

St Nicholas with Bonvilston Community Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the St Nicholas with Bonvilston Community Council held at Trehill Church, St. Nicholas, on Monday 2nd March 2020 at 19:30.

PRESENT

Cllr E del Torto (Vice Chair)

Cllr I Perry

Cllr G Rawson

Cllr J Griffiths

Cllr A Brown

Cllr S Cockrell (In the Chair)

Cllr K Ward

Cllr C Jones

Cllr S Crockford

ALSO PRESENT

N. McGarrigle (Clerk)

County Councillor J. Bird

[1] APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

[2] DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

[3] POLICE MATTERS

PCSO Summers was unable to attend the meeting tonight. Clerk to request crime report and disseminate to the Council once received

[4] PUBLIC SESSION

None.

[5] MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PUBLIC SESSION

None.

[6] THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous EGM held on Tuesday 28th January 2020 and the Full Council meeting held on Monday 3rd February, which had been circulated, were confirmed and were duly signed by Councillor Cockrell.

Prop EdT Sec CJ

[7] MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None.

[8] TO RECEIVE REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

- There were 8 road closures in the Vale due to the recent flooding.
- Boundary Commission Consultation; The Wenvoe ward could be split into 2 wards. It is expected that there will be various other changes within the Vale.
- The Five Mile Lane is nearly ready to be handed back from the contractor, with scope to modify by the Vale if anything fails.
- There was a recent meeting with St. Nicholas school and 21st Century Schools. Discussion of options for the site of the new school are ongoing.

Councillor Griffiths raised H&S concerns over current building work taking place at a property within Duffryn Lane. CC Bird agreed and advised he would monitor the work.

Councillor Brown explained that he had received a letter from the Vale in relation to roof work and planning permission. Councillor Brown explained that his property is owned by the Vale so he is unsure why he has received this letter. CC Bird requested that Councillor Brown forward a copy of the letter to him so that enquiries can be made with the Vale.

CC Bird left the meeting.

[9] TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE CLERK

- a) Councillors had been circulated with a copy of the Clerk's report prior to the meeting. In addition to the report, the Clerk handed out copies of the drawings received from the Surveyor at Ball & Co, following completion of a boundary survey at St. Nicholas Village Green.
- b) The Council agreed they were happy with the drawings and confirmed that they should be sent onto Tessa Gates at JCP Solicitors so that the License to Access can be finalised in preparation for the April meeting.

- c) TG has received confirmation from DB's solicitor that he is happy to split the cost of the boundary survey with the Council. This will be retrieved before completion of the license.

[10] INVOICES & PAYMENTS TO APPROVE

Invoices

• Wales Audit Office	816	£269.75
• OVW 20/21 Membership	817	£138.00
• Ball & Co	818	£540.00

Payments to Approve

• Clerks February Salary	815	£221.56
• Cllr Brown (19/20 Cllr Allowance)		£150.00
• Cllr Jones (19/20 Cllr Allowance)		£150.00

Clerk to inform Russell Heath of Councillor payments. To be included in March payroll.

Payments made using CC bank card and by cheque during February

• Basketball Wales Boys u14 Team	811	£150.00
• Valeways Ltd	812	£400.00
• BT Pay Phones	813	£1.00
• Heart Internet (Domain name renewal)	814	£21.58
• Tesco (A4 White Paper)	DD	£2.95
• Post Office (Postage throughout February)	DD	£13.70

The Clerk confirmed that following a discussion with Cllr del Torto, it was agreed that the Clerk could book a place on the SLCC Agendas & Minutes webinar on 01.04.20 and 08.04.20.

• SLCC	DD	£72.00
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Councillor Perry confirmed that he had taken the projector to T L Computer Systems for examination, who confirmed that due to corrosion the projector is beyond repair. The Council agreed they were happy for the Clerk to purchase a new projector under £100.

• T L Computer Systems (Wales) Ltd	DD	£15.00
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The Council agreed they were happy with these payments.

Prop SC Sec KW

[11] BUDGETARY CONTROL

The Clerk confirmed that the balance of the bank account as of 28/02/2020 is £13,295.12.

Receipts

None this month.

[12] NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- **2020/00110/FUL (MS)** Caia House, St. Nicholas No Comment
- **2020/00148/FUL (MS)** Caia Barn, St. Nicholas No Comment

Results of previous Planning Applications

- **2019/01400/FUL** Lincoln Cottage, A48, Bonvilston Approved 05.02.2020
- **2019/01420/FUL** Homri Farm, Well Lane, St. Nicholas Approved 19.02.2020

Refused Planning Applications

- **2019/01363/FUL** Maesglas, A48, Bonvilston Refused 05.02.2020

[13] CORRESPONDENCE

Councillors had previously been circulated with a list of all correspondence received in February in the Clerk's report. In addition to this information, the Clerk added that an information pack in relation to the review of the electoral arrangements within the Vale had been sent to the previous Clerks' home address in error. Please contact the Clerk if you wish to see a hard copy of the draft proposal report. Notice of the draft proposal to be placed on both notice boards.

[14] OTHER MEETINGS ATTENDED

Councillor del Torto attended a meeting with St. Nicholas school and 21st Century schools to discuss the plans for the new school.

Consideration has been given for the school to be built on a new site within the village, although the Headteacher of the school is keen for the school to remain on the current site. Budgeting would need to be considered; the proposal would need to be taken back to Cabinet for further discussion. If the Vale are proposing to move to a new site, a consultation would need to be held. Details of the consultation are to be confirmed.

Councillor del Torto has asked the school how they would like to Community Council to assist; the school have agreed that they are happy for the Community Council to hold a community meeting with residents to ensure people are aware of the proposed plans during the consultation process.

It was agreed that the Community Council would create a list of pros and cons document to present to residents at the meeting. Councillor Crockford offered to draft a report in preparation for the meeting.

Councillor Griffiths left the meeting.

[15] TABLED BUSINESS

- a) Following decisions made at the EGM held on 28.01.20 on Community Projects for 2020/21, the following leads were allocated to each agreed project;
- Community Orchard, Bonvilston – Councillor Perry
 - Pub Path, Bonvilston – Councillor Perry
 - Christmas Lights - Councillors Crockford and Cockrell
 - Adult & Teen Fitness - Councillors Brown and Perry
 - Milestones & Waterpumps – Councillors Brown and del Torto
 - Finger Post Signage – Councillors Cockrell and Perry
 - Wild Bulb Planting/School Lane Planting - Councillors Griffiths and Cockrell
 - Ger y Lan Bollards/Planting – Councillor Perry
 - Website Development & Hosting – Councillor Crockford
 - Telephone Kiosk, St. Nicholas – Councillor del Torto (Councillor Brown to assist, Councillor to draw plans for the interior)
- b) Councillors had previously been circulated with a copy of the NALC November 2019 E-Bulletin, in particular the section titled ‘Decision Making’, and were asked to reconsider adding Part 2 to the December 2019 minutes;

Decision making

‘The decisions made by a local council about (i) whether or not to co-opt when vacancies remain unfilled after an ordinary election and (ii) who to co-opt when vacancies remain unfilled after an ordinary election and when casual vacancies arise should be transparent. In NALC’s view, it would be difficult for a local council to argue that there are special reasons which justify excluding the public during a council meeting, (s.1(2) Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960) when it is making decisions about a matter of public interest such as co-option. Decisions about co-option which are made at council meetings when the public have been excluded will not eliminate the need for a council to explain, for example to unsuccessful candidates, the reasons for its decisions’.

Following a short discussion, the Council agreed to add Part 2 back into the minutes.

RESOLVED that: Clerk to amend Part 2 of the December 2019 minutes and publish.

Prop CJ Sec EdT

- c) Councillors had previously been circulated with a proposal to amend Standing Order 9b, reducing the number of clear days for a motion to be submitted to an agenda from 7 to 6. The Clerk submitted a response to this proposal, detailing how the change would have an impact on her work.

Following a short discussion, the Council agreed to review Standing Order 9b at the AGM.

- d) Councillors had previously been circulated with information as prepared by Councillor Perry; The Wales Audit Office will be circulating guidance to Town and Community Councils shortly, but in the meantime, due to the ambiguity in legislation, the Council must ensure that money granted to Churches for assistance with churchyards must be spent for the intended purpose(s). It was suggested that the Community Council's Financial Assistance paid to a Church should be going into the Churchyard Maintenance Fund.

To ensure that the Council are acting appropriately, Churches who have applied for Financial Assistance from the Community Council will need to provide copies of their Churchyard Maintenance Funds before funding from the Community Council can be provided.

RESOLVED that: Clerk to draft letter to the Churches who have applied for Financial Assistance, requesting evidence of their Churchyard Maintenance Funds to be considered at the April meeting.

- e) It was agreed that contributions for the spring edition of the Community Council newsletter and an annual report are to be sent to Councillor Cockrell by Monday 16th March 2020 so that a draft report and newsletter can be prepared for consideration at the April meeting.
- f) Councillors had previously been circulated with information from Councillor Perry so that consideration can be given to the preservation of the tree awarded to Bonvilston in 1954 and the enhancement of its surroundings.

Following a short discussion, the Council agreed to take a look at the tree and assess the extent of the work needed to make improvements.

RESOLVED that: Councillor Jones offered to begin making improvements and would update the Council at the April meeting on his progress.

- g) Councillor Perry confirmed that the Maes y Ffynnon Residents Association are appealing against the response submitted by the Vale in relation to the Maes y Ffynnon Village Green application and that he had a copy of the appeal letter sent by the Residents Association. Information to be disseminated so that the Council can agree on how to progress.

- h) Councillor del Torto suggested that the Council await confirmation of details for the consultation in relation to the school before setting a date for a community meeting.

[16] COUNCILLOR REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Jones: Suggested contacting the owner of 5 Village Farm, Bonvilston, to discuss maintenance of the property.

Councillor Rawson: None

Councillor Brown: Suggested setting up a book donation, in collaboration with the school. Councillor del Torto confirmed this has been suggested to the school, the Head is keen to participate.

Councillor Perry: Currently working on a Highway obstruction.

Councillor Ward: None

Councillor Crockford: Progress is being made on the Redrow Estate with parking arrangements for residents and unfinished work.

Councillor del Torto: First aid books have been given to the school. Councillor del Torto posted information on the Council Facebook page and hoped that an article would be published in the Gem this week.

Councillor Cockrell: None

[17] NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at 19:30 on Monday 6th April 2020 at the Reading Room, Bonvilston.

This meeting closed at 21:20pm.

NAOMI MCGARRIGLE.

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Chairman

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Date