

PONTHIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL CYNGOR CYMUNED PONTHIR

Minutes of the Annual Meeting 10th May 2017

1. **Present:** Cllr. S. Bailey (Chair), Cllr. N. Dominy, Cllr. I. Glover, Cllr. P. Matthews & PCSO Peter Walker (7.05pm onwards)
Clerk: Karen Price
Members of Public: None
2. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr. M. Barrell.
3. **Election of Chair for 2017/2018** - It was proposed by Cllr. Glover and seconded by Cllr. Matthews that Cllr. S. Bailey be elected as Chair. Cllr. Bailey was duly elected as Chair for 2017/2018.
4. **Election of Vice-Chair for 2017/18** - It was proposed by Cllr. Bailey and seconded by Cllr. Matthews that Cllr. Glover be elected as Vice-Chair. Cllr. Glover was duly elected as Vice-Chair for 2017/2018.
5. **Signing of Acceptance of Office Forms** – All Councillors present signed Acceptance of Office Forms witnessed by the Clerk.
6. **To Receive Acceptance of Office Forms for Councillors Not Present** – Council noted the Acceptance of Office Form signed by Cllr. Barrell in the presence of the Clerk before this meeting was held.
7. **Declarations of Interest** – Councillors present and Clerk confirmed that their individual entries on the Register of Interest dated February 2017 for their previous term of office were still correct. Those present confirmed that they had no declarations of interest for tonight's meeting. **(Action: Clerk to confirm Cllr. Barrell's and Tom Evans's entries are correct)**
8. **Annual Report from the Chair for 2016/2017** – See Appendix 1

7.05 pm – PCSO Peter Walker entered the meeting.
9. **Date of Monthly Council Meetings up to May 2018** – It was noted that continuing to hold the monthly meetings on the second Wednesday of the month would prove difficult for some councillors to attend. It was agreed that the June meeting should be held on Wednesday 14th June and the Clerk should contact the Sports Club to enquire if the room was available on the second Monday of the month as from July 2017. It was agreed that if the second Monday was available the meetings should be changed but if not the meetings would continue to be held on the second Wednesday of the month. **(Action: Clerk to contact Norrie Macdonald, Ponthir District Sports Club)**

10. Election of Representatives

- a. **Afon Llwyd Greenway** – Cllr. Bailey & Cllr. Dominy were nominated. Proposed by Cllr. Glover and seconded by Cllr. Matthews.
- b. **Llanfrechfa Village Association** – Cllr. Matthews was nominated. Proposed by Cllr. Bailey and seconded by Cllr. Dominy.
- c. **Ponthir Church in Wales School Governors** – Unable to fill position at this time. due to increased requirements to attend training events.
- d. **Torfaen County Association of Local Councils (TCALC)** – As discussions are still ongoing as to the arrangements of future meetings it was agreed to defer any appointment.
- e. **Gwent Valleys Partnership Committee** – Cllr. Glover was nominated Proposed by Cllr. Bailey and seconded by Cllr. Dominy.
- f. **Torfaen Local Council Partnership Committee** – As discussions are still ongoing as to the arrangements of future meetings it was agreed to defer any appointment.
- g. **Any other Representatives - None**
Council approved the above nominations.

11. **Co-option Procedures for Two Vacant Councillor Seats** – Council agreed that the two vacant seats should be advertised and anyone wishing to apply should submit a letter of interest to the council by a closing date of 30th June 2017. **(Action: Clerk to post adverts in noticeboards, Facebook Page and website)**

Meeting closed at 7.15pm

Appendix 1 – Chairs Report 2016/17

2016/17 was a busy year for Ponthir Community Council

Work was carried out in Llanfrechfa repairing the wall at the entrance to Tram Lane and providing a new public bench. The old bench is being refurbished by Llanfrechfa Village Association and will be re-used in Church Road.

We welcomed Tom Evans as Youth Representative. I thank Tom for his regular attendance and contribution at council meetings. Also thanks for representing the Council at Ponthir Baptist Church Carol Service and Caerleon Comprehensive's Junior Prize Evening.

The council has worked with Torfaen County Borough Council (TCBC), external contractors and residents to help clean and maintain the community. This has included removal of brambles from the bridge, Gateway site and Candwr Park; maintenance of the wildflower bed and regular replanting and watering of the village planters. The council has also arranged for the bus shelters to be cleaned, and culverts cleared. We even have a new Doggy bin at the walkway from The Oaklands onto the cricket pitch. Thanks to Karen who has driven many of these initiatives.

The Ponthir Village Clean-up was a very successful event with over 20 volunteers. Thanks to Ponthir Village Hall for allowing the bags of rubbish to be stored on their grounds whilst awaiting collection by TCBC.

This general maintenance, public engagement and refurbished public houses led to Ponthir being awarded Most Improved Village in Gwent Best Kept Village Competition.

Congratulations to Ponthir Baptist Church for winning the Best Churchyard Category.

The Play Area project was completed, the council's biggest ever investment. Thanks to all who assisted and particular thanks to Tesco Bags of Help for their £8000 contribution.

The Christmas tree was back again and the lights lasted nearly all of the festive period. This is something we need to resolve and hopefully the combined electrical skills of the council can resolve this.

The Christmas tree lighting event was well supported and is becoming a regular feature of village life.

Cllr Jo Bold stepped down as Vice Chair. As a Councillor Jo has been the force behind three Village Clean Up events as well as, amongst other things, taking much of the responsibility for the care and maintenance of the village planters. I thank Jo for her four years of valuable contributions to the council.

The council has worked closely with the Police on initiatives within the village and our best wishes to Inspector Morgan and PCSO Nicola Redman who have moved on. We look forward to working with our new PCSO Peter Walker and welcome him to our community.

The council has considered grant applications from many organisations and awarded a total of £1,594 all of this provide activity and welfare for residents of Ponthir and Llanfrechfa.

Five councillors stood for re-election – thanks to you all for your continuing commitment. We have two vacancies that will now be advertised.

Finally I would like to congratulate Cllr Huw Bevan on his re-election for Llanyrafon East and Ponthir ward. We look forward to working with Cllr Bevan on community issues in the future.

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A copy of this document could be made available in Welsh. Please contact us on the telephone number or e-mail below/Mae dogfen yma yn ar gael mewn gwefan ni
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