

PELENNA COMMUNITY COUNCIL CYNGOR CYMUNED PELENNA

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Monday 1st March 2021,
via Starleaf video-conference at 7.00 p.m.

1 Present: Chairperson – Cllr. Diane Evans
Members – Cllr Tim Bowen, Cllr Philip Lewis,
Cllr Lisa Hawkes, Cllr David Hole,
Cllr Janice Evans.

In attendance – D S Mackerras (Clerk)
Cllr J Hurley (Neath Port Talbot CBC

Member)

Apologies: Cllr Desmond Sparkes, Cllr Robert Jenkins.

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2 2021/0032 Declarations of Interest

Nothing declared.

3 2021/0033 To approve Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Monday 8th February 2021.

Proposed by Cllr Tim Bowen, seconded by Cllr Lisa Hawkes with all members present in favour, that the minutes are accepted as a correct record of the meeting.

4 2021/0034 Matters arising.

It was reported that good progress has been made with the bank to change the payment of accounts to an on-line method

5 2021/0035 Questions from the public

No questions have been raised from the public.

6 2021/0036 Report and Update on County Borough/ Peleenna Community issues – Cllr Jeremy Hurley.

- Cllr Jeremy Hurley has set up a Whatsapp text group to improve communication between Members of the Community Council and himself. Mobile telephone details of some Members of Council have yet to be uploaded to

the group. Members of the Community Council are currently satisfied with the level of detail which is being entered by Cllr Hurley.

- It was reported that a new waste bin has been installed at Dan y Coed.

7 2021/0037 Finance

a. To approve schedule of payments – February 2021

Proposed by Cllr Tim Bowen, seconded by Cllr Diane Evans, With all members present in favour, that the following payments made during February are approved.

Community Council (pre VAT)

Salaries at agreed Council rates

Vodafone	64.93
City of Swansea (January Pensions) – Ees contrib.	82.68
Ers contrib.	362.25
Bank Charges	13.80
Dan y Coed Comm Assn Final payment of 20/21 grant	800.00
P’fen Comm Centre – Final payment of 20/21 grant	800.00
S & A Stationers – Printer paper and cartridges	100.66

b. To note closing balances – February 2021

Pelenna Current Account	£ 26,943.86
Investment Account	£ 1,001.94
Macpelah Account	£ 15,157.52
Swansea Building Society	£ 23.57

Total balances	£ 43,126.89
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c. To compare actual Finance performance to Budgeted position – April 2020 – February 2021

Actual performance for Receipts and Payments for the period April 2020 – February 2021 was compared with budget and reviewed with the assistance of explanations. Proposed by Cllr Tim Bowen, seconded by Cllr Diane Evans and agreed by all members present that the variance report and explanations be accepted.

8 2021/0038 Planning applications.

There were no planning applications. However there was an

early indication that there may be future applications relating to additional wind turbines, together with an application in respect of the former Tonmawr school site.

9 2021/0039 Community maintenance.

a. Community Maintenance report.

It was reported that, over the past month, the Community Maintenance Officer has been undertaking the following work:

- Preparation for St David's day
- Mowing Miles' field
- Clearing raised beds at Miles' field
- Removing damaged Football posts at Miles' field
- Checking safety aspects at playgrounds
- Checking and salting paths at Macpelah cemetery
- Tidying lock up unit in preparation for handover
- Clearing slip steps, Tonmawr
- Painting at Tonmawr Community Centre
- Grass cutting throughout the Community

b. Members comments/requests

Cllr Tim Bowen suggested that the Roadside bench located near Fir Tree house at Railway Terrace, Tonmawr serves no useful purpose as it was pointed towards a large hedge and had no view whatsoever. It was agreed to remove the bench. Cllr Bowen also noted that another bench on Railway Terrace between Fir Tree house and Mission bend was located very close to a barbed wire topped fence which was quite dangerous. It was agreed to move the bench backwards by approximately 18 inches to provide safe access to the seat which enjoys a good view.

c. Recruitment of a replacement Community Maintenance Officer

It was agreed to interview three candidates for the position of Community Maintenance worker.

Interviews will be conducted via Star leaf video-conference and this was agreed to take place on Monday evening 8th March. It was also agreed that the personnel committee who

will form the selection panel are granted plenary powers to appoint the candidate of its choice. If the number of committee members serving on the panel drops below three, the Chair of the personnel committee selection panel may appoint Council members as substitutes.

Each candidate will be asked the same set of questions with 25 minutes set for each interview. The Clerk will draft the questions in consultation with the Chair of the personnel committee.

10 2021/0040 Macpelah Cemetery.

a. Maintenance

Nothing to report

b. Handrail quotations

These are expected to be available at the April Full Council meeting.

c. Cemetery path surface

Complaints have been received from the public on the slip hazard presented by the Footpath within the cemetery during inclement weather conditions. We have requested advice from officers of Neath Port Talbot CBC, and await their response.

11 2021/0041 Capital Expenditure.

a. Report on availability of grants

Carys Miles of Neath Port Talbot CVS has advised that the Community Council should consider applying for a Vision grant from the Pen y Cymoedd fund to refurbish the Johns Terrace playground and perhaps other projects not in the ownership of the Community Council such as the refurbishment of the Pontrhydyfen playground and Miles field.

It was noted that a further round of Micro fund grants will be available from Pen y Cymoedd between June and August. It was felt that a sufficient amount of public consultation has been undertaken to understand Community aspirations.

b. To consider quotation for a younger children's rocker at Johns Terrace.

Small pieces of rocker equipment are available from range of suppliers for prices between £500 and £1,000, and an additional £1,000 installation cost. It was decided to include this piece of equipment in a larger Vision grant application.

c. To consider quotations for a replacement Ball hoop/Football net for Johns Terrace playground.

This equipment is available for a cost in the region of £3,500 but again it was decided to add this equipment into a Vision grant application.

d. Second entrance to Johns Terrace children's playground.

No further progress has been made on this issue. A meeting will be sought with officers from Neath Port Talbot CBC to receive advice.

e. To consider quotation for replacement notice boards

Information has been received in connection with a replacement for the free standing notice board at Johns Terrace, and a wall mounted board to be located at Pontrhydyfen Community Centre. This information is currently being analysed.

f. Defibrillator outside lockable cabinets

Colliers Arms Public House has agreed to house its defibrillator in a lockable cabinet fitted to the outside wall, subject to the Community Council funding the purchase of the cabinet and fitting.

Proposed by Cllr Janice Evans, seconded by Cllr Tim Bowen with all members present in favour that a suitable cabinet should be purchased from the Welsh Hearts charity at a cost of £525. Cllr Jeremy Hurley has agreed to fit the cabinet free of charge, and an advertisement will be placed on the facebook pages for a qualified electrician

who may be prepared to provide their services to connect an electrical supply to the cabinet free of charge.

Tonmawr Rugby Football club has been similarly asked if it is prepared to instal its defibrillator in an outside locable cabinet if the Community Council will fund the cabinet purchase. The club has agreed to consider the request at its next committee meeting.

g. To consider quotation for a replacement Football goal post with metal safety wire nets at Miles' field.

A post and net is available at a cost of £1,800 but it was agreed to include this equipment in the Vision grant application.

h. Proposal to purchase litter bins to position alongside the new seats being installed at the Slip steps, Tonmawr and the former Bryn Sion site.

Proposed by Cllr Tim Bowen, seconded by Cllr Lisa Hawkes with all members present that a waste bin should be purchased for each of the new seat locations from M/S Broxap at a cost of £133 for both bins.

i. To consider quotations for the installation of two benches at the Slip steps, Tonmawr and Bryn Sion site, Tonmawr.

Three quotations have been received at it was proposed by Cllr Tim Bowen, seconded by Cllr Lisa Hawkes, with all members present in favour that the cheapest quotation, which matched the specification for the work, which was submitted by Mr Christopher Jones should be accepted.

j. To consider the purchase of a plaque which is inscribed with an English translation of the Bryn Sion memorial stone.

It was proposed by Cllr Tim Bowen, seconded by Cllr Lisa Hawkes, with all member present in favour that a brass plaque 13 inches by 10 inches inscribed with black embossed writing, being a translation of the Bryn Sion memorial stone should be purchased at a cost of £35

plus VAT for installation adjacent to the Welsh language memorial stone.

It was further agreed that the Community Council should formally assume responsibility for the Bryn Sion site which may be sympathetically developed as an asset for the residents of Tonmawr. The site will be maintained by the Community Council.

12 2021/0042 Proposal to make enquiries regarding the purchase, or requesting a gift of a plot of land at Blaenavon farm for allotment use.

It has been suggested that the Community Council should ask the new owner of Blaenavon Farm if they are prepared to gift, or sell at a discounted price, a plot of land on lower ground at the farm, for the provision of a community allotment garden.

The owner has been approached via the Forest manager of Tilhill, the organisation working on behalf of the owner to develop the forest plantation on Blaenavon land.

13 2021/0043 Events Programme.

a. Easter.

It was reported that the Easter competition has been advertised on Facebook, and will also be advertised on the Community Council website. Prizes are currently being collected by Cllr Janice Evans.

b. St David's day – additional banner for Bryn Sion site.

The Council currently has three St David's day banners only which are all currently in place to celebrate our Patron Saint.

Proposed by Cllr Janice Evans, seconded by Cllr Tim Bowen, with all members present in favour that an additional banner should be purchased in readiness for the 2022 celebration at a cost of approximately £40, and which will be placed at the former Bryn Sion site.

c. Additional storage space requirement for Events material.

The Events committee is keen to acquire further storage space to safely store Event material which is likely to increase in quantity over future years.

It is understood that space may become available within Tonmawr Community Centre and this, and other possibilities will be investigated.

14 2021/0044 Correspondence.

- a. A schedule of remote training available from One Voice Wales is available. A limited number of modules are free, and the usual bursary assistance from Welsh Government is available.

It was agreed that the schedule will be distributed to members to establish any interest.

- b. The Independent Remuneration panel for Wales is currently consulting on the remuneration framework for Town and Community Council Councils.

Pelenna Community Council has agreed to make its views known to the panel.

- c. Welsh Government is currently consulting on Fly tipping and litter. Responses to their document should be made by 22nd April and may be accessed at – [linkhttps://litter-and-fly-tipping-prevention-plan-wales](https://litter-and-fly-tipping-prevention-plan-wales)

15 2021/0045 To consider allowing local residents the opportunity to join Video-conference Council meetings.

There has been no call from the public to attend recent Council meetings, although the Notice of meeting and the Agenda are advertised. There is also an issue over sound quality on the video call.

Proposed by Cllr David Hole, seconded by Cllr Diane Evans, with all members present in favour that members of the public should continue to be excluded for the present time as this could lead to a further deterioration in sound

quality.

16 2021/0046 Date of next Full Council and other meetings

Next Full Council meeting will take place via Video-Conference on Monday 12th April.

Interviews will be conducted on Monday 8th March by the personnel committee, via video-conference to select a replacement Community Maintenance worker.

Meeting ended – 21:20pm.

Chair