

Ken Williams

**Councillor
Mr. Colin Elsbury**

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CAERPHILLY
TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE TWYN COMMUNITY CENTRE
ON MONDAY 17TH MARCH 2014 AT 6.30 P.M.**

Present:

Councillor Mr. M. Newman, Mrs. Olwen Rees, Mr. C. Elsbury (Town Mayor), Mr. E. Talbot, Mrs J. Hibbert, Mr. R. Williams, Mr. G. Pratt, Mr. M. Thomas, Mr. S. Kent, Mr. P. J. Bevan, Mr. James Fussell and Mr. J. Pritchard.

In attendance:

Mr. K. Williams (Town Clerk)
Mrs. Rhiannon Williams and Mr. Gareth Williams
Police Inspector Gareth Jones - PCSO John MacDonald.

87. The Town Mayor, Councillor Colin Elsbury welcomed Mr and Mrs Williams to the meeting and invited Mrs Williams to speak on the issue of crash barriers along Heol Cae Barrau.

Mrs Rhiannon Williams spoke to the meeting and outlined the background. In 2008 a car crashed and ended up in the garden. Following this the County Borough Council undertook an exercise to monitor car speeds. In 2011 another accident happened and the vehicle crashed into the garden. A further speed check was carried out by the Borough Council. Since then no further surveys have been undertaken. The police have said a mobile speed unit cannot be used at this location because it was unsafe. The police carried out a risk assessment but couldn't go back as far as the first accident.

An online petition and facebook group has been set up and 860 signatures have been collected. Since the start of the campaign Mrs Williams asked for the highest speed. The highest recorded speed was 97 mph and the average speed is incorrect because the calculation excludes the top 15% of vehicles. A camera flashing speed warnings and recording speeds was installed in 2013 but because of soft ware problems no results have been obtained.

Councillor Pritchard said there were two ways funding for a crash barrier could be obtained.

Firstly the Borough Council could apply for a Road Safety Grant and secondly the Town Council could use Sec 137 of the L.G. Act 1972 for a discretionary spend providing it benefited the area or residents. At this point the Town Clerk reminded members that the benefit must also be commensurate with the expenditure.

Councillor Fussell informed Members the County Borough had set aside £42,000 in 2014/15 for crash barriers and this amount may be available for use.

It was suggested arrangements be made for Mr and Mrs Williams to go to a committee meeting of the County Borough and present the information to them as it is the Highway Authority responsible for crash barriers.

All members did support their cause and local ward members have signed their petition.

The clerk informed members that he did not feel Sec 137 of the L.G. Act was the appropriate funding avenue for such expenditure and such expenditure could be deemed as illegal.

The following motion was moved:

That the Caerphilly Town Council agrees in principle, subject to external audit approval, to provide a financial contribution towards the cost of a road barrier on the mountain road to protect residents from errant vehicles leaving the carriageway and entering the rear gardens of the properties on Cwrt Nant y Felin.

Members voted unanimously to support the motion.

88. **MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 17TH FEBRUARY 2014**

Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Monday 17th February 2014 were received, confirmed and signed.

89. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

The clerk informed members that this years fireworks display will be £10,000 plus vat and the P.A. system will be £827.50 plus vat.

A request for a streetlight in the lane behind Tafys Walk has been turned down by the county borough.

A letter on the legality of a Welsh only sign on the Twyn Community Centre has been sent to the County Borough's Legal Department who had informed the clerk that any decision would have to be made by the Estates Department.

A request was made for copies of the last few payments for lighting around the castle to be brought to the next meeting as CADW have said cost of electricity is met fully by them. The clerk informed members that an agreement was in place to contribute to floodlighting costs but the Welsh Assembly needed to send invoices to the Town Council.

90. **COMMUNITY SAFETY MATTERS**

Burglary initiative starting this month, warning residents to make sure their garden sheds are locked.

A significant level of vehicle crime particularly on Nantgarw Road by Aber Halt Station.

A suspect was arrested in the park in Churchill Park for bag theft.

Operation Arcade is an ongoing shop lifting campaign and staff have been retrained on Storenet System.

A pilot scheme in Penyrheol Ward on anti social behaviour, where a blackberry phone is available to notify police.

The following issues were reported to the police:

Residents expressing concern about parking on double yellow lines particularly by Con Club on White Street.

Staffordshire/Bull cross jumped a garden wall and attacked a dog.

Park safe to start soon. Youths will be moved on and drinks confiscated.

Teenage Kicks project started to try to reduce teenage anti social behaviour.

Dol y felin Street - Residents pleased with action taken by police and number of fixed penalties issued. A consultation exercise on putting in a barrier in lane is about to take place.

Drug dealing on Linden Grove and Sir Stafford Close area.

Speeding by Crossways.

Parking issue behind 53, Pontygwindy Road.

One individual is speeding on Heol Trecastell Estate.

91. **TOWN MAYOR'S DIARY**

28/2/14 - St David's Concert.

8/3/14 - Caerphilly Miners Concert.

The Town Mayor informed members he paid for his own ticket.

92. **ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

- a. Corner of Bartlett Street and Broomfield Street, Bedroom furniture has been dumped in lane.
- b. Rear of Bartlett Street/Salop Street - A piece of land is being used unofficially as a builders yard and as a result sand and cement dust is covering the highway at this location.

- c. A car has been abandoned at Heol Trecastell.
- d. Fly tipping at garages on Heol Trecastell by the allotments.
- e. A proposal to extinguish footpaths had been forwarded to all members. Councillor Williams had forwarded his comments to the appropriate officer of the borough and the clerk had forwarded the comments of Councillor Talbot. Both comments will be included in the consultation.

93. **PROJECTS AND TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

- a) Councillor Williams declared an interest and took no part in the discussions or decision making on the Caerphilly Flower Festival.

The Town Mayor introduced the background stating as the County Borough no longer intended running the festival, a meeting with the churches had taken place to find out their willingness to run the event. A report was tabled at the meeting showing the costs and the number of organisations who were prepared to take part.

The costs are calculated at £5,175 and a budget provision of £5,000 has been put in the 2014/15 estimates. An application will be made to the Town Centre Management Group for funding towards this event.

A debate took place on the costs of putting on the event and a motion was made to defer a decision until the next meeting. This motion was defeated by 9 votes to 2.

A motion was then put forward that the event go ahead and the Town Council fund it, this was passed by 9 votes for, 1 against and 1 abstention.

- b) **Bands In The Park**

The clerk informed members that a request had been received from the Borough Council for funding towards the cost of Bands In The Park at Morgan Jones.

Members agreed to fund two concerts at a cost of £331 per concert.

- c) **Concessionary Use of Caerphilly Castle by Twinning Association**

Members agreed to grant a concessionary use of the castle and to pay for the hire charge for a booking by the Twinning Association.

94. **PLANNING MATTERS**

Councillors Elsbury and Fussell declared an interest and took no part in the discussions or decision making.

- 14/0094 Members asked if there was a limit on shops with dead frontage.
- 14/0095 Neighbours had expressed concern over the size of the extension.

95. **PAYMENTS AND FINANCIAL MATTERS**

- a List of Payments - Noted and Approved.

- b Bank Account Balances - Noted.
- c Application for Financial Assistance
- i) Councillor Elsbury , S. Kent, Olwen Rees, Jenny Hibbert and J. Pritchard declared an interest and took no part in the discussions or decision making on the application from Caerphilly Miners Centre.

Members agreed to a donation of £500 to the Caerphilly Miners Centre for the Community.

- ii) Caerphilly Walk for Life

The clerk informed members that a Walk for Life for Kidney Research Wales had been organised for Sunday 13th April at 10.30 a.m. starting at the old library site. The Town Mayor had been invited to start the walk.

Members agreed to a donation of £200 to be presented by the Town Mayor at the event.

96. **CORRESPONDENCE**

- a) Local Government (Wales) byelaws Act 2012 - Implementation.
- b) Consultation Document - Draft Playing Fields Regulations 2014 - A request was made for a link to the document to be sent to members.

97. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Megaday Sponsorship - Members agreed to sponsor the marquee for Megaday in 2014.

CAERPHILLY COMMUNITY CHORUS

The clerk informed members that an invite had been received to attend two concerts on 4th April and 17th May and two complimentary tickets for both events had been received.

The meeting ended at 8.30 p.m.

Next Meeting Monday 14th April 2014 at 6 p.m. in Upper Tower Room.