



MINUTES OF MEETING

BEDLINOG & TRELEWIS **COMMUNITY COUNCIL** **MEETING**

MONDAY, 13TH MARCH, 2023

PRESENT: Councillor R Searl (**In the Chair**)

Councillors J Beard, D Brown, E Dawson, S Jago, V Matthews,
G Preston, I Thomas, and C Frayne

Officers:

Ryan James, Clerk to the Council

In Attendance:

County Cllr Symonds

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
394	To Receive Apologies for Absence	There were none.
395	To Receive Declarations of Personal/Prejudicial Interest	There were none.
396	To Receive Representations/Questions from the Public in relation to business items on the Agenda	There were none.

397	To Receive Report from the Police	The Police were unable to attend the meeting due to their shift pattern but sent an email report which was shared with Councillors.
398	To Approve Minutes of the Meeting held 13 February 2023	RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held 13 February 2023 be approved as a true reflection of the meeting.
399	To Receive Matters Arising from the Minutes	Item 285 – the Clerk confirmed that eight emails have been sent to the Officer within the Estates Department chasing a response on the consultation for the MUGA resurfacing at Mackintosh Terrace, Trelewis. Still no final decision has been communicated on whether a licence can be granted to the Community Council to date. The Clerk will keep chasing. Cllr Jago suggested that this be escalated to a Head of Service as a number of emails have been sent enquiring about this item, but no response is being received. Item 375 – the half term events for children in the community were a great success and the feedback has been excellent. Further events are organised for the Easter holidays. Item 385 – Bedlinog parking issues – Cllr Searle attended a meeting with County Cllr Symonds and Bedlinog RFC. The plan of action is to apply to put double yellow lines along the fence of the rugby fields. This is being looked into and hopefully can be put in place by the start of next season, if approved. Item 386 – the Bedlinog Community Hub has been put on hold for the time being due to no attendance. The Trelewis Hub will continue and is getting excellent attendance weekly. It is also an opportunity for residents to speak with Community Councillors. Item 388 – the Transport team at MTCBC advised that there is a number 7 bus service covering Caiach Terrace, Trelewis, but the route has been questioned so they are investigating this further. If an update is received before the next meeting, then the Clerk will share this with Cllrs beforehand.
400	To Consider Planning Application P/23/0052	Planning application P/23/0052 – Detached rear garage with roof terrace and summerhouse above, retaining walls and access, 4 Edwards Terrace High Street, Trelewis, was considered. RESOLVED that there are no objections to this application. The Clerk made the Chair aware that since the publication of the agenda, he has been made aware of a further two applications. As the Community Council only considers planning applications and does not approve them, then these can be discussed at this evening's meeting with the Chair's agreement. The Chair agreed.

		Planning application P/23/0042 – Two storey rear extension, 3 Bedw Road, Bedlinog, was considered. RESOLVED that there are no objections to this application. Cllr Dawson declared a personal prejudicial interest in planning application P/23/0040 as this is one of his neighbours, so did not take part in the discussion in regard to this application. Planning application P/23/0040 – New front bay windows, 60 High Street, Bedlinog, was considered. RESOLVED that there are no objections to this application.
401	To Appoint an Internal Auditor for Financial Year 22-23	Three quotations have been received for the internal audit for FY22-23. Costs are: £640 £900 £400 The quotation of £400 has been accepted. RESOLVED that the internal auditor for financial year 22-23 be appointed and the engagement letter be sent confirming appointment at a cost of £400.
402	To Consider the termination of the Waste and Recycling Contract for Bedlinog Community Centre	RESOLVED that the Clerk make enquiries as to whether we can amend the contract to an ad-hoc/weekly as and when required service.
403	To Receive any Community Councillor Cases	Cllr Preston advised that she has reported Taf Road again as it has still not been cleaned. In September, Cllr Preston wrote to Transport for Wales (TFW) regarding Club Row Bridge and Moriah Street Bridge. TFW have responded to say that they have assessed both bridges and improvement works will be made with the crash barriers, but no timeline has been provided for completion as of yet.
404	To Receive the County Councillors Report	Cllr Ian Thomas advised that at the MTCBC Full Council meeting on 8th March 2023, the Council's budget was set. The Council Tax raise was approved at 4.7%. The Council has also used around £5.5m of reserves. Further efficiency savings are to be considered throughout the year. The Leader stated in his annual report that the recycling target of 64% was overachieved, and the Council achieved 67%. The new 20mph speed limit comes into force on 17th September. Parc Taf Bargoed has retained its Green Flag Award. The new swimming pool and skate park should be open in September. The John Sellwood running track is to have new floodlights installed.

		County Cllr Symonds emailed her February 2023 report. County Cllr Symonds also advised that a long-term empty homes raise was approved with a 100% rise on properties vacant in excess of 12 months, coming into effect on April 1st, 2023. A 100% rise on second homes was also approved but that will not come into effect until April 2024. An application for a new Greenfield School was approved – it will have a new site; plans are to be developed on that. County Cllr Symonds stated that she made comments at the MTCBC Full Council meeting and posted a snippet of her comments to clarify that she has no say on the Community Council Precept. Cllr Symonds said that she will not take any questions from this point and had asked in August 2022 for questions to be submitted in advance of meetings. Cllr Beard asked how far in advance questions should be submitted – County Cllr Symonds advised that one day in advance would be appropriate. Cllr Preston asked County Cllr Symonds if she knew that the Community Council is 50 years old next year. County Cllr Symonds advised that she would welcome taking part in any celebrations. Cllr Preston stated that Community Councillors have always had County Councillors come to meetings so that questions could be asked. County Cllr Symonds stated that she is happy to attend Council meetings as she has done, but it was different previously as Cllr Jago was both a Community Councillor and County Councillor. Cllr Matthews asked why percentages were used to compare the Council Tax rise and Community Council Precept rise, and why monetary figures were not clarified at the MTCBC Council meeting and subsequent social media posts. County Cllr Symonds confirmed that the tables confirming the monetary figures have since been shared. Cllr Matthews stated that it felt misleading to only present percentages. County Cllr Symonds said residents were asking her questions about the percentage rise so wanted to make it clear that she is not a member of the Community Council. Cllr Ian Thomas said the public report that went to Council, did include the monetary figures also. Cllr Beard asked if funding for the Ffos-Y-Fran Smalls Grant Scheme was still available. County Cllr Symonds advised that the money has been allocated to community groups. Cllr Brown said that she had not seen any social media posts so felt uncomfortable commenting on the discussion. Cllr Dawson said that he supported the increase of the Community Council Precept and that it was fully justified. Also, that we should continue to work together going forward. We will use the money in the very best way that we
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		can. Cllr Searl apologised to County Cllr Symonds that she was the only County Councillor for the ward present at the meeting to answer these questions. County Cllr Symonds stated that she felt uncomfortable with the questions posed at the meeting and reiterated that questions should be submitted in advance of meetings. Cllr Jago stated that everyone wants to work for the benefit of the community, regardless of political status, and that is the way forward. Cllr Jago suggested everyone be mindful of what is put on social media. The Clerk clarified that Cllrs do not share their personal views from the Community Council social media channel.
405	To Receive Correspondence not specifically referenced on the Agenda (Decisions cannot be taken in relation to matters raised under this Agenda item)	The One Voice Wales newsletter has been shared with Cllrs. The Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Annual Report has been shared with Cllrs. All Councillors confirmed they did not wish to receive the mandatory payment for FY2022-23. An update from Bedlinog Miners Welfare Association – the number of active Trustees has reduced; an advert was put out to see if there was any interest, but no expressions of interest have been received. An advert will be placed in the Community Council newsletter also. There is a big project coming up to re-develop the old Bowls Pavilion and bring it back into community use.
406	To Approve Payments and Receipts from 09 Feb to 07 Mar 2023	RESOLVED that the payments and receipts for 09/02/23 to 07/03/23 be approved.
407	To Approve Bank Reconciliation dated 28 Feb 2023	RESOLVED that the bank reconciliation dated 28 Feb 2023 be approved.
408	To Consider a Motion to exclude the Press and Public from the next item of business due to the confidential nature of the matters to be discussed	RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the next item of business due to the confidential nature of the matters to be discussed.
409	Exempt	In order for this item to be considered in private, the press and public were excluded from the meeting on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined under Part 2 of Schedule 12A of Section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

410	Date of Next Meeting	The next meeting was due to take place Monday 10 th April, however, this is a bank holiday. Therefore, the next Community Council meeting will be held Monday 17 th April 2023, 6.15pm via Microsoft Teams.
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