

VAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL CYNGOR CYMUNED Y FAN



Minutes of the Ordinary FULL COUNCIL Meeting of Van Community Council Thursday 16th January 2020. 6pm. Van Community Centre, Caerphilly

Present: Tony Graham (Chair), Norma Graham, John Leek, Linda Williams, Sheila Newbury, Fay Gay

Apologies: Sheila Jones, Pam Nelder, Barbara Jones (Vice Chair),

In Attendance: Marcia Jones (Clerk)
PC 221 Moore – Gwent Police
CO 303 Mey – Gwent Police

95. Police Matters

- i. CSO Mey and PC Moore attended and gave a verbal update on the attached report – see Appendix 1.
- ii. Cllr N Graham advised officers that a resident had attended the Councillors Surgery on 11th January and highlighted concerns regarding drug dealing near her home and safety concerns in this respect whilst exiting her home during the periods when lights are switched off. Officer noted and will patrol area if possible
- iii. PC Moore advised that local intelligence is key to crime detection and reduction and welcomed anonymous or confidential referrals and Crimestoppers is also available
- iv. PC Moore advised councillors that the Mini police and Cadets were going well. However, there is no scheme currently in place suitable for those in 12-15 age range. Is investigating options to introduce a pilot scheme into Lansbury and wished to gauge Council's opinion and possible financial support. Council AGREED that the scheme outlined would be positive and would be inclined to assist if possible. It was highlighted that it may fit well with the plans for the summer scheme currently in development.
ACTION; PC Moore to submit a proposal and application of financial assistance in due course
- v. PC Moore is considering running a 'Lansbury Olympics' on the stretch during the summer to mark Olympic year. Again, this is subject to suitable provision for funding and support the Council offered their backing in principle.
ACTION; PC Moore to submit a proposal and application of financial assistance in due course

The Chair thanked the officers and they left the meeting

96. Residents Representations

None

97. Declarations of Interest

None

98. Presentation – CCBC Youth Service; Gemma Marks

Due to sickness within the youth team Gemma had to give her apologies at short notice. This will be deferred to a future meeting

ACTION: Clerk to re-arrange

99. Minutes of the Ordinary Full Council meeting held on 21st November 2019

Minutes of the ORDINARY FULL COUNCIL meeting held on 21st November 2019 were received.

- i. Cllr Gay's apologies to be removed from 79 i
- Agreed as an accurate record and Chair signed to confirm.

100. Matters Arising

None

101. Councillor Vacancy

The Clerk informed that a letter was received from Cllr J Keable at the November Council meeting regarding ongoing absence. The Clerk took advice from One Voice Wales in this respect. As a result it came to light that under the Local Government Act 1972 Section 85 a Councillor cannot continue in office if he/she fails to attend a meeting of the whole Council, a committee, sub-committee or joint committee for a period of six consecutive months and the reason for his/her absence is not approved by the full Council before the expiry of the six month period. This absence has not been requested and granted within these times scales and this now means Cllr Keable is automatically disqualified. The Council confirmed the automatic disqualification of Cllr Keable. A casual vacancy will be advertised accordingly. Councillors were advised that if 10 electors (who must be from the ward where the vacancy exists) approach the Returning Officer within 14 days (excluding non-working days) of the date of the notice then there will be an election to fill the vacancy. If 10 do not come forward, then the Council must co-opt to fill the vacancy – but only after the deadline, and guidance under the Wales Local Government measure will be followed in this respect.

ACTION; Clerk to issue 'Notice of Vacancy' and liaise with the Electoral Services Manager at CCBC

102. Finance

- i. List of payments. Received. Payments confirmed and approved
- ii. Bank Reconciliation. Received, confirmed and approved.
- iii. Draft Budget 2020-21. An updated budget sheet including the amendments discussed and agreed at the last meeting was presented for Councillors for information.
- iv. The Clerk provided a paper outlining the calculation of precept options for 2020-2021. Following discussion, it was AGREED unanimously in order to meet the ambitious plans for the community in 2020-2021 and the revenue required for this, that the precept should increase by 9.5% for the forthcoming year, which equates to an increase of £1.45 on a band D property. This would be an increase in revenue £25,000 to £27,500

- ACTION; Clerk to confirm to CCBC
- v. Requests for Financial Assistance
NONE

103. Clerk's Report

- i. Feedback from the Christmas Event; 'A Taste of Christmas' on Sunday 8th December at Van Community Centre. It was AGREED that overall the event went well although numbers were disappointing. This could be due to being held on a Sunday and terrible weather. The distribution of tickets will need to be reconsidered for future events. A provisional date of Friday 11th December 2020 was AGREED for this year.
ACTION; the Clerk to request if Van Community Centre is available
- ii. Redacted minutes. It was AGREED that minutes redacted between March 2019 and July 2019 should be published at end of February
- iii. Hot Desk Space at St James ICC. It was AGREED that it may be beneficial to utilise hot desk space at St James ICC on an ad hoc basis. It is anticipated this will improve networking and lines of communication with partner agencies/community and the Council. It was noted that the Clerk's main place of work is at home for which an allowance is received.
- iv. Notice Boards. A recent update from CCBC advised that a response from planning is expected by the 17th January, and once known further action can be taken accordingly
ACTION; Clerk to follow up and report at next meeting
- v. Bonfire Night event 2020. The initial meeting is scheduled to take place on 22nd January 2020 at 3 pm at Caerphilly Fire Station. Cllr T Graham gave his apologies. Cllr Leek confirmed he will attend.
- vi. Christmas Lighting 2020. A walkabout to be done on 18th January at 11am with the Clerk and Cllrs T Graham and Leek to ascertain preferred location for lighting. The Clerk has a meeting scheduled with Elsbury on 21st January to discuss options and costs
ACTION; Clerk to provide update at next meeting
- vii. 75th VE day 2020. The Council discussed that due to capacity and other commitments on 8th May it will be difficult to arrange an event as previously agreed. It was AGREED to support other initiatives if planned in the area if this is possible

104. Local Resolution Protocol

The Chair outlined to Council the benefits of a 'Local Resolution Protocol' and advised the draft had been developed using guidance from One Voice Wales. It was AGREED unanimously to adopt the draft presented
ACTION: Clerk to action accordingly

105. Statement under 'Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 - Section 6 The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty'

The Chair outlined to Council their statutory requirements under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. The Clerk presented a draft document. Additional items were suggested for inclusion. It was AGREED the Clerk would make the necessary amendments and forward to the Chair for confirmation all in order prior to publication

106.Planning Applications

- i. Case Ref; 19/0882/FULL. No objection

107.Councillor Surgeries

- i. Discussed under item 95 ii. It was AGREED that Cllr N Graham would respond to the resident outlining action taken. In addition, the Clerk will write a letter for to CCBC outlining residents concerns with regards to lighting
ACTION; Cllr N Graham to take forward
- ii. Cllr T Graham proposed that the Councillors Surgery roster should be 2 people per month. Following discussion was agreed to leave at three at the present time.

108.Date of next meeting

The next meeting is Thursday 20th February 2020

Meeting closed 7.25pm


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Cllr T Graham

Chair – Van Community Council