

Merthyr Mawr Community Council

Cyngor Cynuned Merthyr Mawr

Minutes of Merthyr Mawr Community Council held on
Monday 8th March 2021, at 7pm via Zoom

Present:	Apologies
Cllr C. Taylor (Chairman)	Cllr D. Unwin
Cllr. C. Ball	Cllr. A. Morgan
Cllr. I. Mclaggan	
Cllr. N. Smith	
Cllr W. Willis	

17/21	To receive apologies for absence from the meeting: Apologies were received in advance of the meeting from Cllr A Morgan and Cllr D Unwin
18/21	To receive Declarations of Interest and the nature thereof: There were None
19/21	To receive the minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting which took place on Monday 8th February 2021 The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. The minutes were then signed by the chairman Cllr, C. Taylor.
20/21	Matters arising from the minutes Following on from the Councils last meeting the Chair sent a letter to Cllr Unwin acknowledging and accepting his reasons for absence from the Councils virtual meetings. Cllr Unwin has provided a letter to the Council which will be read out throughout the meeting.

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	09/21 An email was received from One Voice Wales which provided the Council with the correct interpretation of the Absence policy for Councillors. This meant the Council did not need to Co-Opt Cllr Unwin as the Council had formally agreed that Cllr Unwin's absence was noted within the Councils January Meeting. Cllr Unwin can continue as Councillor for a further 6 months or unless he attends a meeting where the 6 months absence policy will start again. It was suggested that Councillors provide Cllr Unwin with some assistance to attend the Council meetings as we were informed that lack of computer skills shouldn't hinder a Councillor from attending. Cllr Taylor offered Cllr Unwin a Ipad to allow him to attend our virtual meetings although Cllr Unwin has thus far not taken up the offer. 12/21 The Chair thanked Councillors who behind the scenes provide a lot of their time and effort for the Council far beyond what is expected of them. Cllr Unwin was noted as one of them. Cllr Unwin has kindly offered his assistance with creating a footpaths policy for the Council. It was suggested that the policy include what the Council's responsibilities are. The footpaths are numbered and are checked yearly. The Council is responsible for the maintenance of the footpaths and BCBC is responsible for the maintenance of the stiles. The Chair admitted that she was not aware of these responsibilities. Cllr Unwin has agreed to prepare a paper on the subject in due course after the Annual Inspection of the footpaths in August. No response was received from the Wales Coastal Path regarding the signage at the river Ogmore. The Clerk to Contact The Wales Coastal Path for a response. An email was received from Natural Resources Wales regarding shadow flicker at Stormy Down. The Council was notified that a fault within the system was found and has now been rectified. An enquiry was received from Natural Resources Wales regarding an odour complaint. Cllr Ball is monitoring further repercussions of the odour for future reference. No response has been received from the Farmer at Island Farm. It was reported that at the top end of Island Farm Close there is a lot of slurry. It was suggested that Councillors continue to monitor the situation.
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	A response was sent to BCBC regarding HD LTD's planning application (P/20/995/FUL), The Council thanked Cllr MacLaggan and Cllr Willis for their contribution to the response.
21/21	To Consider Correspondence. Members reviewed the items presented and noted them with the following: Correspondence period reviewed: February 2021 An email was received from One Voice Wales providing changes expected within the coming year. This included creating a training plan for the Clerk and Councillors. It was discussed that within the coming months the Clerk will contact Councillors requesting they provide the course and the date they attend training on behalf of the Council. Once this is complete a training spreadsheet can be created to ensure all Councillors have equal opportunities for training. 13 The Council was made aware from BCBC that the road surface at Merthyr Mawr Road South is of concern and will be rectified when money is available. 17 The Chair updated the Council regarding her attendance of the Town and Community Council Forum. She was informed of the Bridgend Town Center Plan. In line with recent guidelines published it was reported that BCBC are intending on providing Town and Community Councils with additional training opportunities. BCBC has offered to provide Town and Community Council with material and information to support Councillors to recruit candidates for the Council. Cllr Willis pointed out the average age of our Council was 62. The Clerk suggested to the Council that we create a Facebook page to promote the Councils meetings to a wider and younger audience to increase the notoriety of the Council. The Council unanimously agreed. 19 The Council Agreed to adopt Newcastle Higher Community Councils Data Protection Policy as stated on their website. It was proposed by Cllr Taylor and seconded by Cllr Ball. The Council Agreed to review the policy in March 2022. 53 The Council agreed to adopt the amended Finance Policy, circulated via email to all Councillors. It was proposed by Cllr Taylor and seconded by Cllr Willis.

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Date:

	55. Councillors agree to adopt the Finance Risk Assessment. It was discussed that the Council would not breach personal data under the GDPR regulations and chose not to put personal names of Councillors who are named as signatories onto the policy. Proposed by Cllr Taylor and seconded by Cllr Ball. To review Finance risk assessment February 2022. The Clerk to place all placed onto the Council Website.
22/21	To consider financial matters: Balance on account: £5,657.80 A. To reconcile non signatory Cllr for bank statements for the last quarter. Cllr Smith agreed to reconcile the bank statements for the Council which will be reported back within Aprils meeting. It was decided that this will be done twice yearly. Cllr Smith to report back within the Councils next meeting. B. Councillors remunerations 2020 / 2021 It was noted that no Councillors have received a remuneration payment for financial year 2020 - 21.
23/21	To consider planning applications: There were none
24/21	In view of the way this Council reviewed the planning application for the Island Farm Academy, does this Council consider the decision making process adequate? Could we improve the process and make it easier for Councillors to make a decision? Cllr Willis suggested that a “working document” be used and be accessible via email. The Council decided that a “working document” would be the best way to allow all Councillors to comment and amend the file to ensure everyone is working and looking at the same sheet. It was agreed that the Council will implement this for future work.
25/21	Charity policy The Chair asked Councillors to brainstorm ideas for the Councils charity policy.

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	Cllr Ball suggested that the Council should be “donating to people who are unable to help themselves” such as Bridgend Food Bank. The Council suggested that it should be local and within a radius of 5 Miles of the Councils boundary. Cllr Willis suggested we give to a different charity each year.
26/21	To receive Members reports and any issues of concern: Cllr Mclaggan updated the Council regarding the bench opposite the church in Merthyr Mawr village coming adrift. It was decided that the Council would support a payment to revamp the bench. Cllr Smith kindly offered to oil the bench and will request a reimbursement for the oil. Cllr Mclaggan reported that a bin has disintegrated near kag glass Merthyr Mawr. Cllr Mclaggan will provide the clerk with a photo to pass onto BCBC.
	Date of next meeting: Monday 12th April 2021 - Monthly Meeting at 7pm.
	The Meeting closed at: 20:24pm

Action matters - highlighted in red.

Signed:

Date: