

RHYMNEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the last meeting held virtually via BT Meet Me of the above Community Council on Thursday 14th January 2021 at 7pm.

Present

Cllr. M. L. Thomas (Chairperson)	Cllr. D. Bradley
Cllr. H. Williams	Cllr. D. T. Williams
Cllr. J. E. Hughes	Cllr. A. Davies
Cllr. D. Harse	Cllr. J. Bevan

Absent

Cllr. L. Gronow	Cllr. G. Oliver
Cllr. L. Dykes	

In Attendance

Mr. G. Williams	Clerk to the Council
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The Chair of Council, Cllr. M. L. Thomas expressed the sad news of the recent passing of Cllr. Percival Roy Oliver and asked that Council virtually acknowledge a short period of remembrance.

28 Minutes / Apologies

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 12th November 2020, previously circulated to members were accepted as an accurate record and signed (virtually) by the Chairperson Cllr. M. L. Thomas.

No apologies for absence were received.

29 Declarations of Interest

- 29.01 Cllr. J. Bevan declared an interest in Agenda Item – Planning. All
- 29.02 Cllr. A. Davies declared an interest in Agenda Item – Planning. 20/0921/FULL

30 Matters Arising

30.01 Minute No. 27/2020-21

Report of the Clerk. Section 19/137 Support for Rhymney Foodbank.

The Clerk reported receipt of a letter of thanks from Rev. Leah Philbrick, which included the cheque as returned, and a request to issue a new cheque against their new account name - Parish of Bedwellty & New Tredegar with 'Foodbank' to be annotated on the reverse.

Moved. Clerk to cancel Council's original cheque and to reissue as outlined above.

30.02 Minute No. 27/2020-21

Report of the Clerk. Christmas Event Arrangements 2020/21. Santa Event.

The Clerk reported the clearance of Council's instructions, although highlighted that he was required to purchase an additional fifty-five selection

boxes, a consequence of under reporting of KS2 numbers from Idris Davies 3-18 School.

Moved. Payment - £170.95.

The Clerk also reported an issue with the ability to translate the flyer used, resulting the communication only being issued in the English language.

30.03 Minute No. 27/2020-21

Report of the Clerk.

The Clerk reported that although Council had hoped to return to a face-to-face meeting methodology from the new year, that recent changes / instructions, preclude from that, at least in the short / medium term.

31 **Planning Applications**

The Clerk confirmed three applications for planning had been received since the last meeting of Council.

Planning Application. 20/0921/FULL

Site Area. 358m²

Location. 4 Glan Elyrch Terrace, Rhymney, Tredegar, NP22 5ED.

Proposal. Erect detached double garage with new access.

Decision. Council raises no objections to this proposal. Cleared through correspondence the matter not discussed at the meeting of Council.

Planning Application. 20/0953/FULL

Site Area: 106m²

Location: 15 Mountbatten, Rhymney, Tredegar, NP22 5PF.

Proposal: Erect ground floor single storey rear extension.

Decision. Council raises no objections to this proposal. Cleared through correspondence the matter not discussed at the meeting of Council.

Planning Application. 20/1060/RET

Site Area: 137m²

Location: 37 Arthur Street, Abertysswg, Tredegar, NP22 5AN

Proposal: Retain and complete a two-storey rear extension.

Decision. Council raises no objections to this proposal.

32 **Approval of Community Council Cheques and Payments**

The attached list of Community Council cheques and payments was approved by members and amounted to **£07,903.74**.

33 **Correspondence**

33.01 HMRC

Full Payment Submission for period ending 5th December 2020.

Moved. Noted on file.

33.02 HMRC

Full Payment Submission for period ending 5th January 2021.

Moved. Noted on file.

- 33.03 Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales
Review of the Electoral Arrangements of the County Borough of Caerphilly.
Final Recommendations Report. November 2020.
Moved. Noted on file.
- 33.04 Welsh Government.
Notification of the appropriate sum under Section 137(4)(A) of the Local
Government Act 1972. The limit per elector for 2021/22 having been set at
£8.41.
- 33.05 Wales Audit Office.
Invoice for Audit of Accounts 2019/20.
Moved. Payment - £214.75.
- 33.06 Wales Audit Office – End of Year Audit.
Completion and Certification of the Annual Audit for the year ended 31st
March 2020.
The Clerk advised Council that the external auditor's report stated that on the
basis of their review, the information contained in the annual return is in
accordance with the Auditor General for Wales' requirements and no matters
of concern have been highlighted.
Moved. Clerk to conclude associated activities, including the completion of the
publication of conclusion of audit and satisfaction survey.
- 33.07 Greenshire Solutions Ltd.
Invoice for removal and replacement of heater unit in the defibrillator unit at
Jerusalem Street, Rhymney.
Moved. Payment - £156.00.
- 33.08 Information Commissioners Office
Receipt for payment of membership.
Certificate of membership for period to 31 July 2021.
Moved. Noted on file.
- 33.09 Idris Davies School 03-19
Letter of thanks following Council's recent donation.
Moved. Noted on file.
- 33.10 Upper Rhymney Primary School
Letter of thanks following Council's recent donation.
Moved. Noted on file.
- 33.11 Ysgol Y Llawnt Primary School
Letter of thanks following Council's recent donation.
Moved. Noted on file.
- 33.12 Penuel Chapel
Letter of thanks following Council's recent donation.
Moved. Noted on file.

33.13 Lloyds Bank

Account x6x4x9x0. Receipt of Sheet November 2020, December 2020 and January 2021.

Account x0x7x0x1. Receipt of Sheet November 2020, December 2020 and January 2021.

Account x0x7x1x5. Receipt of Sheet November 2020, December 2020 and January 2021.

Moved. Noted on file and for finance file.

Invoices Sept-Oct / Oct-Nov / Nov-Dec / Dec-Jan 2021.

Moved. Payment.

34 **Quarter 3 2020/21. Financial Report (Expenditure)**

The Clerk provided Council with a detailed report of the financial expenditure incurred during Quarter 3 of 2020/21 (October to December 20). Within his report, the Clerk advised Council of the following expenditure values, all of which are in line with profiled expenditure agreed within Council's agreed budget for 2020/21.

Moved. Noted on file.

Expenditure Heading	Budget	Quarter 3 Expenditure	Percentage of Budget	Variance with Budget (Explanation)
Clerk's Salary & On Costs	£13,000.00	£09,890.91	76.08%	On Profile.
Chairperson Allowance	£00,500.00	£00,000.00	0%	Projected underspend of £500.00 to be achieved owing to Council's decision not to award in 2020/21 owing to the Covid pandemic and subsequent impact on diary commitments.
Councillor Expenses (15 @ £1,500.00)	£02,250.00	£00,300.00	13.33%	Projected underspend of £1,950.00 to be achieved.
Summer Scheme	£00,000.00	£00,000.00	0%	On Profile.
Telephone, Broadband & Meet Me	£00,400.00	£00, 463.85	115.96%	Ahead of Profile. Projected Overspend of £300.00
Room Hire & Storage	£00,300.00	£00,300.00	100%	On Profile.
Insurance	£00,600.00	£00,000.00	0%	To be awarded in Quarter 4
Stationery & Postage	£00,500.00	£00,480.84	96.17%	Ahead of Profile. Wreaths, SLCC Membership & Cabinet Purchase in Quarter 2. Projected Overspend of £100.00
Website	£00,600.00	£00,600.00	100%	On Profile.

Section 137 Grants	£05,000.00	£03,550.40	71.0%	On Profile.
Dog Show x2	£00,000.00	£00,000.00	0%	On Profile.
Christmas Events	£01,500.00	£02,373.71	158.25%	Ahead of Profile. Projected Overspend of £873.71
Christmas Lighting	£10,000.00	£05,384.20	53.84%	Balance to be awarded in Quarter 4.
Audit	£00,600.00	£00,200.00	33.3%	Internal Audit Paid. External Audit. To be awarded in Quarter 4.

35 Report of the Clerk

The Clerk highlighted to Council a number of recent and future planned activities including:

35.01 Community Council Precept 2021/22.

Following discussion, it was agreed that Council would continue to freeze the Community Council precept at £35,000.00 for 2021/22.

Moved. Clerk to notify Mrs. N. Roberts, Interim Head of Corporate Finance as appropriate.

Moved. Clerk to prepare a draft budget for discussion at the February meeting of Council.

35.02 Community Councillor Vacancy – Appointment via Co-option.

The Clerk reported receipt of three applications to join Council under co-option from:

- Mr. Stephen Rees;
- Mrs Alison Power; and
- Mr. Carl Cuss.

Moved. Council accepted all three applications and instructed the Clerk to write to welcome all three to the next meeting of Council scheduled for February 11th 2021.

35.03 Christmas Lighting Tender 2021/22 to 2023/24

The Clerk advised Council that it was at the end of its three-year agreement with The Festive Lighting Company, and would need to consider options for the coming year/s. The Clerk went on to advise Council that it had received an offer to extend by one-year with a 20% discount off the hire cost for 2021.

Moved. Council agreed to extend by one year, allowing greater time to develop a tender for 2022/23 to 2024/25 against more normal trading conditions.

Moved. Clerk to notify colleagues at The Festive Lighting Company as appropriate.

35.04 Payments and Invoices

The Clerk also read aloud the payments / invoices for approval.

Moved. All payments were approved by members.

35.05 **Changes to Banking Charges**

The Clerk advised Council of the following changes to banking charges with Lloyds Bank.

Council Current Account. Increase from £5.00 to £7.00 per calendar month, effective November 2020.

The Clerk also advised on the introduction of charges for the use of cheque payments and for the depositing of both cash and cheques:

- Cheque payments. £0.85 per cheque paid / received.
- Cash deposits. £1.00 per £100 up to £1,500.00

The Clerk summarised that these changes would see Council expenditure increase by circa £110.00, (£2 x 12months = £24.00 plus £0.85 x approx. 100 annual payments = £85.00).

Moved. Clerk to explore options for online banking and to develop a paper for consideration at the April meeting of Council.

35.06 **Armistice Lamppost Poppies.**

The Clerk advised Council that 70x lamppost poppies purchased in 2016/17 had weathered over the last three years to the point that Council needed to replace for the coming year.

Moved. Clerk to arrange the purchase of 100x lamppost poppies, preferably via the Royal British Legion.

Date of Next and Future Meetings / Events

- Community Council Thursday 11th February 2021 at 7pm
- Community Council Thursday 11th March 2021 at 7pm
- Community Council Thursday 8th April 2021 at 7pm

Meeting Closed at 8.00.

_____ **Chairperson**