**Clyne and Melincourt Community Council DRAFT MINUTES**

Draft Minutes of an Ordinary General Meeting held at in the Community Hall, Clyne on Wednesday 27March 2024 at 6.00pm

**Present:** K.Thomas (Clerk) and Cllrs G.Kerrison (Chair), L.Hadley, J.Davies, C.Lake, Lucy Hadley, M.Coslett, and J.Golding

Plus 18 members of the community

**AGENDA ITEM 1**

**Chairman’s Opening Remarks**

Chair welcomed residents present. Rob Francis apologised to the Council for his behaviour at the last meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM 2**

**Apologies:** P.Tyler on holiday

**AGENDA ITEM 3**

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

None received

**AGENDA ITEM 4**

**Minutes of 28February2024 meeting**

Approved as a true record – proposed by Cllr Coslett seconded by Cllr Lake

**AGENDA ITEM 5**

**MATTERS ARISING**

**Melincourt Wind Farm**

Letter received from Muirhall Energy informing Council that due to various access problems project has been cancelled. This will be a big financial loss to Clyne & Melincourt and other communities in our area

**26July23 Play Sessions**

Report received on 26March – sessions were enjoyed by those who attended - council will discuss & evaluate the success of this project.

**26July23 Hill St Play Area Issues**

No progress – park has not been re-instated following draining works & re-imbursement of Park lease payments still not received but continued to be chased – Cllr Golding had spoken to Dean Lewis before the meeting for a progress report – following our last email on 20March he had emailed Dave Phillips & asked him to get in touch with us – he will email again & copy in to Steven Karl Hunt

The case for trying to restore Hill Street Park to it’s former site was ongoing – Chair updated meeting with information he had received regarding ownership – it appeared that the Pattisons were not claiming ownership – discussion followed on means of finding out info via The Land Registry – noted Cllr Lynfa’s house deeds showed the land involved as ‘Melincourt Park’ – also noted that a few years ago the land was seen to be up for sale but no info available on Estate Agent involved.

**DRAFT MINUTES**

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

Cllr Lynfa Hadley reported that she had personally consulted a solicitor re the back lane access

Chair reported that tree planting had taken outside of the boundary of land owned near the Gored that did not comply with legislation – Cllr Lake informed meeting that Dean Lewis was looking into this matter

**29Nov23 Community Councillor Election**

Final cost of election received & paid - £2,956.37 a saving of just over £500 on the estimated £3,500

Discussion on co-option & election followed & it was hoped that election costs could be saved in any future Cllr vacancies.

**29Nov23 Mugga Project for Clyne Park**

**Taken alongside Item 6 On Agenda**

**31Jan24 Melincourt Notice Board**

Clerk reported on purchase of notice board at a much reduced cost of £250 as it had been ordered by another party who had changed it’s mind. Cost to be shown in 2024/2025 Financial Yr.

**31Jan24 Cyd Terrace**

Chair reported residents had met with Edward Williams (Farmer) & on some action that had already been taken – cleaning of gulleys had been taken up with Dean – mail drop to residents had not been received – residents disappointed to be informed by Fire Service that they don’t pump unless water is going into houses although – in this case- water was up to house entrances

**31Jan24 Park Grass Cutting Contract**

Contract had been awarded & signed with Eyeballs – Chair had questioned rumour that they were moving out of area & found it was only to Resolven – Clerk confirmed first cut to take place either on Friday or next week. Question raised & confirmed that ‘picking up grass’ was included in contract

**31Jan24 Time Capsule**

Cllr Lake reported that she had spoken to a lady from the Heritage and, due to the current closure of the Crynant museum, the time capsule had been held in Briton Ferry for the past month. Discussion followed & it was agreed arrangements to be made for time capsule to be brought back into the community and be placed at the Remembrance Memorial covered with a concrete slab & a nice stone with a plaque. Cllr Lucy Hadley offered to collect.

**31Jan24 Melincourt Ganu**

Chairman reported on Cllrs meeting held on 19March with the three Ganu Trustees Peter Gibson, Colin Lewis & Elwyn Morgan). Peter Gibson confirmed that they had not asked anyone to approach the Community for funding.

The Ganu had been gifted to the Melincourt Pensioners & due to possible Trustee liability – name had been changed to The Ganu Melincourt Community Hall – 3 Trustees (looking to increase number of trustees to 5 or 7) plus a Charitable Trust (The Building) – it is now a legal entity & the Trustees were no longer liable. They currently had no monies.

**DRAFT MINUTES**

The Ganu did not have a fire certificate & as every other month community meetings were held at the Ganu the Chair had arranged for the purchase of 2 fire extinquishers and an inspection at the same time as the 4 fire extinquishers were being replaced & inspection was happening at the Community Hall in Clyne.

Noted the Charitable Trust would enable the Ganu to access more funding and any donations made by Clyne & Melincourt Community would have to be made out on the Precept budget.

No invoices had yet been received & no payments had yet been made. Discussion followed on decision making & any future donations to the Ganu – no decisions made.

**31Jan24 Tea/Coffee Mornings**

Two meetings had taken place at Hall in Clyne and two at The Ganu. Results will be reviewed prior to next meeting

**31Jan24 Signing In Book**

Noted signing in book in use at the entrance to this meeting

**28Feb24 Hall Wi-Fi**

Chair explained reasons for wi-fi being required including possible zoom meetings. Much discussion followed after which Cllr Davies agreed to produce costing comparison for discussion by the Council.

**AGENDA ITEM 6**

**Appointment of Grant Committee**

Cllr Lucy Hadley and Cllr Paula Tyler had been appointed to look at the various grants that could be obtained for the Community that involved a considerable amount of work.

Informative meeting had taken place with Paul Hinder (NPTC) at the Hall in Clyne on 25March.

Possible revisiting of the MUGA planHall.

**AGENDA ITEM 7**

**Financial Report**

Printed report provided to all Cllrs that would be posted onto the Community website following the meeting and a printout of Bank transactions provided to both the Chair & the Clerk.

Questions raised by residents were answered by Cllr Golding who also gave an overview of the financial position to 27March that included invoices not yet received but would be taken into 2023 to 2024 financial year

End position: Current a/cc £7,559.21cr less o/st invoices = Nett £6,476.71cr

 Deposit a/cc £5,500.00cr = Muga Grant Received & est. 2022/23 Wales Audit bill

Reserve a/cc NIL

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**AGENDA ITEM 8 & 8**

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**Traffic Safety Issues**

**This item should have been listed under A.O.B. as it was a personal issue request by Cllr. Coslett & a resident from Woodbine Cottages who indicated her concerns at one of the Tea/Coffee meetings**

**a) Bus Stop Markers**

Cllr. Coslett reported on her concerns that some bus stops from start of Clyne to end of Melincourt were not marked & caused safety issues with buses not being able – explained issue with her own child crossing road in mornings

**b) Speed Bumps**

Cllr. Coslett reported the need for speed bumps to be extended right across the road instead of the current partial speed bumps. Lorries were dangerously speeding pass the junction of Tonclwyda and Ynys yr Afon.

Much discussion followed during which some residents were concerned that it was the ‘Tonclwyda Issue’ being raised again whilst previously the Council had confirmed that road & bus stop markings had been ‘put to bed’. Cllr. Coslett tried to explain that this she was pursuing on a personal level and not a resurrection of history. Confirmed the ‘Tonclwyda issue had been put to bed.

Questions were raised on the removal of safety railings on the blind bend at the top end of Tonclwyda .

Chair informed meeting that it was his personal decision to remove & his intention to have the material formed into a gate at the Park that was a safety issue. He had not sought permission to remove & Cllrs were unaware of his decision. A Tonclwyda resident had called 999 & also reported to NPTBC who had contacted Mr. Kerrison.

A heated discussion followed that ended with residents demanding the railings be put back in the original position

Chair apologised and confirmed that future decisions must be discussed & agreed by the Council

**c)** Noted litter picking event on 30March at Melincourt Falls – volunteers needed

**d)** Noted that a letter of support for a grant application for improvements at Melincourt Car Park had been sent to NPTC

Meeting closed at 8.30pm

Keith Thomas

Clerk to the Clyne and Melincourt Community Council