



Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on – **Monday 11th May 2020, via Video Conference, 6.00 pm.**

PRESENT: Cllr Sherelle Jago
 Cllr Richard Searl (Chair)
 Cllr Gillian Preston
 Cllr Jeff Beard

IN ATTENDANCE: Ryan James (Clerk to the Community Council)

Item No.	Discussion	Action
1	<p><u>Welcome and Apologies</u></p> <p>The Chair, Cllr Sherelle Jago, welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>Apologies were received from Cllr Helen Thomas, Cllr Ian Thomas, Cllr Vanessa Matthews, Cllr Chris Frayne, and Cllr Elizabeth Evans.</p>	
2	<p><u>AGM: Nomination of Chair and Vice-Chair</u></p> <p>Two expressions of interest had been received for Chair of the Community Council, a vote was carried out and Cllr Richard Searl was appointed Chair for the forthcoming year.</p> <p>Two expressions of interest were received for Vice-Chair of the Community Council, a vote took place and Cllr Vanessa Matthews was appointed Vice-Chair for the forthcoming year.</p> <p>Cllr Richard Searl continued to Chair the meeting.</p>	
3	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p>	

	<p>Cllr Jeff Beard declared an interest regarding Planning Application P/20/0091 as the applicant is a client of his.</p>	
4	<p><u>Police Report</u></p> <p>The Police were unable to attend the meeting virtually an no email report has been received for this month.</p>	
5	<p><u>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</u></p> <p>Council resolved that the minutes were a true record of the last meeting.</p>	<p>RJ to upload minutes to the BTCC website.</p>
6	<p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <p>Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council (MTCBC) were unable to provide any suggestions regarding a concrete bench, however, RJ had made some enquiries and found a company that supplied concrete benches with prices starting at £700. Council requested a formal quotation with installation costs to consider at the next meeting.</p> <p>MTCBC have confirmed that the 140-litre refuse bin will be delivered to the Community Centre, collections will be on a Monday at a cost of £9.12 per week. Cllr Jago raised that the food waste is still not being collected.</p> <p>Keep Wales Tidy have confirmed that they can help with the work to be done at the community allotments in Bedlinog following damage by Storm Dennis. They have assisted in helping us to apply for a grant via Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) for repair work to be carried out and they will help arrange volunteers when Government Guidelines allow us to proceed. We await confirmation from WCVA as to whether we have been successful for the grant.</p> <p>The application form for the Hardship Fund has been published on our website and Social Media, however, no applications have been received to date. Council are keen to continue to publicise</p>	<p>RJ to contact Waste Services at MTCBC re the food waste collections.</p>

	<p>the fund and will also produce posters to be put up in local shops within Bedlinog and Trelewis.</p> <p>A second quote has been received as part of the grant application for repair works at Bedlinog AFC. Cllr Jeff Beard proposed a £1000 grant which Cllr Searl seconded. Council resolved to award a grant for this amount.</p> <p>We have received responses from two CCTV companies that they are unable to quote for CCTV at the community centre now due to the current pandemic. However, we have looked at having a gate installed and received a quote for £800-£1150. The figure reflects the possible requirement that a concrete breaker will need to be hired. Cllr Jago proposed we go ahead with this work which Cllr Searl seconded. Council resolved to proceed with the installation of the gate at the community centre.</p> <p>The pedal bin for the Community Centre kitchen has been ordered and delivered.</p> <p>Cllr Chris Frayne has completed his Declaration of Acceptance and Register of Interests which will be uploaded to the Community Council website.</p>	<p>RJ to produce posters and send to Cllr Searl to print and place in local shops.</p> <p>RJ to inform Bedlinog AFC and arrange for payment of grant.</p> <p>RJ to inform builder to proceed with the work at the Community Centre.</p>
<p>7</p>	<p><u>County Councillors Report</u></p> <p>Cllr Jago provided an update on behalf of Neighbourhood Services at MTCBC - in terms of waste & recycling collections, many streets have suffered delays with their collections. The crews are running out of time because of the unprecedented amounts of recycling during these challenging times. MTCBC is asking residents to bear with them as there is hopefully some news in terms of waste recycling centres reopening shortly.</p> <p>The Highways Department have resumed work this week – the pothole repairs and gully cleansing programme are due to start back up in May. It was noted that the cattle grid is blocked at the top of Bedlinog – sheep have free reign to come in to the village as they can walk straight</p>	

	<p>over it due to it being blocked – this has been reported to MTCBC.</p> <p>Regarding grounds maintenance – grass cutting is resuming for areas where there are vision signs on roads and roundabouts. The main programme is on delay. A lot of the ground’s maintenance staff have been redeployed into cemeteries now.</p> <p>In terms of economic impact – 819 business grants have been issued grants across the county borough – funding of 10.3m has been put into helping businesses within the borough. This amount covers 72% of eligible business in Merthyr to date.</p> <p>MTCBC’s closure of accounts for financial year 19/20 should be completed by the end of May, with a schedule issued by the end of June.</p> <p>This financial year MTCBC have a COVID budget which can be claimed back from Welsh Government by means of monthly claims.</p> <p>With the lockdown continuing the LA is being responsive to services and working in different ways. Regarding remote access to meetings, the Council is looking to hold meetings virtually. Work is ongoing now looking at solutions so that the public can view the meetings remotely.</p> <p>In terms of the free school meal programme the LA had many issues with the voucher schemes and Cllr Jago was in contact with the Chief Officer of Schools & Learning about several resident complaints. They have now moved to a direct payment process which is better for our residents where access to ASDA and Tesco for delivery was not possible with the voucher scheme.</p> <p>In terms of schooling for our local authority, schools have asked all parents to complete a digital inclusion questionnaire and MTCBC have started to issue chrome books to all children that do not have the appropriate ICT facilities for home schooling.</p> <p>Cllr Jago advised that the Sports Wales Emergency Relief Fund is still available and</p>	
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	<p>Trelewis Sports Club and Trelewis FC have received funding so far. Cllr Jago has contacted other sports clubs in the area to make them aware of the fund, but no other applications have been received yet.</p> <p>In terms of food parcels, this project started 31st March - to date they have made up 156 parcels. These are being distributed weekly. Funding from ICF has been received for the food bank, as well as a coronavirus emergency grant through VAMT. The Community Council is funding the food share and support is also being received from Dowlais Engine House and Stephens and George. Cllr Jago said that ongoing support from the Community Council will be required going forward. The Food Share programme will provide double the weightage of food from Friday 15th May, with the community receiving 100kilos of food for the same cost of £65 until the end of June.</p> <p>Letters were sent out to residents across Bedlinog and Trelewis to let them know that if they need any help or support to get in touch with the contact numbers provided. Support has been requested for collection of prescriptions for vulnerable residents and requests for food parcels has increased also.</p> <p>Cllr Jago made thanks to Cllr Searl for help with the Bedlinog Community Centre clean-up. Feedback from the community has been good and they really appreciated the work that was done to clean up the area.</p>	
<p>8</p>	<p><u>Planning Applications</u></p> <p>Council were asked to consider the following two planning applications:</p> <p>P/20/0091 – Proposed indoor ménage building, horse walker/exerciser and the retention of the hardcore area at Corpthorne Stables, Shinrig Road, Trelewis. Councillors queried why this planning application was refused previously and wanted to seek residents’ views.</p> <p>P/20/0096 – Interpretation Panel, Land Adjacent to Lay-By on road between Bedlinog and</p>	<p>RJ to contact MTCBC Planning Department for further information.</p> <p>RJ to inform Planning of Council’s support.</p>

	<p>Fochriw, Gelligaer and Merthyr Common. The purpose of the board is to greet a visitor to a nature reserve, informing as to the environmental and heritage value of the site. It will include a map, images, and bilingual text. Council resolved to give their full support to this application.</p>	
9	<p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <p>One Voice Wales Newsletter has been shared with Cllrs.</p> <p>The measures to be included in the Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Meetings) (Wales) Regulations 2020, have been shared with Cllrs.</p>	
10	<p><u>Cases</u></p> <p>There were no cases to raise.</p>	
11.	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <p>It has been requested that the Community Council have an agenda item going forward relating to the COVID-19 response.</p> <p>The Clerk's appraisal was completed in May 2020. RJ requested to complete that CiLCA training provided by the SLCC at a cost of £390. There is a grant available of £100 from One Voice Wales. Cllr Jago proposed that the training fund be provided to RJ and it was seconded by Cllr Searl. Council resolved to allocate the training budget.</p> <p>RJ is currently on SCP 15 and the scale point was due to be reviewed in October 2019. Cllr Jago proposed that RJ be moved to SCP 16 from 1st April 2020 backdated October 2019 and to move to SCP 17 from 1st May 2020. This was seconded by Cllr Searl and Council resolved to accept the</p>	

	<p>SCP changes. It was noted that the next appraisal should take place in October 2020.</p> <p>Cllr Searl thanked Council for voting for him as Chairman and stated that he would follow by example from the previous Chair and Vice-Chair by giving help to the community.</p> <p>Cllr Jago advised Council that if anyone wanted to volunteer to go food shopping and help with the food donations to contact her for details.</p>	
12.	<p><u>Date of next meeting</u></p> <p>The next meeting will be held virtually, Monday 8th June 2020, 6.15pm.</p>	