

ST BRIDES MINOR COMMUNITY COUNCIL



MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF ST BRIDES MINOR COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 24TH APRIL 2023 AT SARN LIFE LONG LEARNING CENTRE AND VIA ZOOM

PRESENT:

Councillors: M Williams (Chair)
E Davies (zoom)
R Teahan-Dyer (zoom)
P Ford
M John
D McConnell
S Morgan
T Nicholls
T Thomas (zoom from 6.57 pm)
B Tiltman
Y Walton-Davies (zoom from 7.11 pm)

Apologies: Councillors E Jones and L Thorne

Clerk: Ann Harris

Public: No public in attendance

172/22-23 ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Name	Minute Number	Declaration	Speak/Vote
Emma Davies	174 & 177/22-23	Employee Awen Cultural Trust - Library Services at Sarn Centre	No/No
Yvonne Walton-Davies	181/22-23	Coity Higher Community Council Member	No/No
Paula Ford	All relevant	All BCBC Matters	No/No
Mark John	176/22-23	Tenant - Community Gardens	No/No
Tim Thomas	All relevant	All BCBC Matters	No/No
Martin Williams	All relevant including Development Control 181/22-23	All BCBC Matters Coity Higher Community Council Member and Vice-Chair	No/No No/No

173/22-23 ITEM 3 TO READ, CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 2023 ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES

The Minutes of the March 2023 meeting had been distributed with the meeting papers.

Resolved: The council agreed to accept the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 13th March 2023 as a true and accurate record and the Chair signed the minutes

174/22-23 ITEM 4 TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MARCH 2023 ORDINARY MEETING

Minute 159/22-23 Consider Matters Arising from the February 2023 Meeting

Matters Arising September through to January: It was noted that the Clerk is still waiting for photos and texts from Councillors Tim Thomas and Yvonne Walton-Davies.

Children's Activity Scheme: The requirement for the year has been confirmed with Youthworks. The scheme would cover Easter, Whitsun, Summer and Autumn half-term holidays, except for the first week of the Summer holidays as Youthworks were not available.

T&CC Grant Funding Scheme: BCBC's Cabinet were due to decide on the successful applicants at their meeting on 11th April but this has now been deferred to 9th May. The Clerk confirmed that she'd submitted an Expression of Interest form for the land adjacent to Sarn Centre. This was due to be discussed by the CAT Steering Group at BCBC on 14th April but has now been deferred to a meeting on 5th May.

Bench Jubilee Crescent: V2C are happy to give retrospective permission for the bench subject to the slate and woodchip being removed and a suitable concrete or paved hard surface being provided, with sufficient space around the bench to enable safe access without needing to walk on the grass.

Minute 163/22-23 King's Coronation 6th May 2023 Commemorative Ideas

The Clerk confirmed that she had delivered the commemorative water bottles to the children of Bryncethin Primary School. Councillor Emma Davies in her role as Librarian is happy to monitor the distribution of the extra bottles to children who live in one of council's 3 wards, but do not attend Bryncethin Primary School. There is also an opportunity for Councillor Mark John as school governor to present the children with their bottles at their party on 5th May.

Minute 165/22-23 Borough Council/Ward Reports

Remembrance Bench: The remembrance bench for Logan Mwangi was discussed and the way forward unanimously agreed.

Replacement Bin Wigan Terrace: BCBC are unable to include the replacement bin on their collection schedule. This was discussed.

Christmas Lights: The Clerk informed Members that she had a site meeting planned with a representative of Centre Great the following day to look at extra provision on Blackmill Road.

Resolved: The information and action of the Clerk was noted. It was unanimously agreed that as this item had been resolved in 2022 that it would need to be re-considered at a future council meeting for any future action and the Clerk would take no further action. The exception to the first week of the Summer holiday activity scheme was disappointing, but the council accepted the reason. Members unanimously agreed to the request from V2C and the Clerk was asked to arrange for the work to be carried out. Councillor Mark John as school governor will contact the school to see if they would like him to present the bottles to the children. Members agreed to the limited number of surplus bottles being advertised by the Clerk on the website and on the counter of the Library and Councillor Emma Davies would monitor their distribution. It was unanimously agreed that the remembrance bench would be discreetly placed on the Cymdda and the Clerk would make all the arrangements and inform the family. Councillor Mark John would make a referral regarding the bin on Wigan Terrace.

175/22-23 ITEM 5 TO RECEIVE THE CRIME FIGURES FOR MARCH 2023

The crime figures for March 2023 had been distributed with the meeting papers. The figures were provided for the first time by SW Police and discussed. There were no SW Police present at the meeting.

Resolved: The crime figures were discussed and noted.

Note: Councillor M John did not take part in item 6

176/22-23 ITEM 6 COMMUNITY GARDENS UPDATE

As requested at the March meeting, the Clerk had double checked with BCBC regarding the issue of a lease and BCBC confirmed that there was no lease issued. Negotiations at the time had led to a Heads of Terms being discussed and used for a T&CC application for grant funding, but it had not led to a lease. A Councillor FoI request had also given the same findings.

As also requested at the last meeting, the Clerk had approached solicitors to request guidance on both theirs and the allotment committee's status. The Clerk could not go ahead with the request before the meeting as she needed to request and obtain authority to go ahead with a costs spend of approximately £1,300.

Resolved: The information given by the Clerk was noted. The Clerk was given unanimous authority to engage the services of a solicitor at the approximate cost.

Note: Councillor Emma Davies did not take part in the discussion regarding the Library Services and left the meeting.

177/22-23 ITEM 7 LIBRARY SERVICES UPDATE

The Chair, Vice-Chair and Clerk had met with BCBC Cabinet Member Rhys Goode and BCBC Officer Andrew Thomas to discuss the library services and plans for the centre management. It had been a productive meeting and the way forward was clearer. Awen Cultural Trust would be asked to write an annual report for the council. Other matters were discussed and the Chair updated Members.

Note: The Annual Report has been received, but not in time to include it in the April meeting. It would be included as an agenda item for May 2023.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed that the Clerk could release the payment for library services for 2022/23 of £11,592.00 and the Community Council agreed to pay for the services in 2023/24 subject to a 12 month agreement being put in place including acknowledgement of the Community Council's contribution and joint branding.

178/22-23 ITEM 8 CHANGES TO THE ALL WALES SPEED LIMIT

From the 17th September 2023 the speed limit on restricted roads across Wales will automatically reduce from 30 mph to 20 mph. BCBC has identified some roads in Bridgend County Borough that may retain the existing 30 mph speed limit and is currently gathering views via a consultation which closes on 24th April. This was discussed along with concerns regarding vulnerable road users.

Resolved: It was agreed that as the consultation closes today and that it is too late after the meeting for the Clerk to submit feedback, that if Members want to comment they should do so individually.

179/22-23 ITEM 9 GRASS CUTTING SCHEDULE

Councillor Sean Morgan reported back on his findings regarding the grass cutting schedule. The only area that the Community Council cuts that is private land is the land at Vale View. This was discussed.

Resolved: Councillor Mark John would find out who owned the land and this would be discussed at the May meeting as part of the Land Ownership/Maintenance agenda item.

180/22-23 ITEM 10 IRPW REPORT/ALLOWANCES POLICY UPDATE

The latest IRPW report has been published and there are some changes for Town and Community Councils.

- Reimbursement for extra costs of working from home: All councils must pay their members £156 a year towards the extra household expenses (including heating, lighting, power and broadband) of working from home.
- Reimbursement for consumables: Councils must either pay their members £52 a year for the cost of office consumables required to carry out their role, or alternatively councils must enable members to claim full reimbursement for the cost of their office consumables. It is a matter for each council to make and record policy decision in respect of when and how the payments are made and whether they are paid monthly, yearly or otherwise. The policy should also state whether and how to recover any payments made to a member who leaves or changes their role during the financial year.
- In addition, councils have been put into different categories; St Brides Minor Community Council is now in Group 3.

The changes above were discussed.

Resolved: That the Allowances Policy would be amended to reflect decisions made unanimously by the members and a new draft is to be included on the May agenda for approval. It was agreed to pay their members £52 a year for the cost of office consumables, the payment would be made annually and should a member leave or change their role during the financial year they would be required to pay back the money on a pro rata basis. All other parts of the Allowances Policy would remain the same.

181/22-23 ITEM 11 FINANCE & ACCOUNTS incl. 2021/2022 FULL AUDIT RESULT

1.The Clerk requested authority to make the payments listed for March 2023 totaling £3,200.17

2.It was noted that the unaudited balance carried forward to April 2020 was £66,590.69 though £20,626.00 of this was ear marked reserved for items where the invoice for works had not been received before year end.

3.It was noted that income of £838.00 had been received from BCBC in payment for the Rights Of Way Agency Agreement refund for footpath maintenance during 2022/23.

4.The Conclusion of Audit for 2021/2022 had been received; the audit was qualified. The audit gave 4 reasons for the audit result and the Clerk discussed these with Members. The Audit opinion was that with the exception of the 4 matters highlighted in their opinion no matters have come to their attention giving cause for concern that in any material respect, the information reported in the Annual Return:

- Has not been prepared in accordance with proper practices
- That relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met
- Is not consistent with the Council's governance arrangements and
- That the Council does not have proper arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

5.The papers have been received to prepare the 2022/23 audit.

Resolved: The information was noted. Authority was given to make the payments listed totalling £3,200.17. The Conclusion of Audit was unanimously accepted and approved.

182/22-23 ITEM 12 CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair had nothing to report this month.

Resolved: This was noted.

183/22-23 ITEM 13 MEMBERS/WARD REPORTS

Councillor P Ford had attended fire training with South Wales Fire Service.

Councillor M John informed Members that he and Councillor Tim Thomas have a planned meeting with V2C Directors. He said he would raise the V2C consultation at the PACT meeting following the council meeting. Councillor John said the fence was down on the land to the side of Heol Canola.

Councillor T Thomas mentioned a Hybont Working Group and concern regarding the condition of some culverts.

Resolved: Councillor John would refer the broken fence to BCBC for repair as it is their land.

184/22-23 ITEM 14 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk said efforts were being made by Councillors M John and T Thomas to obtain keys to the Communities First noticeboard near the Post Office.

Councillor M John had made a Fol request to BCBC regarding land at the Cymdda and BCBC had replied saying it isn't their land. The Community Council have also received confirmation that it's not Dunraven Estates' [.

A written Statement on the Digital Health of Community and Town Council's had been received from the Welsh Government. Following a survey carried out by them the Minister announced £150,000 of funding and the setting up of a working group to look at digital provision for T&CCs going forward.

The Clerk informed Members of a June annual leave date.

Resolved: The information was noted.

185/22-23 ITEM 15 CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence had been forwarded by email to Members. With the Chair's permission some additional correspondence had been included in the papers as they had been received after the papers had been distributed.

The Clerk highlighted some items:

- BCBC (Prohibition And Restriction of Waiting and Loading and Parking Places) (Civil Enforcement) Order 2013 (Amendment nos xx, xx and xx) Order 2023
- Information Commissioner's Office - renewal confirmation and receipt
- Local Government Pension Scheme - end of year reconciliation exercise 2022/23
- Welsh Government - written statement on Electoral Reform
- Awen Cultural Trust - receipt of Sarn Library Annual Report
- Councillor Leigh Thorne - resignation

Resolved: The items of correspondence were noted. Sarn Library Annual Report will be included as an agenda item for the May meeting. Councillor Leigh Thorne’s resignation was accepted, the council wished to thank Councillor Thorne for her contribution over the last year.

Note: Councillor B Tiltman chaired item 16 on the agenda.

186/22-23 ITEM 16 PLANNING MATTERS

With the Chair’s permission and additional planning request and an additional email from Planning Aid Wales were included in the papers as they had been received after the papers had been distributed.

4 planning request had been sent out in the month and 4 decisions and 0 appeals. 3 emails from Planning Aid Wales had been circulated for information.

Resolved: No observations or objections were made regarding the planning information.

187/22-23 ITEM 17 ITEMS FOR THE MAY 2023 ORDINARY MEETING

The agenda would be kept open for any other items that may arise during the month.

- Land Ownership/Maintenance
- Biodiversity Suggestions
- Remembrance
- Draft Annual Report 2022/23
- Draft Allowances Policy
- Sarn Library Annual Report

The next meeting of the St Brides Minor Community Council will take place at the later date of 22nd May 2023 at Sarn Life Long Learning Centre and via zoom at 6.00 pm starting with the Annual Meeting followed by the Ordinary Council Meeting.

The meeting closed at 7.23 pm

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Chair of Council

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22nd May 2023