

Bedwas, Trethomas & Machen Community Council

**Minutes of the meeting of FULL COUNCIL Council Offices, Newport Road,
Bedwas on Thursday 1 December 2016 at 6pm**

<u>Present</u>	<u>Apologies</u>
E. Aldworth	
E. Davies	
DJ Davies	
J. Gale	
D Havard	
B James	
L Jones	
A McConnell (Chair)	
C Morgan	
	K Regan
M Williams	
J Winslade	

Apologies: Keith Regan,

Also Present: Jolene Dalton (Clerk), PCSO Claire Eyles & Inspector Andy O'Keefe

Declaration of Interest

POLICE & ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

131. The Police Representatives presented the crime figures for the month reporting that there were 48 crimes recorded during November, compared with 41 during the same period last year.

It was reported that problems with anti social behaviour had been dealt with at The Pike and at Bedwas Rugby Club. The holes in the perimeter at The Pike had since been boarded up and it was hoped that this would alleviate the problems. It was suggested by a member that the Rugby Club would benefit from gates at the front and back. The Police could make this recommendation but could not enforce any action being taken.

Patrols were continuing in the St David's drive area after a dwelling burglary.

The fireworks display in Caerphilly had caused some traffic problems, but no issues of note had been reported.

All Remembrance Day Services in the area had been attended.

A campaign was underway targeting motoring offences such as using a mobile phone whilst driving, parking issues and drivers not wearing seatbelts. Officers had also been in attendance at various schools to move drivers parked illegally and issue tickets where necessary. This initiative would continue on a monthly basis after Christmas.

At the recent 'Your Voice' meeting it was decided that tackling youth disorder at the rugby club would be the new priority, as a number of calls were received to move people from the area that shouldn't be there. It was decided that a new priority would be set every 6 months in order to give longer for the issue to be dealt with and to ensure a more meaningful result.

A very successful Road Safety Event had been held on the 24th November in partnership with the Fire Service.

Parking outside Tesco continued to be a problem, but it was noted that motorists were entitled to park there after 6pm.

Following a spate of shed burglaries and vehicle crime one individual had now been linked through forensics to 27 incidents. Concern was expressed at the number of people who leave their vehicles unlocked; an event was planned for the future on the risks of not locking vehicles and leaving items on display inside.

Members thanked the Police Representatives for their attendance at the meeting.

FULL COUNCIL

The Council were informed that a former Councillor, Mrs Betty Jones had passed away. Councillor Aldworth spoke fondly of Mrs Jones recalling her to be a very jolly person who went on to have significant success as a fundraiser. The Clerk was requested to write to Mrs Jones' family to express the Council's condolences.

The Council stood for a minute's silence to pay their respects.

132. Apologies - The apologies were noted and accepted.

133. Minutes of the meeting held on 3 November 2016

It was noted that Councillor Aldworth had declared an interest in agenda item 5 of the Finance Committee as a Director at Graig Y Rhacca Resource Centre.

Minute 127 – It was noted that Councillor Dave Davies had also assisted with the work in the Council Chamber.

RESOLVED: That subject to the above amendments the minutes of the meeting be accepted as a true record and be signed by the Chair.

134. Chair's Announcement and Report

The Chair's report was noted as set out in the report which will be attached to the minutes when published on the website.

135. Youth Representative's Report

It was decided that the issue would be revisited in January.

136. Clerks Report

The Clerk reported a call that had been received from a member of the public regarding the state of the park next to Ty Bryn Surgery. It was claimed that the park had been vandalised and was in a continual poor state of repair. The Clerk had spoken at length with the lady and explained that although the park was the responsibility of the County Borough Council she would raise the concerns with the Community Council.

It was reported that a visit had recently taken place by County Borough Councillors and there was a possibility that some new equipment would be placed in the area in the near future. The Clerk undertook to report back to the member of the public who had raised the concern.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

As Councillor Havard had not attended the meeting by this point Councillor David Davis chaired the Finance Committee

137. Chair's Report

There was none

138. Clerk's Report

The Clerk presented two invoices that had been received from K&G Builders for work that had been completed at the Workmen's Hall. The Clerk was not aware of a Council minute agreeing to the work or of a tendering process so was not happy to make payment without first seeking the approval of Council.

The Chair of Land and Buildings Committee stated that he had requested that the work be carried out. Part of the work was done to block up holes that rats had been entering the building through, the work had been done following a significant rat infestation at the building and was essential to prevent the rats returning.

Members discussed the work that had been carried out to the kiosk area and questioned if this work should be re-invoiced to the Hall Committee as they had paid for the original work to the kiosk to be done.

The Chair of Council asked that in future quotes be sought prior to work being carried out and that all members be involved in such decision-making.

It was reported that the boiler at the Hall had broken down and the maintenance company had failed to keep the appointment to repair it. A further update would be provided once available.

RESOLVED: That the Council pay for the work to the toilet ceiling and exterior walls plus VAT, that the Workmen's Hall Committee be asked to pay for the work to the kiosk plus VAT.

139. Payments made since last meeting

The payments were noted and approved as set out in the paperwork. The Clerk was asked to check a payment recorded as Gas at Hall made on 06/10/16.

140. Applications for Financial Assistance

RESOLVED: 1. To award £300 to Machen Cricket Club 2. To award £50 from each ward to Llamau totalling £150.

Members discussed the Christmas grants that the Council awards to PTA organisations and local OAP groups and it was:

RESOLVED: To award £100 to each of the PTA's and OAP groups in the area in accordance with payments made in previous years.

141. Budget & Precept for 2017/18

The Clerk presented the report explaining that Council were not being asked to make a decision at this stage. The papers had been presented to provide all members with the information relevant to Council expenditure for 2016/17 and allow Members sufficient time to consider the budget and the amount of precept required in order to meet their spending needs for the forthcoming financial year.

Members were asked to contact the Clerk with any areas that they wished to be discussed at the January meeting so that accurate costs could be calculated in good time to feed into the discussions and decision making process.

Members noted the contents of the report and the financial information provided with it.

LAND & BUILDINGS COMMITTEE

142. Chair's Report

There was none, it would be contained within agenda item 3.

143. Clerk's Report

There was none, it would be contained within agenda item 3

144. Workmen's Hall Bedwas

Members were presented with a list of all expenditure pertinent to the Hall during the financial year to date which totalled £14,312.94.

Members were informed that the volunteer Caretaker had resigned from the Hall and that the Council may find it necessary to consider a paid employee to cover this role along with some additional duties at the Hall. As a temporary measure the Council was now paying for the downstairs part of the Hall to be cleaned until a more permanent solution could be sought. It was agreed to consider the issues in the January Council meeting when the budget and precept was discussed.

It was reported that although the rat problem had been dealt with there was now a very bad smell emanating from beneath the suspended floor and it was likely that this was due to decaying rats that had died there from poisoning. There was no easy solution to this problem as they could not be reached to be disposed of. The Chair of the Committee undertook to contact Environmental Health Officers to discuss if a solution could be recommended.

Quotes for the alarm would be sent to the Clerk.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

As the Chair of the Planning Committee was not in attendance Councillor Brian James chaired the Planning Committee

145. Application 16/0890/FULL – 68 Commercial Road Machen

RESOLVED: No objection

Application 16/0574/CLEU – 3 Alma Cottages Colliery Road, Bedwas

RESOLVED: No objection

Application 16/0870/FULL – 30 Newport Rd, Trethomas

RESOLVED: No objection

Application 16/0919/COU – Unit 4 Riverbank Court, Trethomas

RESOLVED: Members raised no concerns over the nature of the proposed business, but raised significant concerns over the parking issues that would be caused in the immediate vicinity and in near by streets and the increased volume of traffic to the area and requested a site visit.

Application 16/028/FULL – Ty Maen Farm, Mountain Road, Bedwas

RESOLVED: No objection

Minutes of the Meeting of the ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE COMMITTEE

146. Chair's Report

The Chair presented her report informing members that the Clairvoyance evening held at the Hall had been a great success and had been very well received. There would be a Christmas market at the Hall on Sunday 4 December between 11-3pm – it was hoped that Santa would also be there.

The BTM Band were holding their Christmas Concert on Saturday 10th December and it was always a fabulous evening.

The planting event at James St, Trethomas had been very successful and will be a park for the people. Special mention was made of one local resident, Mr Billy Hughes who had worked extremely hard on the project.

Bedwas Drama were holding their carol concert and sketch show at the Hall on 10 December, members were encouraged to attend.

A meeting would be held on Tuesday 6 December on site with Tony Napier to discuss the Viaduct in Machen and the best ways to move the project on.

147. Clerk's Report

There was none

Meeting End 7.30pm

.....CHAIR OF COUNCIL

Chair's Report – 1 December 2016

- 31 October – Attended a meeting together with other Councillors to discuss the necessary works to the roof, the tender process and funding of Bedwas Workmen's Hall from Davies & Hurley and GAVO.
- 3 November – Attended Full Council of BTM Community Council. See last month's papers for my Report.
- 5 November – Attended the Firework Display at Caerphilly Castle. It was a great event which has definitely grown over the years in popularity.
- 8 November – Attended Bedwas Workmen's Hall Committee Meeting.
- 13 November (am) – Took part in the Parade, attended the Service of Remembrance at St John's Church and the Service at the Cenotaph in Machen, of which I had the honour of laying a wreath for BTM Community Council. Thank you to everyone involved in organising this Remembrance Day and to the many residents who took the time to show their respect for our fallen.
- 13 November (pm) - Attended the Service of Remembrance at Caerphilly Cenotaph in the afternoon. I also had the honour of laying a wreath on behalf of BTM Community Council. Again, thank you to everyone involved in organising this Remembrance Day and to the many residents who took the time to show their respect for our fallen.
- 14 November (am) – Took part in a Governors Learning Walk at Machen Primary School. Great to see firsthand the variety of teaching techniques and high standards of the School, with dedicated Teaching Staff.
- 14 November (pm) - Attended CCBC Governors Network at Ty Penallta. Congratulations to Cllr Derek Havard on your re-election as Chair. The main discussion was about The Welsh Government consultation document "Reform of School Governance: regulatory framework" which commenced on Friday the 11 November 2016. Here is the link for more information and to have your say on the consultation process: www.consultations.gov.wales
- 16 November – Attended One Voice Wales Training on Devolution of Services, which was very detailed and interesting. For more information on Community Asset Transfers in Wales – A Best Practice Guide by Welsh Government please go to <http://bit.ly/2eXQVwI>
- 17 November (am) – Machen Community Speed Watch undertook a "pro active day" with Gwent Police in Machen. Speeding monitored on Commercial Road. 187 vehicles monitored, 64 of which were HGV's, 6 noted as speeding and 1 driver on a mobile phone.

- 17 November (pm) - Attended Carwyn Connect Event at The Gwyndy, Caerphilly, where our First Minister answered questions from the floor about a range of subjects including Education, Brexit, the Health Service, Housing and Poverty.
- 18 November – Volunteered at Bedwas Workmen’s Hall, which was a Clairvoyant Night and very busy with happy customers.
- 21 November – Bedwas Neighbourhood Policing Team held a “Your Voice” Meeting at BTM Offices. A handful of residents attended expressing concerns over speeding, the recent dwelling burglaries, the new Street lighting being done by CCBC and anti social behaviour at Bedwas RFC.
- Update of School Signage in Machen –CCBCs Highways Operations Department have confirmed that the signs are programmed to be erected by the end of next week(beginning of December)weather permitting. **Update:** These signs have now since been done, Monday the 29 November, on the left hand side just before the flashing lights sign from the Caerphilly direction and in the opposite direction by the Old Village Hall. It took a while but I got there in the end.
- Community projects across Wales can apply for “Bags of Help” via Tesco’s Local Community Grant Scheme. The projects must meet the criteria of promoting Community participation in the development and use of outdoor spaces. For more information please visit www.groundwork.org.uk
- 24 November – Attended the Road Safety Event of Gwent Police, The Fire Service, Machen Community Road Watch and CCBCs Road Safety Team. Thank you to all who attended on a very cold but dry winter’s evening. The Virtual Reality Goggles proved to be very popular with not only the teenagers but the adults too. Hopefully another Event will be held next Spring/Summer so please keep a look out.
- 26 November –Well done to Jeannette Harding (Vice Chair) of Machen Community Road Watch and Cllr Chris Morgan who undertook a sponsored walk along Machen Cycle Track.

Dates for your Diaries:

- Saturday the 3 December@18.30pm – BTM FC Christmas Party at Bedwas Workmen’s Hall. Players Free, Adults £5, Siblings £2.
- Monday the 5 December @17.30pm-21.30pm – Bedwas RFC Mini and Junior’s Christmas Santa Night and Craft Fayre. Free event however to see Santa, a fee of £3 will be payable

which includes a gift. There will be local Craft Sellers, face painting, glitter tattoos, balloon modeller, Aber Male Voice Choir, BTM Brass Band, The Twyn Junior School Choir etc.

- Saturday the 10 December @19.00 - Christmas with the BTM Brass Band Society at Bedwas Workmen's Hall. Tickets available from Visit Caerphilly Tel: 029 20880011 and The Rock in Bedwas or online at www.priorbooking.com
- Tuesday the 13 December @18.00-19.30 - The Chair's Christmas Carol Service with BTM Band Next Generation at BTM Council Offices, Newport Road, Bedwas. There will be Mulled Wine, Mince Pies, Selection Boxes, Glow Sticks etc. You may see one, two or even twelve Councillor Elves together with a Special Guest.

Reminder: Entries for the Chair's Newsletter please supply to our Clerk as soon as possible.

End of Report.