

PELENNA COMMUNITY COUNCIL CYNGOR CYMUNED PELENNNA

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Wednesday 3rd April 2019 at Tonmawr Community Centre at 7.00 p.m.

- 1 Present:** Chairperson – Cllr. Desmond Sparkes
Cllr Diane Evans, Cllr Robert Jenkins,
Cllr Philip Lewis, Cllr Janice Evans,
Cllr Malcolm Jones, Cllr Wayne Pugh
In attendance: The Clerk: David S Mackerras
Apologies: Cllr Lisa Hawkes
-

Cllr Steve Hunt, leader of the Independent group on Neath Port Talbot CBC attended this meeting to explain that the late Cllr Martin Ellis, Member for Peleenna, had updated him a few weeks ago on a number of outstanding issues. In particular he was informed that a little over £2,000 of Cllr Ellis's personal budget remains unallocated and will be available to a future elected Member. Cllr Hunt also explained that he is willing to deal with day to day issues at NPTCBC until a new member is elected.

The meeting stood in silence as a mark of respect for the late Cllr Martin Ellis.

It is believed that the likely date for the funeral will be 23 April.

- 2 2019/042 Declarations of Interest**
Nothing declared

- 3 2019/043 To approve minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Wednesday 6th March 2019**
It was proposed by Cllr Philip Lewis, seconded by Cllr Desmond Sparkes, with all members of Council in favour, that the Minutes of the Full Council meeting of 6th March 2019 are accurately recorded

- 4 2019/044 Matters arising**
Minute 8b – It was reported that the trailer is currently out of

Payments

The Clerk – travel expenses – February 2019	51.30
---	-------

Receipts

Maintenance donations – Irwin/Prosser	10.00
---------------------------------------	-------

b To note closing balances – 28 February 2019

The following balances were noted:

Pelenna Current Account	£14,051.01
Investment Account	£ 1,001.20
Macpelah Account	£ 9,206.53
Swansea Building Society	£ 23.43
Total balances	£ 24,282.17

c To compare actual finance performance to budget – April 2018 – March 2019

Actual performance for Receipts and Payments for the period April 2018 – February 2019 was compared with budget and reviewed with the assistance of explanations. Proposed by Cllr Malcolm Jones, seconded by Cllr Wayne Pugh and agreed by all members that the variance report and explanations be accepted.

d. To confirm rates 2019/20 for Travel allowances per mile, Clerk’s Establishment allowance and Chair allowance

Proposed by Cllr Philip Lewis, seconded by Cllr Wayne Pugh and agreed by all that:

Travel allowances for 2019/20 will be maintained at 45 pence per mile for both paid staff and Council Members, should they wish to claim the allowance, in accordance with Local Government association recommendation. Also that the Clerk’s Establishment allowance should remain at £300 per Annum and the Chair’s allowance should remain at £100 per Annum.

- e. **To decide on staff pay rates 2019/20 for Clerk & CMO per Personnel committee recommendations**
Proposed by Cllr Robert Jenkins, seconded by Cllr Malcolm Jones and agreed by all that and increase of 2% shall be awarded to both the Clerk & CMO for 2019/20.
- f. **To confirm the appointment of the Internal Auditor and specify Terms of Reference 2019/20**
Proposed by Cllr Wayne Pugh, seconded by Cllr Desmond Sparkes with all in favour that Miss Karen Morgan should be re-appointed as Internal Auditor for the year 2019/20 at a fee of £175, and in accordance with the specification agreed at this meeting.
- g. **To agree a discretionary policy for the Local Government Pension Scheme.**
Item deferred to the May meeting.

7 2019/047 Planning applications

- a. No applications were presented for consideration
- b. Eligibility to share in the Community fund connected with the proposed Foel Trawsant wind farm development – application number 2014/0825 will be reviewed in the event that the development proceeds.

8 2019/048 Community maintenance

a. CMO Report including Member comments

The CMO report was noted. Issues will be reported to NPTCBC as required.

It was observed that weedkiller has been applied at Macpelah cemetery. Cllr Pugh advised that details of the use of weedkiller should always be recorded by Council. The issue will be discussed with the CMO and a suitable pro forma report sheet will be issued for use by the CMO to note this and subsequent applications. Noted that the CMO holds appropriate qualifications to carry out such work.

9 2019/049 Member attendance report

It was reported that all members are in compliance with

regulations.

10 2019/050 Community Council playgrounds

a. Annual Inspection reports

ROSPA has undertaken Annual Inspections at Dan y Coed and John's Terrace playgrounds. Both reports indicate some low risk defects and a small number of medium risk defects which will be corrected as soon as possible. Clerk to meet with Cllr Wayne Pugh and the CMO on site to review the reported defects and plan for the repairs.

11 2019/051 Cemetery

a. Maintenance

Full grass cut was carried out by the contractor on 27th and 29th March, in preparation for Mother's day weekend and Palm Sunday.

It was reported that tin sheets have been left, quite probably by a grave digger. Clerk to investigate.

b. Update on Enforcement of Public access to toilet facilities

Chapel Trustees have been advised that enforcement action will be taken if they fail to provide public access to the toilets. A letter confirming the Council's decision has been sent to the Trustee's solicitor.

c. Update on Legal advice regarding the return of the cemetery to Macpelah Chapel Trustees in the event that they continue to resist providing public access to toilet facilities

NPTCBC Legal department advises Council cannot enforce return of cemetery ownership to Chapel Trustees if covenants are not maintained. Remedy may only be achieved by enforcement of covenant.

d. To choose the successful quotation bid for grass cutting service

Two bids received by closing date. The successful contractor chosen for value and known work standard will be informed and awarded a one year contract commencing 1st April 2019.

- 12 2019/052 Outcome of Pen y Cymoedd Micro grant Application**
 Grant application to fund the creation of a Community Development Plan has not been approved.
 It was recommended by Pen y Cymoedd community fund that Council undertakes further planning and development work with a view to submitting a revised bid.
 Agreed that Chair and Clerk seek an appointment with the Fund's Executive Director to discuss re-submission.
- 13 2019/053 Support for creation of War Memorial at St Teilo's Church, Tonmawr**
 Mr John Rawlinson, has approached the Clerk for advice on grant availability from any source to provide for the erection of a War Memorial at St Teilo's church, Tonmawr. Advice was offered but no request has been raised for the Community Council to assist with direct funding.
- 14 2019/054 Filling of Casual Vacancies**
 There has been no interest at this time although Council Members continue to seek out interest from the community.
- 15 2019/055 Health & Safety**
 Nothing to report
- 16 2019/056 Correspondence**
- a. Copied in to correspondence between Mr John Rawlinson and National Resource Wales. **Agreed that this is a private matter between NRW and Mr John Rawlinson. The Community Council is unable to intervene.**
 - b. Finance committee of the National Assembly for Wales is seeking information to inform its enquiry on consideration of proposals to amend the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2013.
 Consultation open via provided link until 3 May 2019. **Noted.**
- 17 2019/057 To set date of next Full Council and Annual Meeting**
 Wednesday 8th May 2019 at Tonmawr Community Centre.
 (Subsequently changed to 15th May 2019)

Chair

Meeting closed at 9:00pm.