bridgend CBC as from 1 October 2015. The Trust will take over the management and development of a significant portfolio of arts and cultural facilities and services owned and currently operated by our local Authority. To include Community arts activity, Blaengarw Workmen's Hall, Bryngarw House & Country Park, Coity, Awel y Mor & Bettws Life Centre, Grand Pavilion Porthcawl, Library Services, Maesteg Town Hall, Wood-B and B-Leaf.
Resolved: that this information is duly noted
8. Ombudsman for Wales, Nick Bennett – Annual Report 2014/15 . NB The number of complaints about public service providers has continued to rise; up 6% on 2014/15. July 2014 saw the highest number of enquiries and highest number of complaints since the office came into existence. A copy of the report is held with the Clerk if required.
9. Bridgend County Borough Council – Town & Community Council Forum meeting took place on Monday 29 June. The agenda was received on 26 June.

10. Bridgend County Borough Council, Democratic Services Assistant, Merete Bang – request to include the Bridgend Youth Council in any community invitations. Daniel Butlin, Youth Mayor and Cari Burns, Deputy Youth Mayor.
Resolved: that this information is duly noted and the Clerk would ensure future invitations to Bridgend Youth Council
11. Bridgend County Borough Council – Summer Play Scheme (8 – 11 years) would take place in the Sports Facility, Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School. Open from 10 – 4, Mondays to Fridays from 27 July to 21 August. The Play Scheme for Brackla would be totally funded by this Council. Funding arrangements by this Council had not been conveyed in publications distributed by Communities First. Cllr J Spanswick had written to the Manager of Communities First to amend notices and booklets.
12. Bridgend County Borough Council, Democratic Services Assistant, Merete Bang – Bridgend Borough Civic Service, The Mayor, Councillor Richard Young, Sunday 6 September at St Mary’s Church, Nolton, tea at the Heronstone Hotel.
Resolved: that the Chairman, Cllr June Brett and consort would attend and confirmed with Democratic Services Department

Cllr David Sage left the meeting

233 Brackla Community Centre Asset Transfer Update

The most recent communication from Mr Richard Hughes, Group Manager, Cultural Services informed that he had made enquiries with Bridgend County Borough Council Client Department and completion of the lease would be imminent.

Interviews for the caretaker and a cleaner would take place on 20 August, conducted by the Chairman and the Clerk.

234 Annual Events

- (a) **Brackla Funday, Saturday 4 July** had been another very successful community event. The birds of prey stand being one of the most popular during the afternoon. The Council would like to thank everyone who took part together with all the volunteers. We would also like to thank the Headteacher of Brackla Primary School for allowing us to use the school grounds.

Lessons to be learned:

1. The lower gate of the school must be open in future for ease of access for residents from Trem y Mor, Georgian Way, The Willows, Brackla Meadows etc.

2. A number of people brought their dogs to the event. As it is school grounds, no dogs are allowed on site. Signage required for next year.
- (b) **Brackla in Bloom Competition Presentations Saturday 5 September 2015** at Brackla Community Centre. The Clerk had made all necessary arrangements.
- (c) **Firework Show Wednesday 4 November 2015** at the rear of Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School. The Clerk had requested confirmation from the Headteacher for permission to hold the Firework Show at the school. This would be the third firework event in Brackla. All quotations for the show would be presented to members at the next meeting. The Circuit Symphony had provided music free of charge in 2014 and the Clerk requested members to consider payment for this entertainment in 2015.

235 To discuss the current Grounds Maintenance Arrangements

The Clerk and a number of Councillors attended a meeting with Bridgend County Borough Council officers regarding Brackla Community Council taking on the function of grass cutting for the whole of Brackla. It had been suggested by members that Bridgend County Borough Council support a partnership of 70/30 with this council, based on the existing level of service. Brackla Community Council would be able to provide a quality and consistent service. Officers stated that it would be agreed in principle and costs would be provided. Brackla Community Council would aim to commence the service from April 2015. The Clerk would arrange a further meeting with Bridgend County Borough Council Officers at a later date.

An informal meeting would be arranged in August to discuss advertising a tender for grass cutting.

Members commented on the fantastic grass cutting/grounds maintenance and floral displays provided this year by our contractors.

236 Finance

- (a) Schedule of Payments June 2015
Resolved: that payments were unanimously approved, proposed by Cllr D Aston and seconded by Cllr T Hacking. Signed by two members of the council in accordance with Accounts & Audit Regulations
- (b) Mr Ley had provided members with a copy of the bank reconciliation for approval
Resolved: that payments were unanimously approved and signed by two members of the council in accordance with Accounts & Audit Regulations

237 To consider Quotations for a New Website and Social Media

Quotations had been requested of three providers – only two quotations had been received: Vale Internet Solutions and South Wales Web Solutions Full details were provided to council members for consideration.

Resolved: that the contract would be awarded to South Wales Web Solutions at a cost of £950 to design and build a new website, including training, new logo design £150, hosting support and maintenance £20 per month.

238 To Receive the Clerk's Report

Removal of goal posts from green open space off Church Acre – all information was included in the public address.

239 To Received Members Reports

Cllr David Aston stated that litter bins were not being emptied regularly by Bridgend County Borough Council and suggested that the current black bins should be replaced by larger bins.

Cllr Pat Hacking reported that weed spraying had been carried out by Bridgend County Borough Council at Sedd Coch. This was the only weed spraying this year todate.

240 Agenda items for the September 2015 Full Council Meeting

To discuss the need to replace goal posts at Church Acre

241 Date of the next Full Council Meeting

Thursday 17 September 2015, 7.00 pm in the boardroom, Oak Tree Surgery.

242 To Consider Brackla Planning Applications by the Planning Committee Members of this Council

No applications to consider

Business concluded and the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.50 pm

Signature of the Chairman: Date:
Councillor June Brett

Matters of Report by the Clerk of the previous Full Council Meeting

1. To document the cancellation of the September Full Council Meeting.

Correspondence Received from 17 July 2015

1. Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School – request sponsorship for school rugby teams.
2. Welsh Government – The Playing Fields (Community Involvement in Disposal Decisions) Regulations 2015. Statutory Guidance – copy letter to the Local Authorities.
3. Brackla Senior Citizen’s Association – a thank you card for the recent donation of £250.
4. Email from resident of Briarfields – compliments to our contractors for grass cutting and litter picking for the community. They are doing a fantastic job and a huge improvement had been noticed. Keep up the good work.
5. Society of Local Council Clerks – conference in Swansea 17 September.
6. Bridgend County Borough Council, Paul Cottrell, Senior Surveyor, Property Review – Draft Community Asset Transfer Guidance.
7. TCRM Website – email address to Cllr H Townsend, copied to Cllr J Spanswick regarding this council’s decision to use another website provider.
8. Welsh Government – Draft Directions to the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales. Emailed to all 17.8.15

Further items of correspondence for September/October will be provided at the meeting.