**Clyne and Melincourt Community Council**

Minutes of an Ordinary General Meeting held at Clyne Hall on Wednesday 31January2024

**Present:** K.Thomas (Clerk) and Cllrs G.Kerrison (Chair), J.Golding, L.Hadley, J.Davies & 25 members of the community

Chair welcomed newly elected Cllr. Jeremy Davies to his first meeting

**AGENDA ITEM 1**

**Chairman’s Statement following resignation of G.Francis**

G. Kerrison gave a detailed statement on how, since joining the community council fourteen months ago, he had noticed that Community residents were not satisfied with the way in which the Council and finances had been managed.

Investigations into finances had taken place and quite a number of issues had been found. It was noted that the Chairperson had benefitted from a percentage of the Clerk’s wages and also claimed large IT and Mobile Phone expenses – details given on the amounts involved. Procedures had been put in place

so that no one single person could manipulate circumstances nor another person for any financial gain.

Chairman explained that he has had to step up from Vice Chair as the previous Chair resigned and backdated it to 31December23 without informing Councillors.

The Chair ended by stating that the Council has acted in the best interests of our Community – there is a fresh Council that is now transparent and working to benefit our community and not to benefit ourselves. We still have a Clerk but also have an RFO – Responsible Finance Officer who will be overseeing all future finances.

The Council would like you all to give it a chance to prove itself and to work hard for our community’s benefit, wellbeing and safety.

Much discussion followed and it was the opinion of those present that they wished the Council to seek advice on the above to avoid being seen as complicit. Various options were suggested.

**AGENDA ITEM 2**

**Apologies:** C. Lake – noted Professor Duncan Lewis did not attend

**AGENDA ITEM 3**

**Disclosure and confirmation of Declaration of Interest.**

None received

**AGENDA ITEM 4**

**Minutes of 29November2023 meeting**

Approved as a true record by J.Golding seconded by L.Hadley

**AGENDA ITEM 5**

**Matters Arising**

**26July23 Deposit and Burying of Tyres at Lletty Dafydd**

Nothing further to report – remove from matters arising

**26July23 Ynys Nedd Farm**

Lynn Rees (Farmer) gave an emotional report as to why this should never have been taken up by the Council and how it could have impacted on his livelihood and reputation. **Remove from matters arising.**

**26July23 Planning Approval of Melincourt Windfarm – “joint beneficiaries of the £80k fund”**

Ongoing - not yet connected to grid due to land dispute problems.

Muirhall Energy Officers had confirmed the distribution of the community benefit fund would be decided by the fund adminstrators – Council still aiming for 60/40 split

**26July23 Play Sessions**

Update on Building Blocks – £1,000 funding received from NPT Third Sector Funding to extend the project of which £270 is allocated to provision of hall. Community is enjoying an extension that ends early March. Council will discuss & evaluate the success of this project at the end of March when numbers attending will be available.

**26July23 Iron Ore Mine water on Land adjacent to Melincourt Car Park**

Cllr D Lewis has reported that NPTC will not be taking any action on this matter. **Remove from matters arising.**

**26July23 Melincourt Car Park Picnic Table damaged**

No further progress can be made as NPTC are reluctant to replace following damage despite the importance of providing for future increase in tourist visitors. **Remove from matters arising.**

**26July23 Hill St Play Area: Issues**

No progress – park has not been reinstated following drainage work as reported at previous meeting (see below)

Re-imbursement of Park lease payments still not received but will be continue to be chased.

*(Information received from Cllr D Lewis from NPT Parks Management that they are prepared to reinstate the site prior to the upheaval created by the drainage work and would also be agreeable to reimbursing Clyne and Melincourt Community Council for the lease payments during this difficult period.)*

Members present felt that NPTBC was breaking laws by not providing a useable park that affected the Rights of a Child

The case for trying to restore Hill Street Park to it’s former site was ongoing – ownership had been established but no contact had yet been made & Cllr Hadley understood that any approaches to the family needed to be made via Hutchinson the family Solicitor

**26July23 Section 106 Planning P2022/0581 NMA of P2018/0301**

The developer agreed and has made a payment to NPTC to provide an allotment provision financial contribution of £1248 – this has not been paid to the Community Council & is currently being chased via Cllr. Dean Lewis

**26July23 Request for NPT Tree Surgery**

NPT Cllr D Lewis reported no action considered necessary by NPTC following site visit. **Remove from matters arising.**

**26July23 Planning Enforcement Complaint Tiny Tree Farm Wellfield E2023/0125**

Following discussion Cllr Llynfa Hadley agreed to report on any further information obtained on this matter on behalf of the Council & residents of Melincourt

**26July23 Noise Action Plan Priority Areas A465 Resolven**

No further information available. **Remove from matters arising.**

**29Nov23 Community Councillor Election**

Election had taken place on 21December

Votes Cast:

Davies, Robert Jeremy 88

Tyler, Paula 37

Ure, Stuart Andrew 9

Robert Jeremy Davies (Jeremy) had been duly elected & was again welcomed to the Council and his first meeting by the Chair.

Final cost of election not yet received.

**29Nov23 Bench for Remembrance Area**

Chair reported that he had laid the slab with concrete provided by the developer of the site next to the memorial and NPT had bolted the bench in position. **Remove from matters arising**

**29Nov23 Mugga Project for Clyne Park**

Chair reported confirmation of acceptance of the £5k had been received but previous Chair had not applied for further grants for this project – additional grants being sourced.

**29Nov23 Valleys & Villages Prosperity Fund**

No further information on this fund as yet.

Chair reported on a positive meeting that had taken place the previous evening which it was hoped would provide information on various grant opportunities open to the Council – the Council hoped to set up a subcommittee of Cllrs to actively work on sourcing grants for community projects

**29Nov23 NPT Bus Stop Replacement Program**

No further information available – although the Community Council thought it would have an input this was not the case. **Remove from matters arising**

**AGENDA ITEM 6**

**Resignation of three Community Councillors**

Cllrs. Gill Francis (Previous Chair), David Rosser and Carly Morgan had resigned and the vacancies had been posted as required.

Final date for applications 30January - Rees George had reported back that there were three applications but no request for an election that meant the three vacancies would be posted again and applicants interviewed for co-option by Community Councillors.

Discussion followed - meeting was pleased that there would be no cost involved in the co-option

Clerk to seek costings on a notice board to be situated in Melincourt

**AGENDA ITEM 7**

**Appointment of Responsible Financial Officer (R.F.O.) & Role Changes**

**1) Clerk/Caretaker/Keyholder/Parks etc.**

Chair was pleased to report that Keith Thomas would remain in this position and had accepted a reduced salary of £7,800p.a. Members of the community voiced their support for the Clerk and were pleased that he had remained in this position

**2) Second Keyholder**

Chair was now the second keyholder and would step in whenever necessary

**3) Responsible Financial Officer (RFO)**

Chair explained that Cllr Golding had been appointed as the RFO for the Council and would be responsible for all financial matters – bank mandate had been changed and both the Clerk and RFO had access to online banking.

**AGENDA ITEM 8**

**2024/2025 (Precept Budget)**

Budget for next financial year had been set at short notice

**AGENDA ITEM 9**

**Any Other Business**

**a) Cyd Terrace**

Residents reported on problems with flooding and how community spirit prevailed to prevent water entering the homes – not happy that drains had not been had a second flush due to water being unavailable – Council to take up this issue with NPTC (email to Dean?). Residents felt the water had come from Edward Williams’ stream (Farmer)

**b) Park Grass Cutting**

Tenders to be sought for cutting grass at both parks

**c) Time Capsule**

Agreed time capsule to be brought back into the community and be placed at the Remembrance Memorial

**d) Bridle Ways, Rights of Way & Potholes**

Some community residents reported that access to Bridleways on horseback without using local roads was difficult and they were finding traffic in the area was not slowing down and had no respect for horses/riders. There was also the added difficulty of access to Bridleways being obstructed by locked gates & trees down on pathways.

Speeding also a problem where road drops down by Ynys Nedd Farm SA11 4ET

Lots of complaints about the condition of the road from Tonna to Clyne

Council was asked to find out information on Rights of Way & Bridleways in particular.

**e) A465**

Noted not our community area but condition of layby by the lakes mentioned – email Dean

**f) Melincourt Ganu Funding**

Council had not been approached by any trustee – Council was aware that two arms of the Ganu had applied & been approved for grants.

**h) General Discussion**

Discussion on how to engage with community residents both young and old to establish what they felt the community needed.

Possible coffee mornings/afternoons -

Youth Club?

Senior Citizens?

Hall License for hall hirers to be able to bring their own alcohol to events (no resale allowed)

Community demographics to be sought to assist with project decisions

A signing in book to be made available for residents that attend meetings and meetings to possibly be recorded to assist with preparation of minutes

Meeting closed at 8.00pm