

Minutes of the Llanharan Community Council held on 17 October, 2019 at the Llanharan Miner's Welfare Hall

Present: Councillor Parker (Vice Chairman in the chair);
Councillors Evans, Lewis-Watkin, Liney, Stephens, M Thomas and W Thomas

Apologies: Councillors Aksin, William Hopkin, Geraint Hopkins, Morelli and Uppal

Also: P Davies, C Kennedy, representatives of Hafod Housing Association and Edenstone Homes and 22 members of the public

2019/44. SYMPATHY

The Chairman reported that a number of Members had lost close relatives during the last few weeks. Those present sat in silence as a mark of respect and tribute

RESOLVED – That the Clerk be requested to convey the Council's deepest sympathy to the families concerned

2019/45 POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT OF LAND NORTH OF BRYNNA ROAD

Representatives of Hafod Housing Association and Edenstone Homes addressed the Council as part of their pre-planning consultation in respect of the possible development of 25 units of affordable housing on land north of Brynna Road. The proposed development was intended to be similar to the scheme of 13 rural affordable homes at Pentre Meyrick in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Following the consultation, Members discussed the Council's response to the proposed planning application and they also noted that there would be a local exhibition on 22 October where the applicants would answer any questions from the public

RESOLVED – That the views expressed by Members be forwarded to Hafod Housing Association and Edenstone Homes

2019/46 MNUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2019 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

In respect of the minutes of the meeting held on 28 September these were **DEFERRED** for additions to be made to minute 38 (a) Festive Lighting Hire Arrangements; minute 38 (b) Quotations for the installation of the 2019 festive lighting and 42(a) Community Council Fireworks

2019/47. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(a) Festive Lighting Hire Arrangements – The Clerk referred to the advice that he had given at the last meeting that 'he was satisfied that the proper procedures had been followed concerning the supply of goods and services in respect of the 2019 festive lighting' Following concerns expressed at that meeting he had sought further advice from the Wales Audit Office and they had identified a significant number of

companies which supplied festive lighting, contrary to the information provided to the Community Infrastructure Group in January. It was the Wales Audit Office view that the Council should have invited quotations from three companies, or, resolved to suspend the Council's standing Orders relating to contracts and at the same time, giving reasons for doing so. The Clerk apologised to Members for his error in not directing the Council to do so

The Clerk also advised that (a) the annual rental costs for the festive lighting were a fixed annual charge and (b) the Festive Lighting Company had agreed to replace the white flashing bulbs with multi-coloured lights

(b) Quotations for the installation of the 2019 Festive Lighting – Members were informed that the successful contractor had identified prior to his quotation being submitted, that lighting could not be provided this year on the living trees, adjacent to the Co-op on Bridgend Road and accordingly there would be no reduction in the overall cost of the installations

(c) Website Domain – The Clerk reported that the preferred domain name was unacceptable

RESOLVED – That further consideration be given to this matter at the next meeting

2019/48 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Clerk reported that Councillor Liney had resigned her Chairmanship and membership of the Human Resources Committee. Members considered whether to appoint another Councillor to the vacancy. Councillor Liney proposed that the Human Resources Committee should be shelved and that the Council should go out to tender to deliver the Council's HR function and responsibilities

RESOLVED – That Councillor Liney's proposal be considered further at the next meeting

2019/49 LAND FRONTING THE BRIDGEND ROAD ALLOTMENTS

The Clerk reported that the Allotments, Open Spaces and Rights of Way Committee earlier in the year had accepted a quotation of £1000 for works to improve the appearance of the land fronting the Bridgend Road allotment site. Work was proceeding but (a) at the last Council meeting Members were advised that youngsters were throwing around the decorative stone which had been partially laid and (b) the contractor had indicated that the cost of materials, plants and shrubs had/would be higher than estimated and he had asked whether the Council would agree to a increased cost

RESOLVED – That

(1) in view of the complaints concerning stone throwing, the Clerk arrange for the Council's Handymen to remove the decorative stone from the site for possible use in connection with the scheme for improvements at the Memorial Garden

(2) the Memorial Gardens site be tidied up as a priority

2019/50 CONTINUATION OF MEETING – SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

In view of the provision in the Council's standing orders that meetings shall not exceed a period of 2 hours and 30 minutes, the majority of Members present voted to extend the meeting

2019/51 THE ROLE AND REMIT OF THE PRESENT TASK AND FINISH GROUPS

Members reviewed the operation of the Administration and Community Infrastructure Groups

RESOLVED – That

- (1) both Groups be disbanded;
- (2) a new Committee be established, which would meet bi-monthly and be entitled the Community Engagement (CE) Committee, comprising the present Members of the Community Infrastructure Group, plus up to 6 co-opted members
- (3) the CE committee be recommended to appoint a number of sub-committees to deliver individual projects, for example the festive lighting and the improvements at the Memorial Gardens
- (4) the Clerk be requested to bring forward terms of reference to the first meeting of the Committee which will be held on 24 October to consider outstanding matters

2019/52 SENIOR CITIZEN'S CHRISTMAS DINNERS

Members (a) noted that the Brynna and Llanharan dinners would be held on 11 and 13 December, respectively (b) discussed arrangements for the catering, having regard to contractors' availability and previous catering experience

RESOLVED – That the catering for then 2019 dinners be provided by the Llanharan Community Development Project

2019/53 THE COUNCILLOR'S CODE OF CONDUCT

Councillor Liney reported that she had been advised that some Councillors had been laughing during her presentation regarding the festive lighting. Councillor Liney considered this to be both disrespectful and alarming

RESOLVED – That the Clerk be requested to re-circulate the Council's Code of Conduct and drawing attention to Members' responsibilities under the Code

The meeting concluded at 9.58pm