

LLANFAIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Minutes of Council Meeting held at
St Hilary Village Hall,
On Thursday, 1st February 2024 at 7.00pm.

Present: Chairperson: Councillor Liz Loch
Councillors : Steph Bonnar, Ray Simkiss and Jim Teague.

In Attendance: Jackie Griffin, Clerk.
Vale Councillor Robert Fisher (*via Zoom*).

Item 1: Apologies for Absence.
Councillors Julian Hitchcock and Mary Llewellyn.

Item 2: Declarations of Interest.
Councillor Bonnar – Item 14.2 - Planning Application No. **2023/01185/FUL.**
(*Councillor Bonnar owns adjacent property*).

Item 3: Community Police Matters.
Report not received in time for the meeting.
Members discussed two incidents that they are aware of:

- Llandough – Farm gate stolen but Members unaware if the crime has been reported.
- St Hilary – scrambling bike on the Downs.

Clerk to report both incidents to the Police.

Item 4: To consider and approve the minutes of the Meeting held 4th January 2024.
Proposed by Councillor Bonnar, seconded by Councillor Teague and **resolved** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th January 2024 be approved. Councillor Loch signed the Minutes.

Item 5: Matters arising from the Minutes, which are not included in this Agenda.
No matters arising.

Item 6: Chairperson’s Report.
Councillor Loch reported the following:

- Defibrillator training to be held in St Hilary Village Hall. This has been offered around the communities. There are a few places left. There are stickers on the defibrillator requesting that any use is reported so that new pads can be acquired.
- Cardiff and Vale University Health Board had sent out an e-mail regarding a consultation on cataract services.

Item 7: Vale of Glamorgan Councillor’s Report.
7.1 Councillor Fisher gave apologies for not being able to attend January meeting.

- 7.2 Reference was made to the plan to construct a cycle path between Cowbridge and Ystradowen. Disappointingly the scheme was abandoned due to lack of support especially from Ystradowen residents.
- 7.3 Councillor Fisher had received an e-mail regarding S106 monies. He advised that £50,000 had been provided for Greenlinks; £35,000 for Cowbridge Comprehensive School and £105,000 for cyclists/pedestrians.
- 7.4 Members reported concern at the slow progress of the Planning Department's handling of planning applications.

Item 8: Clerk's Report

8.1 Finances.

Bank balance was noted at **£4,926.61** (Current Account £4,020.85 and Business Reserve Account £905.76).

Payments made since 4th January 2024 are:

Clerk's Salary (January) - £191.40;
 HMRC Tax (January) - £47.80;
 St Hilary Village Hall (Hire for January meeting) - £30.00;
 J Griffin (Backpay for 9 months April to December 2023) - £115.20 and tax of £28.80 = £144.00 (gross payment) (*see item 9*);
 St Hilary Village Hall (Hire of the hall for January meeting) - £30.00;
 Audit Wales (External Audit for year 2022/2023) - £200.00;
 HCI Data Ltd (Renewal e-mail 'llanfaircommunitycouncil.gov.uk for two years until 16th January 2026) - £95.00 net, VAT £19.00 – total £114.00 (*cheque yet to be presented at the bank*);
 Society of Local Council Clerks (annual membership shared 50% with St Donats CC) - £56.00;
 J Griffin (Reimbursement of Zoom Meeting Fees) - £51.96 net, VAT £10.40 – total £62.36.

Payments due to be made are:

Clerk's Salary (February) - £191.40;
 HMRC Tax (February) - £47.80;
 St Hilary Village Hall (Hire of the hall for this meeting) - £30.00;
 J Griffin (Reimbursement for payment to 'The Poppy Appeal' for wreath) - £20.00;
 Councillor D R Simkiss (Reimbursement of Printer Costs 2023/2024) - £52.00;
 Councillor E Loch (Reimbursement of Printer Costs 2023/2024) - £52.00;
 Councillor J Teague (Reimbursement of Printer Costs 2023/2024) - £52.00.

Proposed by Councillor Loch, seconded by Councillor Simkiss and **resolved** that all payments due be made.

Receipts – None.

Precept

The Exchequer Manager at the Vale of Glamorgan Council has been advised that the Council requests that the precept for the next financial year should be the same as the financial year 2023/2024 (i.e. no increase).

Meeting in May 2024.

I have been advised that the Police and Crime Commissioner’s Elections will be taking place on the first Thursday in May and therefore the Village Hall will be unavailable. Elections take precedent and therefore the meeting in May will be held on 9th May 2024.

Resignation of a Councillor.

Councillor Geoff Simpson, representing Llanfair Ward, has resigned from the Community Council. A notice advising of a Casual Vacancy has been prepared by the Electoral Registration Department, advising that an election will be held if 10 local government electors for the Ward give notice of a request for an Election by 12 o’clock midnight on Friday 23rd February 2024.

Death of a Councillor.

Similarly, the recent sad death of Councillor Heather Shaw, representing St Hilary Ward, has resulted in a further Casual Vacancy with the same terms applying to 10 local government electors for the St Hilary Ward who can request an election also by midnight on Friday 23rd February 2024.

The Clerk had prepared a small report on Councillor Shaw’s extensive service for publishing in ‘Clerks and Councils Direct’.

Item 9: Appointment of Internal Auditor for the year 2023/2024.

Mrs Embling has kindly agreed to carry out the audit again this year subject to the approval of the Council.

Proposed by Councillor Loch, seconded by Councillor Teague and **resolved** that Mrs Embling is appointed as the Council’s Internal Auditor for the financial year 2023/2024.

Item 10: To update on incidents of HGV issues in St Hilary Village.

Councillor Loch advised that an HGV had got stuck in the Village a week ago. A wooden post on the green has been damaged. The damage has been reported to the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

The Cowbridge to St Athan road was discussed. Concern was expressed at the constant use of the road by HGV’s as the bridge at Howe Mill has a 7.5-ton weight limit and there is no sign of the bridge being repaired. The concerns will be reported to the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

Item 11: To discuss use of Social Media by the Community Council.

Adjourned to March meeting. Draft policy to be forwarded to Members with the meeting agenda.

Item 12: Reports of Representatives.

Councillor Bonnar gave the following report on the Community Liaison meeting held on 18th January:

Police

Inspector Childs updated on several festive community initiatives and their success. PCSO Ashley Beckett had secured funding and purchased boxes of chocolates and biscuits en masse and arranged visits to over 40 care homes

in Barry and the wider Vale. At these events they had sung carols and engaged with the residents and it was all very well received.

In Holton Road Operation Stopwatch had targeted shoplifters in the festive season. Whilst on this operation the police arrested a man who assaulted a victim whilst trying to steal a scooter and in possession of a knife. The Police also worked with the local community to track down and arrest Tristan Winton for domestic violence and he is now in custody.

In Barry the police worked with Oakfield Primary on Speed Awareness and this was a great opportunity for engagement with the younger children.

In a cross-agency initiative between the police, coastguard and ambulance service a 25 mile section of coast from Ogmere to Nash Point now has the benefit of the "What3words" system. This means if anyone is in difficulty along this section of coastline they can use what3words to identify their specific location and secure support as quickly as possible. Ruth Dodsworth will be highlighting this initiative on ITV in the coming weeks with a positive outlook of supporting families on the coast.

PCSO Stephen Davies has been highly praised by many across Cowbridge and Llantwit Major for the work he does with the local communities. He has encouraged people to sign up to "South Wales Listeners".

In Llantwit Major the quick initiative of the neighbourhood police team saved a gentleman's life as he was having a heart attack and they performed CPR and secured an ambulance quickly. He is now recovering in hospital.

PCSO Rhian Cummings has held 'Hate Crime' Workshops getting people to treat each other with respect.

Prolific shoplifters with in some cases 7 offences have recently been arrested and charged and a man is in custody for possession of class A drugs.

Following a pursuit through Barry by specialist traffic officers 2 individuals have been charged with possession of drugs and their vehicle has been seized.

Councillor Perry from St Nicholas and Bonvilston asked for the Police support in his campaign to get Highways to narrow the roads through their villages. The roads are currently 12 metres wide as opposed to standard carriageway widths and he cited elderly residents as having an issue crossing the roads in the 2 villages. He was advised that was not a matter for the Police and he must take the issue up with the Vale Highways department.

Strengthening our Communities & Work to Tackle Poverty & the Current Cost of Living Crisis

Two Senior Managers from the Vale Council presented a report on what was being done to tackle poverty and the cost of living crisis. A large part of the success achieved recently was the Food Share service in Llantwit Major and more recently St Athan.

Fire Service Update issued after the meeting as Commander unable to attend:

Fires

Total fires have decreased from 301 last year in Q1-Q3 of 2022/23 to 239 in Q1-Q3 2023/24. A decrease of 62 (-21%). Accidental fires have accounted for 53% of all fires with deliberate fires accounting for 47%. This compares to 45% accidental fires last year and 55% deliberate. The Vale of Glamorgan has therefore experienced less deliberate fires this year and more accidental.

False Alarms

Total False Alarms have increased from 519 last year in Q1-Q3 of 2022/23 to 571 so far in 2023/24. This is an increase of 52 (+10%). False Alarm due to apparatus have increased from 305 to 356 and are more than likely to be over last year's figure by the end of the financial year. Llandough hospital has experienced 62 calls this year to date with Hafod Care Housing Association next on the list with 9 callouts.

Special Service Calls

Road traffic collisions have decreased by 3 from 64 last year in Q1-Q3 to 61 (-5%) so far this year. Most of these calls were to making the vehicle/scene safe (43,70%). There were 7 extrication and release of persons compared to 12 last year. There were 8 RTCs in the Peterstone Super Ely ward this year compared to 16 last year. There were also 6 in Wenvoe and Cadoc wards. Other Special Service calls have increased from 195 to 208 (+13%) so far this year in Q1-Q3 compared to last year with Assisting other agencies (54) and Effecting entry (28) accounting for most of these calls. There have been 14 calls to assist Bariatric patients this year compared to 11 last year and 4 calls to suicide/attempted suicide compared to 6 last year. There has been an increase in calls to hazardous materials incidents this year with 8 calls compared to 6 last year.

Fatalities and Injuries

There has been one fatality during the period and one slight injury this year compared to 7 last year. The fatality in Gibbonsdown was a disabled male aged 67 and the fire was in an accidental dwelling fire, which started in the bedroom. The victim was overcome by gas/fumes. The slight injury was also in an accidental dwelling fire, caused by cooking. The victim was a male aged 33 and the incident started in the kitchen.

Good news is that the services Antarctic Angels challenge was successfully completed by FF Georgiana Gilbert, this is a fantastic achievement, and was supported by a Charity bike ride held on Station at Penarth covering the same distance Georgina travelled but in one day.

Cowbridge station have the plans for a biodiversity project to convert the land to the side of the station into a more biodiverse area where they will encourage schools to attend to use the area for well-being and teaching in terms of biodiversity."

Strong Communities Fund Evaluation Panel

A representative was sought from Community Councils so I (Cllr Bonnar) volunteered to get involved and this was seconded and approved.

Item 13: Correspondence and Publications which do not necessarily require discussion. i.e for noting only – *previously sent out by e-mail.*

13.1 Vale of Glamorgan Council (VGC) – Business Support Newsletters – 12th and 26th January 2024.

13.2 VGC – Consultation on the Council's Draft Budget Proposals 2024/2025.

Chairperson's Initials.....

13.3 One Voice Wales – Reminder of Training Courses for January, February and March 2024.

13.4 Planning Aid Wales – Free Training Courses.
All items were forwarded to Councillors prior to the meeting and were noted.

Item 14: Planning Applications.

14.1 Planning Application No. **2023/01182/FUL**

Location: The Barns, Howe Mill Farm, St Athan Road, St Mary Church

Proposal: Create door opening on south side of building that will generate a natural thermal heat source for hatching room as well as reducing the carbon footprint. The external view will be wooden barn doors which are closed when not in use.

No objection.

14.2 **Decisions made by Local Planning Authority.**

(i) Planning Application No. **2023/01185/FUL** – Proposed two storey extension to provide kitchen/dining with first floor bedroom at 2 Talbot Terrace, St Mary Church – **Refuses to permit.**

Item 15: Place, Date and Time of Next Meeting

Thursday, 7th March 2024, 7.00pm at St Hilary Village Hall.

..... Chairman.

Date : 7th March 2024.