

Llanelly Community Council
Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on
Monday 10th February 2014 at the
Community Education Centre, Gilwern at
7.00pm

Present

Cllr Kay Blackwell
Cllr Tony Carrington
Cllr Malcolm Cook
Cllr Lynne Elliott
Cllr Paul Downes
Cllr Giles Howard
Cllr Simon Howarth

Cllr John Jones
Cllr Val Jones
Cllr Brian Kemp (Chairman)
Cllr David McCloy
Cllr Phillip Salter
Cllr Archie Thomas
Cllr Trevor Williams

13/182 In attendance

Adrian Edwards, Clerk to the Council.
Inspector Roland Giles Gwent police
PCSO Karl Wallbyof Gwent Police
25 members public were in attendance

13/183 Agenda Item1:-Apologies received.

No apologies received

13/184 Agenda Item 2:-Declaration of interest.

Cllrs Howard and Howarth made declarations under the sections of the LGA and members code of conduct, relating to their membership of Monmouthshire County Council. There were no further declarations of interest made by members.

The Chairman invited Inspector Giles to address the meeting with any points of interest the members and members of the public may be interested in. Inspector Giles thanked the Chairman and introduced himself with PCSO Wallbyof. He provided members with some stats relating to the crime in the community so comparisons can be made. He explained that the crime figures are down overall from last year.

2012/13	2013/14
98 cases reported	84 cases reported
7 cases relating to dwellings	5 cases relating to dwellings
21 cases relating to vehicles	16 cases relating to vehicles
59 cases relating to antisocial	69 cases relating to antisocial

He explained that he would like to improve the engagement with the Community Council and local groups. He would like to provide the Council with figures and stats. One member asked about the ward which the police cover. He explained that ward is the community of Llanelly. Minute underlined was amended

Inspector Giles explained that officers will attend meeting on a bi-monthly basis.

13/185 Agenda Item 3: "15 minutes' are set aside". For questions from members of the public

The Chairman explained that item 10 on the agenda will be moved to this part of the meeting to allow any members of the public to address the Council.

Cllr Carrington raised a point relating to the standing orders. He explained the Councils Standing Orders 17 and 19 had not been complied with, as the notice of a motion had not been received as per the standing order and the time constraints were not followed. The Chairman read the standing order and he believed that the standing order has been followed. The Chairman read the Motion:

Notice of Motion to Council Meeting 10th February 2014

In order to maintain the Community Education Centre facility and library for social and educational purposes Llanelly Community Council agrees to the transfer of the Community and Education Centre to Llanelly Community Council ownership.

Notes:

- 1. Monmouthshire County Council is to prepare the relevant documents to ensure this.*
- 2. Monmouthshire County Council will agree to the Old School lease being rescinded and the building transferred back without penalty and at the convenience of both parties.*
- 3. Monmouthshire County Council and Llanelly Community Council will in due course arrange a service level agreement which will enable the former to maintain and share the library service and Llanelly Community Council to host the service.*
- 4. A working group of Councillors to negotiate with Monmouthshire County Council on any outstanding maintenance issues and report those issues to Llanelly Community Council for ratification.*

Signed by:*Cllr Brian Kemp.....Cllr Kay Blackwell.....*

Cllr Archie Thomas asked the Chairman why the Council isn't considering the other buildings in the community before agreeing the transfer. Cllr Thomas explained that no one would purchase a company which is losing money so why is the Council considering this option. He explained that one building is self financing. The Chairman explained that the building i.e. The Village Hall is too small to accommodate the library.

The Chairman gave an opinion that if the Council do not take over the CEC the building will be lost to the community. One member explained that this was debated in the meeting on the 3rd February. One member explained about the matrix in the minutes and how this provided information. The member explained the matrix was set for information which she shared with the members of the working group. One member explained that the village hall could be used by relocating the library to the main hall and the rooms to the rear of the building could remain for letting. There was some debate regarding the building within the community.

Cllr Carrington proposed an amendment, seconded by Cllr Thomas.

That agenda item 10, Motion to transfer facilities.

That this Council defers the decision to transfer the Community and Education Centre to Llanelly Community Council because;

In compliance with our duties and responsibilities prescribed by law the process of Due Diligence has not been fully expedited by this Council. Due Diligence is the process where all material information from all parties are presented and fully explored before making any decision. Some examples, although not an exhaustive list, are detailed below;

No reports have been presented by the clerk as this Council has refused him access to any meetings that have been held. Consequently, we are only in receipt of notes of meetings and verbal reports.

We have failed to discuss two conflicting surveys, one which suggests the presence of asbestos with photographic evidence, whilst the other does not. Both surveys show extensive repairs we have failed to discuss these maintenance issues and the cost implications.

We have failed to seek legal advice regarding our legal responsibilities or specialist advice to allay any fears of asbestos mentioned in one survey.

We have failed to present a survey on the OSCC for comparison with other facilities which was refused by this Council

We have failed to carry out and present alternatives to enable members to evaluate the full revenue and expenditure costs of different locations.

We have failed to receive the business case for the disposal of assets from Monmouthshire County Council including evidence of consent from the Welsh Government.

We have failed to submit a business plan including running costs, repair costs future budget control or management a structure how this Council should run the Centre.

The Community Council has not had any Community Engagement regarding these proposals by means of Public Meetings, Newsletters or any other means available to us. A public meeting cannot be successfully achieved until Council has received full and exhaustive information, as outlined above, to present to the public including a business plan, containing details of any proposed raise in precept, on top of the 20% increase already this year, to achieve this transfer or future increases required to protect the service.

The Chairman read a prepared statement relating to the current position relating to the community education centre.

Statement:

Gilwern library and the Community Education Centre.

The reason we intend to take over the CEC is that we consider that it is the only viable way we can safeguard the village library for the foreseeable future.

We have looked into alternatives but its present location is much better than any other location in the village for both facility and location.

Currently the Old School Community Centre (OSCC) does not have sufficient income from hiring the premises to cover its running costs and the Community Council covers the shortfall. Mommouthshire County Council have agreed that they will continue to provide the library services and the salary of the librarian.

The running costs of the CEC are significantly greater than the OSCC mainly due to the library but its potential income is greater. We need to harness that potential. It is in a very good location, it has good parking nearby, is close to the school, the playing field and the children's play area. With the library in the same building it has regular users who can be attracted for other activities.

We consider that there should be a Management Committee to run the day to day business, At the public meeting on 25th October we had strong support from the public and many serious offers of help. We want these people to form the "Management Committee." The format of this committee would be: Chairperson, Vice-chair, secretary, treasurer and 4 to 8 other members. It could include 1 or 2 Community Councillor from Gilwern with the Chair, Vice-chair and both County Councillors able to attend meetings and contribute to the discussions but not able to vote.

It would deal with all the hiring of the hall, organising events, marketing its availability, facilities and developing its potential.

The OSCC has few regular bookings and we hope that these would be willing transfer to the CEC. The current users of CEC we think we can retain. MCC use the hall for some training and we think that it would be mutually benefit both parties. Charges need to be competitive with other facilities in our locality.

The income, initially, should be used for promotion and improvements to the facilities. The OSCC is currently financed by LCC with regard to utilities, rates, cleaning, and maintenance and this would continue for the CEC in the short term but as the income increases then a contribution to the running costs would be made and we think that it could well achieve self-sufficiency.

Facilities should be provided for pre-school children, Mother and Toddler and in suitable weather the grassed area outside would be used with portable play equipment, tables and chairs available.

Suggestions from the public included:

Pop up Shop, Coffee mornings – mini café, Children’s dance classes, Special rates for children’s parties, Computer classes beginners and improvers, Basic Welsh Flicks in the Sticks--- film shows, Sewing classes—stitch and natter, Possible: Hiring out office space and computer facilities, Construct Boules terrain on the outside area

Gilwern has no War Memorial. The grounds of this hall would be a suitable location and as 2014, marks the centenary of the start of “The Great War,” this would be an appropriate time to erect one. Cllr Blackwell suggests it could be named:- Gilwern War Memorial Hall

Cllr Carrington had concern over the building survey the Council commissioned and the Council has not been consulted it or debated it. He also raised concern over the issues of asbestos highlighted in the report. After some further debate it was:

Resolved: that a vote on the amendment is taken.

Vote for the amendment:

The Vote	
For	2
Against	12
Abstention	0

The amendment was defeated and the motion was accepted:

Members of the public left the meeting 8.10pm

The Chairman adjourned the meeting for five minutes.

Cllr’s Carrington and Thomas left the meeting at this point.

13/186 Agenda Item 4:-To confirm the minutes from the Ordinary Meeting on the **13th January 2014** as an accurate record.

Proposed: by Cllr Howard seconded by Cllr Williams that the minutes are signed.

Resolved: the minutes are signed by the Chairman.

13/187 Agenda Item 5:- Matters to report.

Minute 13/172 Cllr Blackwell asked if there are items to report. Cllr Howard explained that he has spoken to the Highways officer regarding the gateway signs, and he will contact the Director.

13/188 Agenda Item 6:- To confirm the minutes from the Finance Meeting on the **20th January 2014** as an accurate record.

Proposed: by Cllr Howard seconded by Cllr Williams that the minutes are signed.

Resolved: the minutes are signed by the Chairman.

13/189 Agenda Item 7:- Matters to report.

A member asked about the content being made public before the Council ratified the minutes as a true and accurate record. The Clerk explained the minutes are in a draft form until the Chairman signs them and then they become a legal document.

13/190 Agenda Item 8:- To confirm the minutes from the Special Meeting on the **3rd February 2014** as an accurate record.

Proposed: by Cllr Howard seconded by Cllr Blackwell that the minutes are signed.

Resolved: the minutes are signed by the Chairman.

13/191 Agenda Item 9:- Matters to report.

One member asked about the items relating to s137 or should it read s106. It was agreed to amend the section numbers. There was some debate over the process and it was agreed that a further meeting of the working group will take in the next couple of days.

13/192 Agenda Item 10:- To receive the motion of transfer of the, Community Education Centre ownership from Monmouthshire County Council to Llanelly Community Council.

No further debate on this agenda item took place. It was agreed that this item is deferred.

13/193 Agenda Item 11:- Consider any planning applications received or granted before the meeting.

Applications:

- **13/10295/FUL:** Land at Cae Meldon, Gilwern.
The development proposal comprises the construction of 92 residential units and associated works, including a new road, public open space and recreational space.

Members considered this application and after some debate it was:

Agreed that a site meeting will be convened.

- **14/10371/LBC:** Clydach House, Saleyard, Gilwern.
Works to enhance the existing access to, and suitability of the roof space for roosting bats.

No objection offered

- **14/10421/FUL:** Rhas Fawr Farm, Blaenavon Road, Brynmawr.
Conversion of attached building for use as extended living accommodation, provision of

dormer windows, a new roof profile and other external works.

A member believes this property is in a different Council area

Granted:

- **13/10260/FUL:** Plot 14, Ty Mawr Lane, Gilwern.
Proposed alteration of approved dwelling to include rear conservatory extension.

13/194 Agenda Item 12: To note income received and accounts to be paid.

Accounts to be paid not on Agenda:

Clerks salary & HMRC payment	
Caretakers and gate keepers Salaries	
Newhall Cleaning items	£76.82
MCC Ground maintenance for 2013	£1'570.64
Black Hill Web Design Ltd Hosting 2014	£84.00
BNP Paribas Rental	£139.20
Merlin Waste 3 rd and 17 th Feb	£33.90
Cllr Howarth reimbursement	£27.98
Cllr Downes reimbursement	£61.00

Income received

Meter box (since Jan)	£20.00
Snooker club membership	£15.00
Hall Hire (since Jan)	£69.00

Agreed to pay all the invoices

All Invoices/Bills were available for inspection, members agreed to pay the above payments.

13/195 Agenda Item 13:- Correspondence received.

Welsh Assembly Government:

1. Commission on Public Service Governance and Delivery
2. Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group. Appointment of 5 members
3. Natural Resource Management Newsletter
4. Call for Honours Nominations (New Year 2015)
5. Notes of a Pre-Inquiry Meeting Wednesday 22nd January 2014.

Brecon Beacons National Park:

6. Planning Training with the NPA March and April 2014

Monmouthshire County Council:

7. Polling station booking- European Parliament Election – 22 May 2014
8. A465 Heads of the Valleys Section 2 (Gilwern- Brynmawr) Environmental Statement and Side Roads Order

9. Bryn-y-Cwm Cemetery Advisory Group
10. Community engagement in Rural Heritage
11. Standards Committee-Community Committee Member
12. Ground maintenance Contract
13. MCC Strong Communities Select Committee
14. Managing Our Public Highways. Discussion Document

Other:

15. Abergavenny and District partnership against Crime
16. One Voice Wales Winter 2013/14 Newsletter
17. One Voice Wales The Voice Issue 24
18. British Gas Careplan renewal
19. Gilwern Post Office. Decision – Move to new premises & branch modernisation
20. Sponsored Dance Wiggle.
21. Press release Artists and Abergavenny
22. Walk for Life Sunday 27th April 2014
23. Building inspection at the Community Education Centre Gilwern
24. Notice of Motion from Cllr's Kemp and Blackwell
25. BT Notice of transfer

Members noted all correspondence.

13/196 Agenda Item 14:- Reports from the Clerk.

No further items to report.

13/197 Agenda Item 15:- Reports from members on outside bodies.

A number of members raised concern over the dog waste bins in the community not being emptied. It was:

Resolved: the clerk to contact the contractor.

13/198 Agenda Item 16:- Reports from members of the County Council.

No further items to report.

13/199 The Chairman thanked members for attending and closed the meeting at 9.25 pm

Signed by _____
Cllr Brian Kemp

Date 10th March 2014