

BRACKLA COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held at 6:30pm on Thursday, 17th March 2022

This meeting was held on a remote basis in accordance with the provisions of The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021

Members Present

- Cllr T Walsh– Chairperson
- Cllr D Aston
- Cllr E Caparros
- Cllr T Giffard
- Cllr I Hibble
- Cllr K Hughes
- Cllr A Pucella
- Cllr K Rowlands
- Cllr J Spanswick

Also Present

- Mr P Ley – Responsible Finance Officer
- Miss H May – Admin Officer
- Cllr Stuart Baldwin – Bridgend County Borough Council

Due to technical difficulties, this meeting did not start until 6:55pm

Cllr T Walsh started the meeting by paying tribute to Simon Green who sadly passed away recently. He sent his condolences to his friends, family and colleagues on behalf of Brackla Community Council.

He also shared his upset and condolences to those affected by events currently happening in Ukraine.

173. To receive Apologies for absence

None

174. To receive Members' Declarations of Interest in respect of the business to be transacted

Cllr I Hibble declared a personal interest throughout the meeting as he is a Civil Servant working for Welsh Government.

Cllr J Spanswick declared a prejudicial interest in relation to item 189, Planning, as he is a Member of Bridgend BCB Development Control Committee. He agreed to leave the meeting for this item.

175. Public Questions (limited to 10 minutes – S/O 3g)

No questions were raised

176. To agree Minutes of the Wellbeing of Future Generation and Community Centre Joint Committee Meeting - 10th February 2022

Brackla Community Council c/o Oak Tree Surgery, Whitethorn Drive, Brackla, Bridgend CF31 2PQ

Tel: 01656 767072 Email: clerk@bracklacommunitycouncil.gov.uk

Website: www.bracklacommunitycouncil.gov.uk

Resolved:

The minutes were approved this was proposed by Cllr D Aston and seconded by Cllr J Spanswick

177. To agree Minutes of the Full Council Meeting – 17th February 2022

Resolved:

The minutes were approved, this was proposed by Cllr K Hughes and seconded by Cllr E Caparros

178. To agree Minutes of the HR/Personnel Committee Meeting – 9th March 2022

Resolved:

The minutes were approved, this was proposed by Cllr K Rowlands and seconded by Cllr J Spanswick

179. To note Matters arising not addressed elsewhere on the agenda – Clerk's report

The Admin Officer attended the Ysgol Bro Ogwr Consultation meeting with Bridgend County Borough Council to discuss the plans put together for the proposed new site of the school. If Members wished to make comments, the consultation is open until 25th March 2022.

180. Matters pertaining to Community Centre

The Admin Officer shared information relating to re-opening the Community Centre for parties on the weekends and re-opening the smaller rooms to groups. It was also advised that all documents for the Community Centre refurbishment project had now been received.

Resolved:

It was agreed to re-open the Community Centre to parties and to welcome back groups to the smaller room and to organise a Community Centre Committee Meeting to discuss the refurbishment project in more detail. This was proposed by Cllr K Rowlands and seconded by Cllr D Aston.

181. Community Pantry - Motion Received by Cllr J Spanswick

The following Motion was made to the Community Council by Cllr J Spanswick and proposed at the meeting;

With the cost-of-living crisis and the ongoing difficulties some families are facing when it comes to deciding between eating or heating, I believe Brackla Community Council is well placed to provide help. Therefore, I wish to propose a motion that Brackla Community Council commit to providing a Food Pantry outlet on at least a weekly basis within the Community Centre and that in the short term this be located within the small room immediately adjacent, and to the right of, the front entrance doors. This would limit any conflict with existing users such as the nursery where there needs to be a secure part of the building and would allow use by both groups to operate at the same time.

This motion was seconded by Cllr E Caparros.

Cllr T Giffard proposed an alternative motion at the meeting, which is as follows.

With the cost-of-living crisis and the ongoing difficulties some families are facing when it comes to deciding between eating or heating, I believe Brackla Community Council is well placed to provide help. This motion calls on this council to speak with the current providers of the community pantry to maintain the existence of the 'Baobab Bach' scheme, which is familiar with many local residents in Brackla and beyond.

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Any such scheme would be welcome to be run from Brackla Community Centre, provided they co-exist with existing commitments, arrangements and bookings in the Community Centre, as well as providing the Council with all necessary insurance documents, risk assessments and works in accordance with all relevant health and safety requirements and our conditions of hire.

This was seconded by Cllr K Rowlands

Members discussed both motions and asked the Admin Officer questions in relation to contracts of users and documents they hold. The Admin Office informed Members that all groups using the Community Centre, must provide a copy of Public Liability Insurance, Risk Assessment for their group and a Covid-19 risk assessment along with any further documents and polices such as food hygiene before they are able to have use of the building.

Resolved:

Following discussions, a vote was held on the motion proposed by Cllr T Giffard. The vote was as follows;

5 – For

2 Against

1 – Abstain

182. Matters pertaining to Finance, Governance and Administration

a) To receive YTD Financial Accounts as at 28 February 2022

Resolved:

The Council's accounts were approved this was proposed by Cllr D Aston and seconded by Cllr K Hughes

b) To note Bank reconciliation as at 28 February 2022

Resolved:

The bank reconciliation was approved, this was proposed by Cllr J Spanswick and seconded by Cllr D Aston

c) To note Payments made during the previous month

Resolved:

The list of payments were approved and it was agreed that the NALC back pay would be awarded to the office staff, this was proposed by Cllr D Aston and seconded by Cllr T Giffard.

d) To approve Payment schedule as presented

183. Donation Requests

Resolved:

It was agreed to defer this Agenda item due to technical difficulties with opening relevant documents, this was proposed by Cllr D Aston and seconded by Cllr K Hughes.

184. To consider and agree the Community Council's One Voice Wales Membership

Resolved:

It was agreed to continue the Community Council's One Voice Wales Membership at a cost of £1780 this was proposed by Cllr K Hughes and seconded by Cllr D Aston.

185. Brackla Green Spaces

Cllr Stuart Baldwin of Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) attended the meeting to discuss the plans for the green spaces in Brackla. Members expressed their concern and disappointment that there has been little to no communication between BCBC and Brackla Community Council during consultation and planning of projects on the green spaces in the area. Cllr Baldwin apologised and stated that this was not just an issue in Brackla but within the wider area and lessons will be learnt to improve this going forward.

Whilst there were some questions asked by Members that were unable to be answered such as the costing of planting on the Foxfields Site, Cllr Baldwin advised that the Admin Officer could email him further questions so he could either pass them onto the relevant department or find information out for the Community Council and respond in due course.

Some issues raised by Councillors that were brought to their attention from residents such as the planting too close to homes or boundaries have now been resolved and trees have been moved elsewhere.

Cllr T Walsh thanked Cllr Baldwin for attending the meeting and suggested that if Members wished for any more questions to be answered, they email the Admin Officer that could pass them on.

7:20pm – Cllr Baldwin and Cllr I Hibble left the meeting

186. Recommendations of the HR Committee Meeting

The following recommendations were made to Full Council following a meeting of the HR/Personnel Committee;

1. To use the simpler job advert to make it easier to understand
2. To include the hourly rate alongside the number of hours working on the top of the advert.
3. That no closing date be set, the job will remain open until the right candidate is found
4. To change existing wording to 'no qualifications needed'
5. An interview panel will be set when candidates have applied.

Resolved:

The recommendations and job advert were approved, this was proposed by Cllr D Aston and seconded by Cllr T Giffard.

187. To consider Community Council Events

a) Brackla Funday

Resolved:

It was agreed to go ahead with this year's Funday and for the Admin Officer to contact Brackla Primary School to get permission for use of the school field. It was agreed that Saturday 2nd July would be the preferred date but around end of June, beginning of July would be suitable depending on availability of the school. This was agreed by Cllr D Aston and seconded by Cllr J Spanswick.

b) Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Resolved:

Members agreed for the Admin Officer to look at gathering quotes for a plaque to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee and suggested to look at the possibility of an afternoon

tea with a 50's theme. This was proposed by Cllr K Hughes and seconded by Cllr J Spanswick.

8:50pm - Mr P Ley left the meeting

c) Wales in Bloom

Resolved:

It was agreed to enter this year's Wales in Bloom Competition, this was proposed by Cllr D Aston and seconded by Cllr J Spanswick

8:55pm - It was resolved to suspend Standing Order 3(w) to allow the meeting to continue beyond 2 hours.

188. To receive Members' reports

Cllr T Walsh informed Members that he had attended the Ysgol Bro Ogwr Consultation Meeting as well as attended a School Governors meeting for Archdeacon John Lewis.

Cllr J Spanswick advised the Council that all the trees have been planted in the Foxfield site following two days of planting. He also thanked Members and staff of the Council for the work they have undertaken over the past 5 years

Cllr K Hughes shared information regarding bins in the Brackla area, some had been removed or change due to fly tipping in certain areas. The bins are currently being monitored and reviewed and more information will be shared in due course. Cllr D Aston also expressed a concern over the high volumes of fly tipping and dog mess, but the Admin Officer stated that no reports have been made to the Community Council yet.

Cllr D Aston asked if anyone knew who owned the grass area of the Triangle as well as an area of green space in Priory Oak as residents had approached him asking to plant trees on the land. It was suggested that land ownership be sought-after before an agreement can take place.

It was also asked if there was anything that could be done to raise funds to help with the Ukraine crisis. It was agreed that a post be shared on the Council's website to sign post Members of the public to places they can donate to or offer help.

Cllr A Pucella thanked the Members and staff for their work over the past few years and wished everyone good luck with the elections and in the future.

9:05pm – Cllr J Spanswick left the meeting

189. To consider Planning Applications received since the last meeting

a) T/22/3/TPO – 2 Linnet Way, CF31 2NX

Trim trees overhanging pavement and garden – Mountain Ash (MAI) reduce by 10%, Hawthorn (HT1) reduce by 25% and Hawthorn (HT2) reduce by 10%

Resolved:

There was no objection to this application

b) P/22/72/FUL - 36 Priory Oak, CF31 2HY

First floor side extension & change of use of ground/first floor to granny annex

Resolved:

There was no objections to this application

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c) P/22/125/FUL – 66 Erw Hir, CF31 2DD

Change use of existing garage to part dog groomers and ancillary gym

Resolved:

Although the Community Council promotes self-employment and small businesses, we wish to object to this planning application and will be against businesses within residential homes in the Brackla area due to the restricted covenants. We also object to this application as we have concerns over the possible increase of traffic and parking arrangements.

d) A/22/7/ADV - Close to the open-air gym at Brackla Football Field, Tremains Wood

A Green Flag award flag on a flagpole

Resolved:

There was no objection to this application

e) P/22/83/FUL - 15 Rhiw Cae Mawr Brackla CF31 2JB

Installation of 120mm external wall insulation and installation of air source heat pump

Resolved:

1. Whilst we fully support the necessity and importance of energy efficient measures we have a number of reservations with this Application which prevent us from supporting it at this stage:-
2. The actual Planning Application provides no real structural information about the property more specifically whether it is of solid or cavity wall construction although we understand it to be the latter;
3. Is there a 'Party wall agreement' 'required/in place with the adjoining property;
4. The street is of mixed ownership between Social Housing and Privately owned and some if not all of the properties have received cavity wall insulation which questions the benefit of this proposal:
5. The existing appearance and character of the street scene and surrounding buildings will be impacted significantly if this Application is approved;
6. The consultation with neighbours appears to have been minimal even though the project may well have an impact on them all from a visual amenity perspective;
7. The 'Sketchup' of the property shown in the Application Plans simply shows cladding to the front elevations of the property and do not specify the final colour of the render finish. Bearing in mind that the existing property and every house in the street has a brick finish;
8. The "Sketchup" also shows Solar panels to the property which don't exist at the moment and we are unsure if these require planning permission;
9. Will Wales & West Housing be responsible for any potential issues associated with this insulation system in the future unlike the Caerau Arbed insulation scheme providers which has now fallen upon BCBC to resolve and finance;
10. Some tenants believe that the money would be better spent improving existing insulation on other properties in the street that are under the ownership of Wales & West, for example exposed hot water pipes etc ;
11. Whilst BCBC Planning are not concerned with the costs of this proposal presumably the Welsh Government would be looking for Value For Money and cost effectiveness if they are funding this scheme

190. Date of the next meeting – Thursday, 21st April 2022

Meeting closed at 9:20pm