



Bedwas, Trethomas & Machen Community Council

Remote FULL COUNCIL Meeting,

MS Teams

Thursday 7th January 2021

Present; Chris Morgan (Chair), Jill Winslade, Daniel Llewellyn, Amanda McConnell, Elizabeth Aldworth, Derek Havard, June Gale, Dave Davies Lisa Phipps, Phil Rosser

Also Present: Marcia Jones (Clerk)

Apologies; CSO's Lisa Gibbs & Bronwyn Satterly of Gwent Police.

631. Police & Community Safety Matters

631.1 A discussion took place regarding the recent car related incidents in Graig yr Rhacca
RESOLVED: The four County Councillors on the BTM Community Council will request an urgent meeting with CCBC highways in conjunction with Gwent Police.

631.2 Damage to the living Christmas tree in Bedwas Park

RESOLVED: Clerk to report damage to police. Alternative location to be sought for future years

631.3 Illegal use of Off-Road Bikes. Further recent issues in Trethomas noted.

RESOLVED: Cllr Phipps to contact Gwent Police and coordinate response.

632. Declarations of Interest.

632.1 Cllr Aldworth declared an interest in Item 9

632.2 Cllr P Rosser declared an interest in Item 9.2

632.3 Cllr L Phipps declared an interest in Items 6.4 & 9.2

632.4 Cllr D Havard declared an interest in Items 6.4

632.5 Cllr C Morgan declared an interest in Items 6.4

633. To note and approve apologies for absence.

None

634. Minutes of meeting ORDINARY FULL COUNCIL on 3rd December 2020

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record for signing by the Vice Chair.

635. Matters Arising from the meeting ORDINARY FULL COUNCIL on 3rd December 2020

None

Finance Matters

636. Bank Payments for December 2020 and Reconciliation to 29.12.2020

NOTED and approved.

637. Budget for 2021-2022

The Clerk presented a proposed budget for 2021-2022 with a supporting report outlining how figures have been calculated.

RESOLVED: Unanimously agreed as presented with no amendments, which included the following decisions.

637.1 Increase rent for tenants at BTM office by 2% for 2021-2022

637.2 Change in Clerk's hours from 30 per week to 24 per week WEF 01.04.2021

637.3 Recruitment of a BWH project Manager for 16 hrs pw- initial 1 year term

637.4 Clerk to contract to a suitable Financial Software Package to meet council needs

637.5 To aim for reserves of a minimum of 25%

638. Council Tax Base notification 2020-2021 and precept for 2021/2022

The information from CCBC regarding the Council Tax Base notification for 2020-2021 was NOTED. The Clerk provided Council with details of options for the precept, based on the budget agreed

RESOLVED: Unanimously agreed to increase the precept for 2021-2022 by £1.65 from £24.12 to £25.77 for a Band D equivalent property.

639. Application for Financial Assistance

639.1 7th Caerphilly Scouts.

RESOLVED: Award £300. £100 from each ward

640. Draft minutes Land & Building Management (LBM) Committee, 7th December 2020

NOTED

RESOLVED: To proceed with an EICR report at BTM offices

641. Motion from Cllr Llewellyn – Bedwas & Trethomas Tips

Cllr Llewellyn moved the motion brought to Council in respect of the Bedwas and Trethomas tips and outlined the background to this, including concern that the pond gates are always open. Cllr Llewellyn proposed an amendment to his submission to change 'no Risk Assessment' to 'Insufficient Risk assessment'. He advises that CCBC should be held accountable, particularly considering the flooding issues which occurred on 23.12.20 in Trethomas which he believes is a direct result of drainage issues at the tip site. Cllr Llewellyn advised there is still substantial debris in the surrounding area following the incident. Cllr Aldworth confirmed that she had requested a road sweeper which has attended but agreed that further cleaning is required and will contact the relevant officer at CCBC to request.

Cllr Phipps observed that during her visits the site gates are always closed and is perplexed that they are always open when Cllr Llewellyn visits. Cllr Llewellyn queried if it was being insinuated that he is opening the gates when he is making his inspections, and taking photos for social media, which he categorically denied. Cllr Phipps requested that Cllr Llewellyn ensures he reports and closes the gates at the time of his visit if this is the case.

The Chair noted his fear that social media etc can depict an inaccurate picture and is concerned that this Council is being exploited by political parties for electioneering purposes. He stated that the time taken dealing with these issues is detrimental to the ongoing work of the community council and the residents it is elected to serve.

It was highlighted that the area of the tips is not solely owned by CCBC but has numerous absent landowners.

The County Councillors advised the concerns and risks of the tips are well known, and they are constantly in communication with the relevant officers at CCBC in this respect. It was noted that Cllr Llewellyn had not made any representations to the County Councillors prior to the submission of the motion to discuss this matter. Cllr Llewellyn advised this motion had been brought following contact from the office of Delyth Jewell MS, SE Wales.

The Chair read an email from Kevin Kinsey, Principal Engineer at CCBC dated 5th January 2020 sent to the County Councillors. See appendix 1

The motion was put to vote - 1 vote in favour - 9 against. It was noted that those who voted against did so on the basis that they felt the matter is already in hand and this motion is duplication of ongoing work.

RESOLVED: Motion rejected

Cllrs L Phipps and L Aldworth left the meeting at this point – 7.23pm

642. Planning Applications

642.1 Case Ref. 20/1016/FULL – No Comments/Objections

Cllr P Rosser left the meeting at this point – 7.24pm

642.2 Case Ref. 20/1043/LA – Councillors recognise the need for housing but noted concerns regarded the access to the proposed site. It is understood that there may be reconsideration of the design, but BTM CC wish to note their concern with the current proposals.

RESOLVED: Clerk to contact CCBC Planning office to note concerns


643. Next meeting

An Extraordinary meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday 25th January 2020 at 6pm via MS Teams.

The next scheduled ordinary meeting will take place on Thursday 4th February 2020 at 6.30pm via MS Teams.

Meeting Closed 7.35 pm

Signed 
Cllr C Morgan
Chair of Council

Signed 
M Jones
Clerk

APPENDIX 1

Subject: RE: Quarry Reservoir, Bedwas Colliery Site, TRETTHOMAS.

Good morning,

I note your request for information relating to above and the list of queries posed with regards to the status of the tips and their maintenance.

Can I first confirm that the Bedwas tips complex is categorised as 'D' in terms of risk and inspection requirements, this is the only such tip site of this designation within CCBC and as such is inspected monthly or more often if deemed necessary due to weather events. I would also advise that this site was inspected jointly with the Coal Authority [on the 25th November](#), during the said inspection no areas of concern were identified by the Coal Authority and they were content with the methodology and approach taken by our inspectors.

Works undertaken on the tips site since October are as follows:

- Blockage removed from the pond lower outlet pipe.
- New screen fitted to the outlet pipe to prevent further blockages
- Maintenance works to remove accumulated debris from channels/ditches as identified in recent inspections undertaken on both the hillside and mountain top tips.
- Heras fencing erected to secure the pond boundary.

Listed queries addressed as follows:

1. Silt and debris removed as stated above
2. Overgrowth in channel below quarry pond to be removed as part of the fencing works.
3. Pond fencing, our contractor is planning to erect the access scaffolding towards the latter part of the week commencing [the 11th January](#).
4. I'm not aware of any bulging associated with movement on any of the tip slopes, there are areas of the hillside and hilltop tips that have a slight convex profile but this is not associated with movement and is an existing feature.
5. Erosion of the west side of the hill top tip is a long standing issue and is a function of the way the tip was constructed with steep slopes, poor drainage and non-existent vegetation cover. The erosion evident is surface and linked to overland surface water runoff, we have constructed a cut off ditch at both the crest and toe of the slope to control the erosion and capture any materials washed off the slope. This slope is monitored on a regular basis as this is an area where continued erosion will in some form take place, but note that this is not to the detriment to the overall stability of the tip.

6. I assume the reference to large ravines relates to the western side of the hill top tip and as such the above explanation stands in this respect.
7. I can make no comment with regards to the fly tipping.

In relation to the trees with yellow tape, can you please confirm which area of the site this relates to, as the majority of the colliery surface is owned by others and I'm not aware of any inspections of the trees within our area of ownership.

I trust the above addresses the queries raise but should you require any further information please do not hesitate to ask.

Regards,

Kevin Kinsey

Rheolwr Grwp Prosiectau Peirianeg Dros Dro | Principal Engineer
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili | Caerphilly County Borough Council