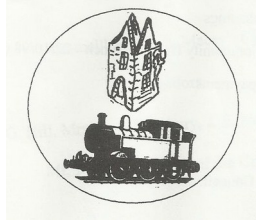


VAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL CYNGOR CYMUNED Y FAN

Clerk/Clerc:
John Dilworth.



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13th March, 2017.

Dear Councillor,

I write to summons you to attend the next Meeting of Van Community Council, at the Van Community Centre, Clos Guto, Caerphilly, on Friday, 17th March, 2017, at 6.30p.m.

Agenda.

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.

1.	Apologies for absence.
2.	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).
3.	Police matters.
4.	To approve the minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting, 3rd March, 2017, (appendix 1.)
5.	Matters arising.
6.	Correspondence.

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).

7.	Planning.
8.	Reports and local matters.
9.	Clerk's Report (appendix 2), to follow.
A.	Year ending accounts, 2015/16, reply from WAO.
B.	Vandalism to the Council Notice-boards at Coed Pwll and illegal bill boards at Pen y Cae (Clerk has taken action).
C.	Former Van Terrace Play area land. Clerk requested Caerphilly County Borough Council to transfer the unregistered land with Land Registry – Wales to Van Community Council.
D.	Grant applications.
E.	Communal clear up United Housing area and Porset Brook bank, rear of Dol yr Eos and also River clean-up, organized by United Welsh Housing, Tuesday, 18 th April, 201, between 10.00am and 3.00pm.
F.	Soup and Carols, 2016, Friday, 25 th November, 2016 and 2017.
G.	Easter event, Friday, 7 th April, 2017, 6.00pm at the Van Community Centre.
H.	Notice-board at Brynau Rd.
I.	Raised flower beds, Van Community Centre.
J.	http://swarb.co.uk/van-community-council-v-revenue-customs-fftx-20-dec-2013/
K.	Staffing, Van New Sports and Play Club, 2017.
L.	Council precept notification, 2017-18.
M.	White Paper. Reforming Local Government: Resilient and Renewed. 31 st January, 2017.
N.	Caerphilly Town Centre Management Group, Tuesday, 7 th March, 2017.
O.	Response from the Minister, Miss Rebecca Evans, AM, CSSIW registration procedure (appendix A).
10.	Finance.
i.	To consider payment of creditors (appendix 3).
ii.	Accounts, 2016/17 (appendix 4a, 4b, and 4c), review budget hearings on the Management Report.

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	iii.	Grant applications:
11.	<p>Councillor Russell Deacon:</p> <p>“Reduction in quorum numbers To discuss the reduction in quorum numbers on an ad hoc basis (no more than two times per annum) from 4 to 3 members. To allow council business to progress monthly and avoid the situation we had in 2016 with a number of meetings not being held and the council failing to process on key items because we were non quorate. As a safeguard -it is suggested that these meetings of 3 members would not be able to action those items on prescribed list of items for which a full meeting would be required (e.g. setting the precept, providing grants over £200, co-options, employment issues related to the clerk).”</p> <p>Note from the Clerk on quorum at council meetings: Local Government Act, 1972, Para 28 (para 12 refers to Parish Councils):</p> <p><i>“12. ..., no business shall be transacted at a meeting of a community council at least one third of the whole numbers of the council are present at the meeting; but, notwithstanding anything in that paragraph, in no case shall the quorum be less than three.”</i></p> <p>Councils Standing Order 42, ie as reproduced:</p>	
	“42	<i>No business of Full Council shall be transacted at a meeting of the Council unless at least one third of the whole number of the members of the Council are present at the meeting but in no case shall the quorum be less than four. A quorum in relation to meetings of this Council shall therefore be at least four Councillors. Where, however, more than one third of the members of the Council become disqualified at the same time, then, until the number of members in office is increased to not less than two thirds of the whole number of members thereof, the quorum of the Council shall be determined by reference to the number of members of the Council remaining qualified instead of by reference to the whole number of members of the Council. So long as there shall be a quorum present at a meeting, it shall be in order for a decision to be taken on, say, a single voter, if nobody votes against. The fact that other Councillors present maybe unable to vote, on the account of having a personal interest in any particular matter for consideration, shall not affect the situation, the law making no reference to a quorum being calculated by reference only to the number of members entitled to vote.</i>
	43.	<i>Should a quorum not be present at a meeting of the Council or should the number of members present fall below that of a quorum (four), the business not transacted at the meeting shall be transacted at the next ordinary meeting of the Council or at an extraordinary meeting thereof summoned for the purpose of considering it.</i>
	<u>Council’s membership, as a whole is, seven to eight members, therefore the quorum reduces to three members by law.</u>	
12.	<p>The press and public be excluded from the meeting for the next item of business on the grounds that it involves the disclosure of information of a confidential nature (employment implications for the Clerk alteration to the day and time).</p>	

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	<p>The Clerk has a personal interest and will leave the room.</p> <p>“Flexibility in meetings.”</p> <p>Suggestions:</p> <p>Councillor Russell Deacon: “To continue with the status quo but move the meeting time forward to 6 pm. With the exception of where the third Friday directly connects with a holiday/half term etc and then move it to the proceeding Thursday.”</p> <p>Councillor Maria Hall: “...6.00pm no matter what day.”</p> <p>Councillor Pam Nelder: 6.00pm Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday.</p> <p>Councillors Barbara Jones and Fay Gay: Thursday.</p> <p>Councillor Sheila Newbury, 6.00pm or 6.15 pm on the third Friday of the month.</p> <p>Clerk is available on the third Friday and fourth Friday of the month, and also Thursday’s at 6.00pm to 6.30pm respectively for the start of the meetings.</p> <p><u>(Van Centre is available on the third Thursday of the month.)</u></p> <p>If appropriate, to amend Standing Order number 2 of the Council’s Standing Orders.</p>
12.	Good youth and citizens awards (remain as an agenda item).
13.	Play Area, Van Terrace.
14.	Van Community Centre garden project.
15.	Easter event and bonnet competition. Free chocolate eggs, small tube of toothpaste and toothbrush for the children of the Community Council area.
16.	Casual vacancies, Lansbury (2) and Brynau (1).
17.	LG Elections, May 4th, 2017.
18.	Items for the next agenda.

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John Dilworth,
Clerk to the Council.

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