

Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Gilfach Goch Community Council held on Wednesday 13 September 2023 at the Community Council Office.

Cofnodion cyfarfod misol. Cynhelir Mercher 13 Medi 2023.

PRESENT

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

IN ATTENDANCE

THE CLERK DAWN WALTERS

44. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

44.1 D.ATHWAL J. REES J.ABBOTT

45. MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTEREST

45.1 No declarations were received.

46. PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS TO THE COUNCIL – TO RECEIVE ANY REPRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIR

46.1 No representations were received.

47. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

47.1 The minutes of the previous monthly meeting and Finance Sub Committee meeting were then agreed as true records.

48. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

48.1 Minute 35.4 Enquiries are still ongoing.

48.2 Minute 39.1 It was RESOLVED: that the application for Free Garden Packs for Nature will be considered when more information is received regarding moving premises to the White Hut.

48.3 Minute 39.4 Scott Allin accepts the fact that the community council aren't able to assist with funding a Christmas tree as £10000 is spent annually on Christmas column features and trees and one is received free of charge from Centregreat which is displayed at the council office.

48.4 Minute 39.5 Helen Probyn Williams' query with regards to the railway line received the following reply from Borough Councillor Roberts – The area is earmarked by Sustains for a cycle track. Before any work is done there will be a biodiversity plan and inspection of the site. The area has public footpath rights and is protected under rights of way acts and so it would be difficult to stop public access.

48.5 Minute 40.1 Grant application was unsuccessful.

48.6 Minute 40.2 The clerk suggested that the community council remain with BT until new premises are ensured. She has spoken to BT with regards to an alternative provider and was assured that the matter has been resolved.

48.7 Minute 40.5 Councillor Draper reported that he had not had any further information from the RCT Ecologist so the biodiversity group will continue working on the information board.

49. ALLOTMENT UPDATE

49.1 Notes taken at the Allotment Association meeting held on Tuesday 25 July have been emailed to councillors.

49.2 Heavy duty brushcutter purchased.

49.3 Knotweed received it's third and hopefully final treatment on Tuesday 5 September. The new small area of knotweed on the GGCA plot was also treated and it should only need the one. Hopefully, next spring the area can start to be cleared but the soil must not be disturbed at this point.

49.4 Russell will need a building for use as an office/storage. The clerk has been working with him and the price for a self-assembly building will be £6500. The existing container is of good quality and will be costly to remove. It was RESOLVED: that Brian Walters work with the clerk and Russell with plans to adapt this container for permanent use.

50. OFFICE RENOVATIONS

50.1 The clerk has completed an expression of interest form regarding the White Hut following a meeting with Clair Ruddock of RCT.

51. EVENTS

51.1 The forestry run / fun day was a success. It was RESOLVED: that £100 donation be made to the mayor or RCT and Bridgend's chosen charities.

51.2 The Reverend Ernie Banwell will officiate at the Remembrance Sunday Service at the Cenotaph Evanstown Welfare Park. The clerk will work with him and Richard Walters with regards to the order of service. It was RESOLVED: that the community council will provide refreshments at the pavilion following the service.

51.3 The Fireworks Display will be held at Hendreforgan field on Sunday 5 November. After a lengthy discussion it was RESOLVED: that future financial support of a fireworks event will need to be considered on environmental grounds.

51.4 It was RESOLVED: that the community council will provide a Christmas afternoon tea dance at the OAP Hall. The clerk will make the arrangements.

52. CORRESPONDENCE

52.1 Planning applications were read and noted for the following

52.1a Former Blandy Arms Public House 174a High Street proposed two pairs of semi detached houses. Replacement for application number 16/0176/10 which had expired.

52.1b 43 Llewellyn Street CF39 8UA demolish existing rear extension and outbuilding and construct new single storey flat roof extension to rear elevation.

52.1c 45 Hill Street CF39 8TW two storey extension one side and one storey extension the other. Attic conversion and engineering works to the rear to include ground levelling and access steps.

52.1d 16 Beech Street CF39 8UD proposed two storey extension.

52.2 Correspondence received from RCT re column problems for Christmas features. Centregreat will be arranging and funding the works.

53. REPORTS / COMPLAINTS

53.1 The repairs to the bus shelter at Hendreforgan Estate are scheduled for Thursday 14 September. Tony Richardson of RCT has confirmed that the community council is responsible for the cleaning and maintenance of all bus shelters in the village.

53.2 Councillor Draper reported that the edited annual report will be available shortly.

53.3 Councillor Draper reported on the Hydropower Group

We made contact with Jane Dodds MS, who had previously expressed support for renewables and hydropower. We asked for her support. She replied, saying she had hoped to come and visit over the summer but didn't find time.

I met with Steve Sharp, Chair of LGV's Micro-hydro Co-operative (he has managed their hydro projects for the last 10 years). He is also Director, Llangattock Green Valleys. He looked at the previous Evanstown feasibility study, confirmed the technical feasibility, but said without the feed-in tariffs, it would not be financially feasible - unless we used the electricity ourselves.

I subsequently had contact with Leanne Wood, Co Executive Director of Ynni Cymunedol Cymru / Community Energy Wales. She said it seems unlikely we will be able to stack up something like this without a grant. She pointed us to the Welsh government Energy Service, and invited us to join Community Energy Wales (see here <http://www.communityenergywales.org.uk/en/members/join-us>) and get involved in its Fforwm Datblygu / development forum for new groups. They would then put us in touch with the right people in WGES. We will discuss if this would be a good way to go at the next meeting.

It was RESOLVED: that should the project be unsuccessful the community council will consider new projects such as solar power.

53.4 One Voice Wales' recommendations regarding the salary regrading of the Clerk/RFO post was accepted. The new scale is point 24-28. The clerk will be paid on point 26 backdated to 1 April 2023 with annual increments to point 27 and 28.

53.5 Councillor Liz Price had received a complaint regarding the caravan, owned by Ryan Patterson, being parked at Abercerdin Road. It was RESOLVED: that the clerk inform PCSO Rhian Lovegrove once again and the community councillors for Evanstown.

54. JULY FINANCIAL REPORT

54.1.	Bank balance as of 31.07.23		£117677.11
54.2	Invoices / Receipts		
54.2a	S Jones	Bench	£995.58
54.2b	G4S	F Run	£150
54.2c	Aldi	F Run	£17.47
54.2d	Aldi	F Run	£61.35
54.2e	Gem Security	Office Alarm	£107.98
54.2f	Jeans Hardware	F Run	£7.20
54.2g	G4S	F Run	£1.50
54.2h	GGCA	Playscheme	£1882
54.2i	Blackmill S S	Petrol	£8.34
54.2j	Jeans Hardware	Allotment keys	£13
54.2k	B&Q	Allotment	£7.26
54.2l	Town & Country	Allotment	£8

55. ACCOUNTS

55.1	Cheques authorised		
	002701	Dawn Walters	£1066.32
	002702	Huw Jones	£400.16
	002703	Russell Scully	£1086.28

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55.2 Bank transactions for July

	<u>July Expenditure</u>	
Dawn Walters	£1066.32	Cheque 002701
Huw Jones	£400.16	Cheque 002702
Russell Scully	£1086.28	Cheque 002703
Zoom	£15.59	
HMRC	£476.71	
BT	£0	
RCT Council Tax	£115	
Steven Jones	£995.58	
G4S	£150	
Aldi	£17.47	
Aldi	£61.35	
Gem Security	£107.98	
Jeans Hardware	£7.20	
G4S	£1.50	
GGCA	£1882	
Blackmill Service Station	£8.34	
Jeans Hardware	£13	
B&Q	£7.26	
Town & Country	£8	

July Income

S Euston	£10
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56. AUGUST FINANCIAL REPORT

56.1	Bank balance as of 31.08.23		£168823.60
56.2	Invoices / Receipts		
56.2a	KT Facepainting	F Run	£340
56.2b	Hokey Cokey Events	F Run	£130
56.2c	Rhondda Radio	F Run	£50
56.2d	Mr Creamy	F Run	£495
56.2e	CO-OP	F Run Milk	£3
56.2f	A1 Loo Hire		£150
56.2g	Chubb	Fire safety	£11.25
56.2h	SWALEC	Electricity	£170.82
56.2i	Post Office	Forestry Key	£3.10
56.2j	Forest Park & Garden	Brushcutter	£954.47
56.2k	Cartridgesave	Ink Cartridges	£30.70
56.2l	Tesco	Allotment M Jug	£.50
56.2m	Tesco	Petrol	£7.44
56.2n	Forest Park & Garden	Allotment equipment	£94.58

57. ACCOUNTS

57.1	Cheques authorised		
	002704	Dawn Walters	£1066.32
	002705	Huw Jones	£400.16
	002706	Russell Scully	£1086.08

57.2 Bank transactions for August

<u>August Expenditure</u>		
Dawn Walters	£1066.32	Cheque 002704
Huw Jones	£400.16	Cheque 002705
Russell Scully	£1086.08	Cheque 002706
Zoom	£15.59	
HMRC	£476.71	
BT	£0	
RCT Council Tax	£115	
Hokey Cokey Events	£130	
KT Facepainting	£340	
A1 Loo Hire	£180	
CO-OP	£3	
Rhondda Radio	£50	
Mr Creemy	£594	
SWALEC	£179.36	
Chubb	£13.50	
Post Office	£3.10	
Forest Park & Garden	£954.47	
Cartridgesave	£30.70	
Tesco	£.50	
Tesco	£7.44	
Forest Park & Garden	£94.58	

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August Income

S Euston	£10
K Zecca	£50
Precept 2	£56827

57.3 Money already earmarked

New Play Area	£40000
Bus Shelters	£0
Events	£14777
Windfarm	£1567
S137 Grants	£8000
Allotment	£14815
Office Refurbishment	£57925
Training	£4825
TOTAL	£141909

Commitments

Salaries (including oncosts)	£26354
Unpresented Cheques	£0
TOTAL	£26354

Income not yet received

Windfarm	£5000
Precept	£56827
Allotment & Ground Rent	£980
TOTAL	£62807

57.4 Bank Reconciliation

Balance @ 31.08.2023	£168823.60
Earmarked + Commitments	£-168263
Income not yet received	£+62807
BAL:	£63367.60

58. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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