

## November 2024

**Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Gilfach Goch Community Council held on Wednesday 13 November 2024 at the Community Council Office.**

***Cofnodion cyfarfod misol. Cynhelir 13 Tachwedd 2024.***

### **PRESENT**

COUNCILLORS: L. PRICE R. PRICE A.WARREN J.ABBOTT A.DRAPER

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

THE CLERK DAWN WALTERS

#### **79. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

79.1 D.ATHWAL J.REES

#### **80. MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

80.1 No declarations were received.

#### **81. PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS TO THE COUNCIL – TO RECEIVE ANY REPRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIR**

81.1 No representations were received.

#### **82. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

82.1 The minutes of the previous monthly meeting and the Finance sub-committee meeting were then agreed as a true record.

#### **83. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

83.1 Minute 57.1 September meeting has not been implemented regarding the clerk having use of online banking. Councillors have completed the online mandates and when authorised the system will be in use with 3 signatories.

83.2 Minute 67.2 No update regarding dog fouling signage at Hendreforgan playing fields.

83.3 Minute 72.2 Councillor R Price will have information regarding purchasing gazebos for discussion in December's meeting.

83.4 Minute 72.4 The white poppy wreath was laid by Councillor Draper and the clerk explained it's significance during the service. Councillor Draper requested that literature regarding the white poppy be put in next year's order of service.

83.5 Minute 73.2 Joanna Bayliss of Families Supporting Families has confirmed that the Christmas event at Evanstown Welfare Park will be going ahead on Friday 13 December 5.30-7.30 but unfortunately BCBC have informed her that the laser light company cannot use the supply at the pavilion. The clerk is helping her resolve this issue.

**84. ALLOTMENT UPDATE**

84.1 The groundsperson, Russell, has been landscaping a difficult banking area. There is an additional plot holder.

**85. OFFICE RENOVATIONS / WHITE HUT**

85.1 No update from RCT but Borough Councillor Roberts received a telephone call last week to ask if she had any objections. It was RESOLVED: that the clerk contact Clare Ruddock and Kelly Daniel for an update.

85.2 A decision will need to be made regarding the current building should the CAT go ahead.

**86. EVENTS**

86.1 Breakfast with Santa at the GGCA with Hendreforgan Nursery and Reception classes, Messy Monsters day nursery and Lil Amigos mother and toddler group on Wednesday 4 December 9.30

86.2 Pantomime at Hendreforgan school Saturday 30 November 2 performances.

**87. BIODIVERSITY BUDGET**

87.1 Several ideas were discussed including ideas from the Botanic Garden for Wales. Further discussions will take place in December.

**88. CORRESPONDENCE**

88.1 A planning application was read and noted for the following

88.1a 13 Meadow Street CF39 8TA Two storey rear extension.

88.2 County Borough Councillor Aurfron Roberts has requested that a donation of £1000 be made from the Windfarm budget to the family of Ryu Jones. Ryu is 7 years old suffering from cancer and as a result has had an arm amputated. She would like to see the boy have a special Christmas. His mother is a single parent and has the costs of travelling to Great Ormond Street Hospital. After a lengthy discussion, as the community council is not able to make payments to an individual, it was RESOLVED: that the Gilfach Goch Welfare Fund manage the payment.

88.3 Correspondence was received from Jo Forsyth of the Gilfach Goch / Tonyrefail Scouts Group stating that the group have disbanded and that the £300 grant would be returned.

88.4 County Borough Councillor Aurfron Roberts has secured £2000 funding from Grantscape for the Friends of Gilfach Goch Day Centre Arts & Crafts Group Christmas Event. The payment will be managed by the community council.

88.5 Correspondence was received from Amy Hancock regarding funding for Hendreforgan School Christmas Fete. It was RESOLVED: that the clerk inform Amy of the planned Christmas events that will be funded by the community council.

## **89. REPORTS / COMPLAINTS**

89.1 The clerk reported that the skateboard park is complete and is having good use. The clerk will make enquiries re signage stating that the park was part funded by the community council.

89.2 Councillor Draper has made enquiries with an alternative provider regarding the wildlife board.

89.3 Councillor Draper reported the following and will convey the wish that it contain RCT in the name.

Rhondda Community Energy (RCE) Meeting, 23 October 2024, the old library, Treherbert

### Attendees:

Leanne Wood, Mark Hooper, Lydia Godden (Community Energy Wales)  
Ian Thomas, Matt Reardon and (Welcome To Our Woods)  
Andrew Draper, Claire Gwylam and Julie Rees (Gilfach Goch Community Council)  
(Gilfach Goch Council)  
John Townend (Ynni Teg)  
Ken Moon (Tŷr Pontypridd)  
Lisa Wills, CEO (Arts Factory)  
Tony Moon (Rhondda Tunnels Society)

**Actions:**

- Agree parameters of where RCE will operate (RCT or Rhondda?)
- John (Ynni Teg) to keep group informed on Net Zero Terraced Street Bridgend
- WTOW to send CEW details/invite of RCT Council's Climate Action Network meeting on community buildings and CE in January 2025
- CEW to draft proposal wording to inform / obtain agreement to set up a legal entity from boards, and share
- Next meeting to invite Duncan Forbes, CEO Trivallis & group to establish a meeting with Trivallis re partnership work in Penrhys
- To discuss at next RCE meeting (end Nov/early Dec) who we need to reach out to next and build connections with those against and for this work.

**Summary:**

- Leanne gave an introduction outlining the need to take advantage of the change at UK Gov and future possible funding becoming available for CE. Given Trydan Gwyrdd Cymru/Ynni Cymru in Wales, community energy and local trading can help minimise demand on grid.
- Leanne also discussed possible future work for Rhondda CE alongside Trevallis HA on the new plans for Penrhys social housing. Rhondda CE could also join the growing Cymunedoli network with a shared ethos of building a community (see more about Cymunedoli here: <https://www.municipal-enquiry.org/post/vulture-capitalism-versus-communitisation>) We are hoping it will become a Wales-wide network WG could not ignore.
- Ian Thomas argued messaging is key, tapping into the Rhondda's centuries old global brand of energy production. 'We have everything we need' awareness raising. Messaging our work less around climate change and more on fairness, community power and agency.
- Agreement that collaboration is the way forward, working collectively across Rhondda not in silos and overcoming feelings of 'forgotten valley Fach/Fawr'
- Urgency to act here, extraction of Valleys is happening, land/woods are being sold off, we need to use our own land for our communities
- Lisa Wills discussed need for caution as we progress as their experience of being taken out by bigger players - importance of NDA's.
- Right of access/buy legislation important here too.
- John from Ynni Teg advice – progress can take a long time/be intermittent so key is to build small first, build the communities hope and confidence then look to build bigger.

- Kate Gilmartin, British Hydro Association - identified as a useful contact on small scale Hydro.
- 'Power' terraced street example (Wathamstow London) and Net Zero Terraced Street (Bridgend) and minewater heating (Rotherham and Caerau) useful examples on what could be achieved at Rhondda CE.
- Need for us to get ahead on this and establish good governance structures to give ourselves credibility in how we operate. Important we protect our message and IP.
- Engagement: Idea of holding a public meeting event was raised to discuss plans widely, including with those who oppose large scale renewables projects and feel frustrated with Net zero. This group of people will be a key part of our work and focus of our engagement strategy to tap into this frustration, establish our difference and offer a fair alternative.
- Important to bring the farming community with us on this as oftentimes forgotten or considered too late on in the process.
- When engaging with the LA, Andrew Morgan, LAEP staff members and corporate estates team identified as key to approach.
- Discussion of class and affordability to buy shares in CE, end user RSL structure, possibility to collectivise generation and consumer.

89.4 All councillors had concerns regarding the condition of the pavements following the works undertaken by Virgin Media. It was RESOLVED: that the clerk file a complaint.

89.5 The clerk reported that she will be meeting with Lisa Austin on Thursday 14 November at the council office to discuss the new play area.

## **90. FINANCE / ACCOUNTS**

90.1 The new NALC Salary pay increase 2024/25 has been implemented for the clerk and groundsperson and arrears have been paid.

**91. FINANCIAL REPORT**

91.1	Bank balance as of 31.10.24		£177492.28
91.1a	Peace Pledge Union	White Poppy Wreath	£33
91.1b	Gilfach Goch Day Centre	30 yr Celebrations	£1000
91.1c	Leanne Griffiths	Fitness Classes	£2000
91.1d	Cwm Rhondda Waste	Skip Hire	£350
91.1e	Audit Wales	Audit Fee	£200
91.1f	Landtech	Knotweed Treatment	£420
01.1g	Members Allowances		£1456
91.1g	Cartridge Save	Ink Cartridges	£41.73
91.1h	Baker Ross	Christmas Event	£254.93
91.1i	Amazon	Christmas Event	£22.96

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91.2 Bank transactions for October

**October Expenditure**

Dawn Walters	£1283.04
Huw Jones	£439.12
Russell Scully	£1150.24
Zoom	£15.59
HMRC	£654.11
BT	£50.22
RCT Council Tax	£121
Peace Pledge Union	£33
Gilfach Goch Day Centre	£1000
Leanne Griffiths	£2000
Cwm Rhondda Waste	£350
Audit Wales	£200
Landtech	£420
Julie Rees	£208
Andrew Draper	£208
Daljinder Athwal	£208
Joan Abbott	£208
Allun Warren	£208
RP & EJ Price	£416
Cartridge Save	£41.73
Baker Ross	£254.93
Dwr Cymru	£69.82
Amazon	£22.96

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**October Income**

S Euston	£10
Granstcape	£3000
Bethel Church	£20

91.3 Money already earmarked

New Play Area & Skateboard Park	£60000
Bus Shelters	£1295
Events	£13368
Windfarm	£2000
S137 Grants	£250
Allotment	£4058
Office Refurbishment	£58975
Training & Remuneration Payments	£960
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£140906</b>

Commitments

Salaries (including oncosts)	£23713
Unpresented Cheques	£0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£23713</b>

Income not yet received

Windfarm	£2000
Precept	£29170
Allotment & Ground Rent	£1325
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£32495</b>

91.4 Bank Reconciliation

Balance @ 31.10.2024	£177492.28
Earmarked + Commitments	£-164619
Income not yet received	£+32495
<b>BAL:</b>	<b>£45368.28</b>

**92. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

92.1 The meeting was then brought to a close and the date set for the next meeting which will take place on Wednesday 11 December 6.30pm at the Council Office.