

VAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL CYNGOR CYMUNED Y FAN

Chairman Councillor Maria Hall, Clerk/R.F.O. John Dilworth
Vice-Chairman Councillor Eileen Macey.

Minutes,
Full Council Meeting,
Friday, 15th April, 2016,
Van Community Centre.

Present:	Councillors	Russell Deacon, David Hill, Fay Gay, Barbara Jones, Pam Nelder, Sheila Newbury, Eileen Macey.
In attendance:	Clerk/R.F.O. Gwent Police	John Dilworth. CSO Claire Robinson.

In the absence of the Chairman, Councillor Maria Hall, the Vice-Chairman progressed to the Chair for this meeting.

Public, any issues, and limited to ten minutes.

Clerk’s advice, Arnold Baker, 9th Edition on Access to Council Meetings states:

“Many local councils set aside a period when the public can ask questions or even make statements. This is an excellent practice as long as the period is defined, and is clearly understood that the public must not take part at any other time.”

It is not a public meeting but a council meeting and legally constituted to discuss published business.

No member(s) of the public were present.

109/16. **To welcome Miss Anne-Marie Bridgeman to receive the Van Community Champion Award. The Chairman of the Council will make the presentation.**

The Clerk advised, hand delivered letters; 22nd March, 5th April, 10th April, 2016, to 39, Maxton Court, inviting Miss Anne Marie-Bridgeman to the next meeting of Van Community Council, at the Van Community Centre, Clos Guto, Caerphilly, on Friday, 15th April, 2016, 6.30pm, to receive her Van Community Champion Award, nominated by Lansbury Matters.

Clerk’s advice: Lingfield Parish Council v Wright (1918), item not the agenda. Council may discuss but may not make a decision (referring to Any Other Business).

Signed:.....

Date: 20th May, 2016.

No response was forthcoming from Miss Bridgeman so the Clerk spoke to Miss Bridgeman on Sunday 10th April, when he delivered the third letter. He was advised by Miss Bridgeman of her apologies, due to work commitments, but will be able to attend on the Council meeting, 27th May, to receive her award.

Councillor Eileen Macey, suggested that since Miss Bridgeman attends the St James School Governors meetings that she could present it to her prior to the commencement of the meeting.

The Clerk to advise the Clerk to the Governing Body, accordingly.

110/16. **Apologies for absence.**

There were apologies received from the following Council members; Maria Hall, and Brian Jenkins.

A collection was made following a suggestion that Council buy a shrub for Councillor Brian Jenkins, however, the Clerk advised that public money cannot be used for that purposes and recalled a previous council who were criticized by the Auditor for purchasing a bouquet of flowers for a hospitalized member.

A collection was made and eleven pounds was collected from members, including the Clerk and the CSO.

The Clerk to purchase a plant and deliver to the home of Councillor Brian Jenkins.

111/16. **Declarations of interests.** To receive disclosures of personal interests from Members in accordance with the Code of Conduct (**Note:** Members are requested to give written notice of the item number and subject matters that their interest relates to and signify the nature of the personal interest).

The following declarations were made:

Name/member.	The description of the matter the member disclosed the interest.	Planning matter.	Action Taken.
Councillor Barbara Jones	Planning matter.	Personal and Prejudicial	Withdrew.

112/16. **Police matters.**

CSO Claire Robinson reported on the latest crime figures, eighteen crimes logged between 18th March, 2016 to 15th April, 2016 for the St James Ward and pointed out, for the same period last year were thirty seven crimes and also reduction in anti-social Behavior crimes, from last year.

CSO Robinson reported the stone throwing has stopped and she went onto report: Your Voice meeting took place on 4th April and five people attended.

Clerk's advice: Lingfield Parish Council v Wright (1918), item not the agenda. Council may discuss but may not make a decision (referring to Any Other Business).

Signed:.....

Date: 20th May, 2016.

The new Your Voice Priorities are:

- ASB on Buxton Court
- Speeding past Rudry Primary School

CSO Robinson, further pointed, they are asking people to be vigilant about suspicious persons and or vehicles. This follows a number of distraction burglaries and the importance of using door chains to restrict access.

On another matter she pointed out, reports have been received concerning persons going through bins at Castle Park estate and the danger of personal information not being properly disposed of, i.e., shredded.

Recent incident of a driver at Maxton Court who encouraged a six year old boy to get into his car but the child refused and ran home. It was taken out of context on Social Media and the police issued a statement, on Social Media, that people to be aware, in conjunction with the school. No further instances.

101 charged at 15 pence/minute

Councillor Sheila Newbury, fly tipping at Dol yr Eoes; boat etc.

Councillor Barbara Jones, referrals; Buxton and Maxton Courts.

Councillor Russell Deacons asked about the additional traffic implications if the Gwern y Domen development goes ahead and police comments to the LDP. The officer responded that this would have been dealt with by the Traffic Management Department. She also updated the member on a report, Taxi, intoxicated individual, Mornington Meadows, 22nd February, 2016, and officers were deployed but called away to a higher priority call.

The Clerk raised the matter of the vehicle parked at Pen y Cae (Clerk's Report), CSO Robinson reaffirmed her position on the matter. Report of vehicle being dismantled at Dol Fran and action taken, vehicle removed.

CSO Robinson to send the Clerk report.

The Chairman thanked CSO Robinson for attending the meeting, who took her leave.

113/16. **To approve the minutes of the Council Meeting, 18th March, 2016, (appendix 1.)**

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

114/16. **Matters arising.**

Minute 99/16 xiii Email, 18th March, 2016, *Mrs Joy Thomas, Mayor's Assistant, CCBC*, Mayor's Charity Concert, Aber Valley Male Voice Choir and pupils of Lewis Girls' School are holding a concert in aid of the Mayor's Charity Appeal, and Councillor Leon Gardiner invitation to join him at 7.00 p.m. on Thursday 14th April at Lewis Girls School, Ystrad Mynach. Tickets

Clerk's advice: Lingfield Parish Council v Wright (1918), item not the agenda. Council may discuss but may not make a decision (referring to Any Other Business).

Signed:.....

Date: 20th May, 2016.

cost £5.00 (including raffle ticket) and can be purchased from myself.

Clerk and his wife attended and represented the Council and he recalled it was a splendid evening and the Mayor/CCBC raised over £14,000 for his chosen charities (Van donated £150).

Correspondence.

The Clerk circulated a list of correspondence received since the last meeting.

Email, 22nd March, 2016, Mr Martyn Western, Chairman, Governors, St Helen's Primary School, wrote:

"Thank you for your invitation to attend the next meeting of the Van Community Council; however I regret that, due to a prior engagement, I am unable to attend on that date. At the last meeting of our school's governing body, Prof Deacon indicated that, due to ever greater demands on his time he is finding it increasingly difficult to engage with our school in the way he had previously done in his role of a governor.

During his tenure Prof Deacon has provided great service to our school as well as being an effective link to the community council and I am keen to continue this relationship. With this in mind, the governors are eager to seek a replacement for Prof Deacon when he steps down from his current role. When I spoke with Prof Deacon I thought maybe a visit to our school by one or more prospective candidates would be a way forward; that way any interested party for the post would see the school community at first hand."

Agenda item.

Email, 23rd March, 2015, Miss Helen Morgan, Senior Committee Services Officer, CCB, wrote:

"Improvement Objectives

Improvement Objectives 2015/16 (PDF)

Improvement Objectives 2014/15 (PDF)

Improvement Objectives 2013/14 (PDF)

The Improvement Objectives are available in Welsh or in other languages or formats upon request.

If you have any questions or feedback or would like to get involved in helping to set the councils priorities or on any of the above content please contact the Performance Management Unit."

Noted.

Email, 29th March, 2016, Miss Helen Morgan, Senior Committee Services Officer, CCBC, Velothon, notice, Clerk displayed notice on Council notice-boards.

Clerk's advice: Lingfield Parish Council v Wright (1918), item not the agenda. Council may discuss but may not make a decision (referring to Any Other Business).

Signed:.....

Date: 20th May, 2016.

Noted.

Email, 29th March, 2016, Mr R G Evans, Freedom of Information request, wrote:

“When was the council established?

What public meetings were held prior to that date to request the establishment of the council? Please give dates, locations and numbers attending.

How many members does the council have?

How many are (a) male, (b) female?

How many are aged (a) under 50, (b) 50-70, (c) over 70?

How many are also members of Caerphilly County Borough Council?

How many are related to one another?

How many live outside the area covered by the council? For those members, please state the Ward in which they live.

How many seats were uncontested at the first elections to the council?

How many vacancies have occurred since that date, and how have those vacancies been filled?”

Clerk has replied and provided the information to Mr R G Evans.

Email, 30th Marc, 2016, Mr Bob Campbell, Clerk to the Town and Community Councils Joint Liaison Committee, advising, new account opened with HSBC (taken four months). Cheques issued by Councils Nelson, Rhymney, Van, Bargoed, Penyrheol/Trecennydd/Energlyn and Risca Town, within six months have been paid into the account together with the Cooperative cheque (old account). Other councils will have to reissue cheques (financial year, 2016/17, their accounts will show two payments against budget instead of one).

Noted.

Email 30th March, 2016, Mr Richard Crane, Senior Solicitor, CCBC, i.e as reproduced:

“Thank you for your letter of the 28th March 2016 addressed to Mrs Gail Williams, Head of Legal Services and I apologies for not being able to respond sooner to your original letter.

Any disposal of land by way of sale or lease will usually in the first instance be agreed in principle by the Council’s Property Services department. I have forwarded a copy of your letter to the relevant department and shall be in touch as soon as I have further instructions.”

Agenda item.

Email, 2nd April, 2016, CSO Claire Robinson, Bedwas Neighbourhood Policing Team, ie. As reproduced:

“I’m a bit unsure what you’re asking?

By the looks of the photo, it appears that the driver of the ASDA van is leaning out of the

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Signed:.....

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window to speak to occupants of the car. My guess would be that they were unsure where they were going for a delivery, and have stopped the car to ask for directions. I doesn't appear from the photo that they've 'parked' there, and abandoned the vehicles.

Admittedly, the junction isn't the best place for the van to stop, but I'm sure they weren't causing any obstructions at 11am whilst school was in session. And the driver was with the vehicle, so it would have been moved if a car needed to get out of the junction."

Clerk replied both vehicles parked for ten to fifteen minutes and Asda Van mounted payment since motorists exiting school drive had difficulty in maneuvering around the two parked vehicles.

Raised with CSO Claire Robinson, Police Matters.

Email, 2nd April, 2016, Mr Nicholas K Alderton, Freedom of Information Request, wrote; "Thank you for coming back to me, it's very much appreciated." University Research Student

Subject: PhD - History & Welsh History (The Liberal Party in Wales, 1966-1988.)

Schools: S.H.A.R.E and Politics & International Relations

Profiles:

S.H.A.R.E- <http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/people/research-students/view/117447-alderton-nick>
Politics & Int'l Relations -
<http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/politics-international-relations/profile/nicholas-alderton/>

Clerk has replied: "Council will not be organizing events but will consider any application for funding.
I trust that addresses your request."

Noted.

Email, 4th April, 2016, Have Your Say [mailto:haveyoursay@southwales-fire.gov.uk]
As a Stakeholder of the South Wales Fire and Rescue Service please note that we have published our Improvement Plan 2016/2017, and feedback is welcomed at the websites. Questionnaire is available interactively on our Website at www.southwales-fire.gov.uk and hard copies can be provided if required on request.

Should you have any queries about the Plan please email performance@southwales-fire.gov.uk

http://www.southwales-fire.gov.uk/English/home/Documents/Improvement%20Plan%202016%20-%202017_english.pdf

Noted.

Email, 4th April, 2016, Gwern y Domen Conservation group, grant application attached.

Clerk's advice: Lingfield Parish Council v Wright (1918), item not the agenda. Council may discuss but may not make a decision (referring to Any Other Business).

Signed:.....

Date: 20th May, 2016.

Agenda item.

Email, 5th April, 2016, Mr Andrew Witchell, Information Technician, CCBC, land at Van Terrace.

Agenda item.

Email, 5th April, 2016, CSO Claire Robinson, wrote:

"I've spoken with the male who's been working on the vehicle on the trailer. He assured me that it's awaiting collection from a local scrap dealer, and that they were supposed to be collecting it today.

I'll check back this evening as I noted it still hadn't moved at 3pm.

I'll try and speak with him again if it's still there this evening. "

Police Matters.

Email, 6th April, Mrs Allison Jones, Van Partnership, notice of the next meeting, Van Community Centre, Monday 25th April 2016, at 6.00 pm. This will be the A.G.M followed by the normal partnership meeting, minutes of the previous meeting attached.

Noted.

Emails (2), 5th April, 2016, Mr Mark Snelgrove, Neighbourhood Officer, United Welsh, regarding the deplorable litter/fly tipping at Dol yr Eos, Dol Fran, Porset Brook, off footpath, Porset Park. He accepts that the area has become industrialized with businesses carry out the trade of motor maintenance and scrap dealings. A site meeting has been arranged for Tuesday, 10th May, at 12noon, Cllr Sheila Newbury has previously indicated that she requires a reminder and her door will be knocked for her attendance.

Noted that the Clerk has taken action and the site meeting, May 10th.

Email, Friday, 8th April, 2016, Miss Helen Morgan, Senior Committee Clerk, CCBC, advised:

"Have your say on proposals to introduce a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) relating to dog control."

"While Caerphilly County Borough Council works proactively to enforce dog fouling and dog control legislation, dog fouling remains a concern for Caerphilly county borough communities. The council is continually looking at works to improve its response to this issue, and consequently has developed some proposals for additional legal controls, which members of the public are invited to give their views on.

The council is keen to consult with residents on the following areas:

- Excluding dogs from all enclosed children's play areas within the county borough, as is currently the case

Clerk's advice: Lingfield Parish Council v Wright (1918), item not the agenda. Council may discuss but may not make a decision (referring to Any Other Business).

Signed:.....

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- Additional requirements for putting dogs on leads at all times in certain areas
- Requiring dogs to be kept on leads in enclosed memorial gardens in the county borough
- Requiring dog owners to remove dog faeces in public places, as is currently the case
- Requiring dog owners to carry an appropriate receptacle for dealing with their waste that their dog produces – that is, to always have the means to pick up their dog faeces
- Requiring dog owners to put their dogs on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised officer on any public land, where the dog is considered to be out of control or causing harm or distress to prevent a nuisance
- Excluding dogs from all council owned marked sports/playing pitches

The closing date for the consultation is 24th June 2016.

To find out more, or to give your views on these proposals please complete the survey online at www.caerphilly.gov.uk. Paper and alternative formats can be requested from publicengagement@caerphilly.gov.uk or by calling 01443 864354.”

CCBC are using The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, now permits local authorities to make a 'public spaces protection order'.

Noted.

Email 12th April, 2016, Miss Teresa Price, finally made a decision not to accept council's offer of the SPW post. Miss Price was qualified under CSSIW requirements. The Clerk made every effort to secure her agreement with several emails.

Noted.

Email, 12th April, 2016, Mr Nigel Burnell, Secretary castle park neighbourhood watch, wrote:

“On the 26th January 2016 your email stated that my correspondence would be reported to your committee in February.

The minutes of your meeting are not yet shown on the web site of Van cc. although they would have been confirmed by the March 2016 meeting.

I have a committee meeting on the 20th April and the works at farm road/ mardy are on the agenda.

Perhaps you will be kind enough to update me on this matter.”

Web site maintenance is a learning curve and the minutes Mr Burnell for the Neighbourhood Watch were added to it that day at a cost of important council work.

Clerk's reply to members:

Mr Burnells request was acceded to, however, the Clerk's work load for the month included:

- Reviewing fly tipping at Dole yr Eos, Dol Fran Porset Brook, etc, three

Clerk's advice: Lingfield Parish Council v Wright (1918), item not the agenda. Council may discuss but may not make a decision (referring to Any Other Business).

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- visits,
- End of year returns, PAYE,
- VAT reclaim,
- Accounts and tax to year end,
- Minutes,
- Agenda,
- Report,
- Taking minutes,
- General administration,
- Maintaining a time-sheet,
- Maintaining Accounts,
- Maintaining payroll records,
- Maintaining postal records,
- Answering Freedom of Information requests,
- Payroll and submission to HMRC,
- Answering emails including Mr Burnell's,
- CSSIW registration,
- Photocopying,
- Web site maintenance,
- Meetings with GAVO and Mrs Sian Davies, Llanharan Community Development Project,
- Trawling past applications for Summer Play-scheme and contacting them,
- Representing the Council at the Mayors Charity Concert,
- Hours worked since last meeting including tonight exceeds eight-three hours (contracted sixty-five hours),
- This post, Clerk to Van Community Council, is part remuneration and voluntary, "it goes with the culture."

Noted, the Clerk dealt with the query from Mr. Burnell in accordance with his significant work load and commitment to the Council and the Van Community.

Agenda item.

Email: 14th April, 2016, Mr Andrew Witchell, Information Technician, CCBC, ie. As reproduced:

"To help us consider your request in more detail I have been asked to contact you regarding the proposed use of the land.

Can you please supply me with details regarding your proposals for the intended use, term of the lease, etc?"

Clerk wrote, to Mr Witchell, 15th April, 2016, 14.29:

"I will try my best to answer your email of the 14th inst.

Van Community Council is inquiring with your authority if it would lease the former Van Terrace play area land and the annual charge.

Clerk's advice: Lingfield Parish Council v Wright (1918), item not the agenda. Council may discuss but may not make a decision (referring to Any Other Business).

Signed:.....

Date: 20th May, 2016.

Council, are interested in re-establishing the Van Terrace Play area which it sold to the former Rhymney Valley District Council for one pound and your authority will not reinstate it.

Clearly lease agreements are complex and I am not qualified to delve into this area without professional legal support so I am confining my response to the above.”

Agenda item.

Letter, 8th April, BDO, appointed auditors by the Wales Audit Office, details of the audit procedure, 2015/16.

Reported to members.

Email, 14th April, 2016, Atlantic Building Services Ltd, in reply to request for invoice, fitting of two noticeboards.

Noted.

116/16. **Planning.**

The Clerk reported the following applications.

It was resolved to make no comments to the Planning Authority.

16/0231/FUL to erect single storey extension to the rear of the house and provide alteration works, at 11, Gwaun-Hyfyrd, Caerphilly.

16/0283/FULL, to erect ground floor side extension at Nant Arian, Pentwynwyn Road, Rudry.

117/16. **Reports and local matters.**

Councillor Eileen Macey reported, following a conversation with Mr. Steve Hawkins, Community Leisure Officer, CCBC, that in future Van Community Council will be invoiced for the use of the Centre for its Council meetings. The Clerk reported that Council has budgeted for the hire hall charges.

It was resolved:

- i. Council will be charged, at nine pounds (£9) per hour.
- ii. Commencing from the 15th April, 2016 (2 hours, £18.00).
- iii. Invoiced every quarter.

Clerk's advice: Lingfield Parish Council v Wright (1918), item not the agenda. Council may discuss but may not make a decision (referring to Any Other Business).

Signed:.....

Date: 20th May, 2016.

- iv. First invoice, June.

118/18. **Clerk's Report (appendix 2), to follow.**

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- A. Invitation (declined) to a representative of Persimmon, Council meeting, and 15th April, 2016. Clerk reported spoken to Mr. Daniel Hodgkiss, Land Manager, Persommon, who considered for Persimmon, not the forum at this point in time, however, situation may change if planning application is submitted to the Planning Authority. It appears, Plymouth Estates own the Gwern y Domen site.
The Company is named after [a horse](#) which won the 1896 [Derby](#) and [St. Leger](#) for the [Prince of Wales](#) who later became Edward VII. The Prince of Wales was the first Chancellor of Aberystwyth and bestowed upon the princess honorary degrees.
Members noted.
- B. Invitation (not available) to the Chairman of the St Helens RC School Governors, 15th April, 2016. Chairman of the Governing Body unable to attend and congratulated Councillor Russell Deacon on his input into the running of the School through the Governing Body. Confirmation of resignation, a replacement to visit the School.
Members noted that Councillor Russell Deacon would continue and advise Council at a later date.
- C. Grant applications. At the last meeting, 20th November, 2015, grants were awarded to the following:
St James School, granted £1,000.
Head Teacher written to, 18th January, 2015 (hand delivered).
No acknowledgement or reply from the Head Teacher, Mr Paul Samuel. Followed up with a hand delivered letter, dated the 22nd March, 2016, i.e. as reproduced:
"I write further to my letter of the 18th January, 2016, regarding a grant for £1,000.00 to improve the School Memorial Garden, and I attach a copy of the letter for your information.
I note that I have not received any response from you on the matter which was reported to the last meeting of Council, 18th March, 2016, therefore, I am inquiring as to the position."
Grant requested by the Gwern y Domen Conservation Group.

Clerk's advice: Lingfield Parish Council v Wright (1918), item not the agenda. Council may discuss but may not make a decision (referring to Any Other Business).

Signed:.....

Date: 20th May, 2016.

To review the position, St James School, after six months.

- D. Summer Play-scheme, 2016, CSSIW Registration
- Play-scheme dates (remain in report for member's information).

Week

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. | Monday, 25 th July | Friday, 29 th July |
| 2. | Monday, 1 st August | Friday, 5 th August |
| 3. | Monday, 8 th August | Friday, 12 th August |
| 4. | Monday, 15 th August | Friday, 19 th August |

Clerk, meeting with Mrs Sian Davies, Manager, LCDP, and CSSIW application for registration proceeding.

The application requires all named staff; SPW, and three APWs. Contact made with previous SPW who declined the offer. LCDP staff to run Play-scheme which will take place subject to CSSIW registration.

Clerk, plenary powers to take the Play-scheme forward.

Set a deadline for the 29th April to submit CSSIW registration.

One person, in post, and hope is qualified to take the play-scheme forward.

St James School advertising for posts 4 APW Level 2.

LCDP advertising

Play Wales's advertising.

The Clerk expressed his concerns over the imposition of the law on short term Summer Play-schemes as treated in the same context as yearly Play-schemes.

Further reports to follow.

- E. Communal clear up United Housing area and Porset Brook bank, rear of Dol yr Eos.
- After much lobbying United Welsh have taken action and instructed their contactor, Horizon, to clear up areas under their control, however; Dol yr Eos and Dol Fran. They will not clear the Porset Brook bank but it is assumed their tenants are responsible for the fly tipping which is a cancer in our community.
- The Clerk reported a vehicle dangerously shored up in Dol Fran to CSO Claire Robinson who took immediate action.

Clerk's advice: Lingfield Parish Council v Wright (1918), item not the agenda. Council may discuss but may not make a decision (referring to Any Other Business).

Signed:.....

Date: 20th May, 2016.

Councillor Sheila Newbury has requested that the Clerk contract the Probation Trust to clear the litter/fly tipping, since United Welsh will consider it is not their responsibility. Further, the Clerk has arranged a site visit at which Mr Mark Snelgrove, Neighbourhood Officer, United Welsh, has agreed to attend on Tuesday, 10th May, 2016, 12noon at the car park, Cole Court. The Clerk will meet Mr Snelgrove and then walk down with Mr Snelgrove to Councillor Sheila Newbury's residence to commence the review.

Clerk circulated a number of photographs showing the flytipping/litter and following members consideration of them they were passed to Councillor Barbara Jones (also a St James Ward member).

It was resolved:

Council to keep the matter under review.

Member's confirmed the Clerk's actions in speedily addressing this anti-social matter.

- F. Freedom of information requests (2). Mr R. G. Evans, 29th March, 2016, information from the establishment of the Council and the following information has been provided:

- 1 **“When was the council established?”** “In 1974, Local Government reorganisation.
- 2 **“What public meetings were held prior to that date to request the establishment of the council? Please give dates, locations and numbers attending.”**
None, Local Government Reorganisation
- 3 **“How many members does the council have?”** “
See attached list of members (10) with names and addresses.
- 4 **“How many are (a) male, (b) female?”** “See attached list of members with names and addresses.
- 5 **“How many are aged (a) under 50, (b) 50-70, (c) over 70?”**
I don't hold that information.
- 6 **“How many are also members of Caerphilly County Borough Council?”**
One.
- 7 **“How many are related to one another?”**
I don't hold that information
- 8 **“How many live outside the area covered by the council? For those members, please state the Ward in which they live.”**

Clerk's advice: Lingfield Parish Council v Wright (1918), item not the agenda. Council may discuss but may not make a decision (referring to Any Other Business).

Signed:.....

Date: 20th May, 2016.

See attached list of members with names and addresses and contact
Caerphilly County Borough Council.

9 **“How many seats were uncontested at the first elections to the council?”**

Records incomplete, Parish Council prior to 1974, and I don't have records from 1974 or prior to that date. They may be located at the Glamorgan Archives.

10 **“How many vacancies have occurred since that date, and how have those vacancies been filled?”**

See 9.

You have a right of appeal if you are not satisfied with the information provided to the following:

Information Commissioner's Office, Wales,
2nd Floor, Churchill House,
Churchill Way,
Cardiff, CF10 2HH.

Tel: 029 2067 8400
Fax: 029 2067 8399
Email: wales@ico.gsi.gov.uk
Website: www.ico.org.uk

Mr Nicholas K. Alderton, BA (Hon's) MA, 2nd April, 2016, Cardiff University
Research Student

Subject: PhD - History & Welsh History (The Liberal Party in Wales, 1966-1988.)

Schools: S.H.A.R.E and Politics & International Relations.

“Council will not be organising events but will consider any application for funding.

I trust that addresses your request.”

Members noted.

G. Vehicle obstruction,
Pen y Cae
(School junction),
22nd
February,
2016
(appendix A).

Refer to appendix A.

Raised under Police Matters.

119/16. **Finance.**

Clerk's advice: Lingfield Parish Council v Wright (1918), item not the agenda. Council may discuss but may not make a decision (referring to Any Other Business).

Signed:.....

Date: 20th May, 2016.

- i. To consider payment of creditors (appendix 3).

The list of credits was considered and the bills and invoices outlined be paid and cheques signed accordingly (A-E).

A.	100172	Caerphilly C. B. C. , contribution towards the dog fouling bins	1,045.39
B.	100173	John Dilworth, Clerk's net salary (less deductions), 2016/17, month 1.	547.45

C.	100174	John Dilworth, expenses.	
		Postage	0.00
		Photocopying	26.60
		Stationary/ink jet cartridges	54.99
		Post Office Phone Card(2)	15.00
		Mileage (see breakdown)	38.11

Journeys/breakdown:			
1.	11 th March, 2016	Trustmark, Talbot Green, and return, photocopying.	1.11
2.	17 th March, 2016	Douglas House, Pontygwindy Ind. Est., and return, meeting with Rachel Maflin, Play Development Officer, GAVO.	10.80
3.	18 th March, 2016	Van and return, Council meeting.	11.70
4.	22 nd March, 2016	Van and return, hand delivered letters, school, and litter review, Dol yr Eose etc.	11.70
5.	31 st March, 2016	Travelled to the Llanharan Dropin Centre and return (6.4 miles) meeting LCDP, Summer Play-scheme Registration.	2.80
Total claimed.			134.70

Following payments inserted on an amended List of Creditors.			
D.	100175	John Dilworth, Clerk, reimburse for purchase two tickets, Mayors Charity Event, 14 th April, 2016.	10.00
E.	100176	Doctor Duffin-Jones & Partners, CSSIW, medical reference re. day carer provider/covers the Council's Summer Play-scheme.	15.00

Clerk's advice: Lingfield Parish Council v Wright (1918), item not the agenda. Council may discuss but may not make a decision (referring to Any Other Business).

Signed:.....

Date: 20th May, 2016.

ii. **Accounts (final), 2015/16 (appendix 4a, 4b, 4c, 4d, and 4e, to sign off the accounts year ending 31st March, 2016.**

It was resolved to approve the account subject to audit questions and signed by the Chairman for the meeting, Councilor Eileen Macey.

The Clerk reported additional requirements under the new audit arrangements and the appointment of BDO, External Auditors.

Additional evidence will now be required:

Letter of appointment, Independent Internal Auditor.

Copies of minutes, approving the appointment.

Copies of minutes, approving the precept for 2014/15 and 2015/16.

Copies will have to be certified by the Clerk and Chairman.

Changes to variance between 2014/15 and 2015/16.

iii. **Grant applications:**

Gwern y Domen Conservation Group, applying for £3,500.00(targeted) or a contribution towards the targeted amount (grant budget can be increased from Council's significant surplus) (appendix 5).

It was resolved, to grant £500.00 having considered the grant request. Council considered that it is in the interests of, and will bring direct benefit to, their area or a part of it.

There being no other powers to incur this expenditure the Council approved the request under the Local Government, Section 137 with the following condition:

Van Community Council granted £500.00 in the understanding that it would be recognized in any literature or statements on Social Media.

They will grant further money by Match Fund the remaining £3,000.

If they raise £1,500 Van CC will Match £1,500.

In that case it would be £500(initial grant) plus £1,500(Match Funding).

120/16. **Good youth and citizens awards (remain as an agenda item).**

No further nominations for an award, remain on the agenda.

Clerk's advice: Lingfield Parish Council v Wright (1918), item not the agenda. Council may discuss but may not make a decision (referring to Any Other Business).

Signed:.....

Date: 20th May, 2016.

121/16. **Play Area, Van Terrace.**

The Clerk reported receipt of an email from Mr Andrew **Witchell** Information Technician, Caerphilly County Borough Council, ie. As reproduced:

“ To help us consider your request in more detail I have been asked to contact you regarding the proposed use of the land. Can you please supply me with details regarding your proposals for the intended use, term of the lease, etc.”

The Clerk replied, i.e. as follows:

“I will try my best to answer your email of the 14th inst.

Van Community Council is inquiring with your authority if it would lease the former Van Terrace play area land and the annual charge.

Council, are interested in re-establishing the Van Terrace Play area which it sold to the former Rhymney Valley District Council for one pound and your authority will not reinstate it. Clearly lease agreements are complex and I am not qualified to delve into this area without professional legal support so I am confining my response to the above.”

The Clerk advised:

a. Council should only enter into a lease if they have first received professional advice from a qualified surveyor in respect of the physical condition of the land and its state of repair and market value by a legal professional (District Valuer, they provide professional independent property advice and **valuations** right across the public sector).

b. Council must engage professional advice from a solicitor or surveyor.

c. Peppercorn rent for the land.

A discussion ensued and it was raised, the sale of the land, by a former administration of Van Community Council to the former Rhymney Valley District Council, for one pound, was ultra vires and illegal and also the decision should be set aside.

122/16. **Van Community Centre garden project.**

Clerk to contact Phill Bryett at the Van Partnership Meeting.

123/16. **Minor Authority vacancy, St Helens RC School Governing Body (Councillor Russell Deacon indicated at the last meeting he wishes to vacate the position).**

See Email, 22nd March, 2016, Mr Martyn Western, Chairman, Governors, St Helen's Primary School, wrote:

“Thank you for your invitation to attend the next meeting of the Van Community Council; however I regret that, due to a prior engagement, I am unable to attend on that date.

At the last meeting of our school's governing body, Prof Deacon indicated that, due to ever

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Signed:.....

Date: 20th May, 2016.

greater demands on his time he is finding it increasingly difficult to engage with our school in the way he had previously done in his role of a governor.

During his tenure Prof Deacon has provided great service to our school as well as being an effective link to the community council and I am keen to continue this relationship. With this in mind, the governors are eager to seek a replacement for Prof Deacon when he steps down from his current

role. When I spoke with Prof Deacon I thought maybe a visit to our school by one or more prospective candidates would be a way forward; that way any interested party for the post would see the school community at first hand."

To remain on the next agenda.

- 124/16. **To reschedule the date of the AGM and followed by the ordinary meeting to Friday, 27th May, 2016.**

It was noted that Friday, 27th is followed by the Bank Holiday Weekend (Friday 27th is not a Bank Holiday).

It was pointed out that Friday, 27th May, 2016, is followed by the Bank Holiday weekend, and according it was resolved to make no change to the date of the AGM and Ordinary meeting.

- 125/16. **Items for the next agenda.**

Items remaining on the agenda for the next meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.12pm.

**Clerk's advice: Lingfield Parish Council v Wright (1918), item not the agenda.
Council may discuss but may not make a decision (referring to Any Other Business).**

Signed:.....

Date: 20th May, 2016.