C A E R P H I L L Y T O W N C O U N C I L

 **C Y N G O R T R E F C A E R F F I L I**

**TOWN CLERK: TOWN MAYOR: CLERC Y DREF: MAIR Y DREF:**

**P. G. Davy Cllr Mike Prew**

14th February 2022

An Ordinary Meeting of the Caerphilly Town Council will be held on 21st February 2022 at 6.30 pm by Multi Location.

Any Member requiring further information on any item should contact me before the Meeting.

Phil Davy

Town Clerk

**A G E N D A**

1. To note Members’ attendance and to receive any apologies for absence.

2. Declarations of Interest in any item.

3. To receive and if thought fit to confirm the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting

 held on 17th January 2022. .

4. Matters arising from the Minutes if not covered by the Agenda.

5. **COMMUNITY SAFETY MATTERS**

6. **TOWN MAYOR’S DIARY**

7. **ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

8. **TOWN CLERK’S REPORTS**

 8.1 Q3 Budget Monitoring.

 8.2 Risk Management.

 8.3 Events Working Group

Address: The "Twyn Community Centre The Twyn Caerphilly CF83 IJL

Telephone: Caerphilly 07950 935822

 E-mail: caerphillytowncouncil@outlook.com

Office hours**:** By Appointment Monday to Friday

9. **PLANNING MATTERS**

10. **PAYMENT AND FINANCIAL MATTERS**

 10.1 List of Payments

 10.2 Bank Account Balances

 10.3 Application for Financial Assistance

 10.4 External Audit Report 2020 - 2021

11. **CORRESPONDENCE**

 11.1 Letter from Virginia Park Community Group/Caerphilly Castle Ladies and

Girls FC.

11.2 Letter from Wayne David MP re Parliamentary Boundary Review – Caerphilly Constituency

12. **MEMBERS REQUESTS FOR FUTURE REPORTS**

This Meeting will be held in accordance with Section 47 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 by multi location.

Any member of the public or media wishing to attend this meeting by remote access should contact the Town Clerk at:

caerphillytowncouncil@outlook.com

Anyone attending the meeting in person at The Twyn Community Centre will need to observe the Covid 19 precautions in force at the time. Masks will be required.

All documentation about and relating to this and any other Town Council Meetings undertaken either by hybrid format or fully by remote access will be made available on the Town Council Website.

[www.caerphillytowncouncil.co.uk](http://www.caerphillytowncouncil.co.uk)

**C A E R P H I L L Y T O W N C O U N C I L**

 **C Y N G O R T R E F C A E R F F I L I**

**TOWN CLERK: TOWN MAYOR: CLERC Y DREF: MAIR Y DREF:**

 **P. G. Davy Cllr Mike Prew**

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE CAERPHILLY TOWN COUNCIL**

**HELD BY REMOTE ACCESS ON 17th JANUARY 2022**

**Present:**

Councillors P J Bevan, C Elsbury, J Fussell, J Grenfell, H Jackson, S Kent, M Prew,

J Pritchard

**Apologies:**

Councillors, R Bidgood, J Hibbert, S Hodder, S Morgan

**In Attendance:**

P G Davy, Town Clerk

**75** **MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 15TH NOVEMBER**

**2021**

Minutes of the Ordinary Town Council Meeting held on 15th November 2021 were received and confirmed. Minutes to be signed by the Town Mayor when practical.

**76 MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising

**77 COMMUNITY SAFETY MATTERS**

Concerns were raised at the indiscriminate parking outside schools in particular St Martins, Twyn and YGG Castell. Physical measures were under consideration at YGG Castell.

**78 TOWN MAYOR’S DIARY**

The Mayor advised that scam emails sent out in his name continued to circulate.

He had attended the Twinning Association AGM and they were optimistic about recommencing exchange visits in 2022. In the run up to Christmas he had joined Caerffili Lions in their visits to local care homes although access had to be more limited than in previous years.

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He recorded his thanks to all Members involved with Christmas lights and the Christmas Tree decorations. He was also pleased to note that Y Galeri had reopened under new ownership.

**79 ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

Concerns were raised about the emptying of dog waste and litter bins throughout the town. There appeared to be no regular frequency possibly due to staff shortages. However CCBC will respond when overflowing bins are reported.

An overflowing sewer outside the Twyn Community Centre had been reported to Welsh Water.

**80 TOWN CLERK’S REPORTS**

1 Coronavirus (Covid 19) Update

From 26th December 2021 the Welsh Government introduced new measures to control the spread of the omicron variant. The measures are a revised version of alert level 2. Until these measures are lifted it was agreed:

1 Town Council meetings continue by remote access using Zoom. The introduction of hybrid meetings will be delayed until the alert level 2 restrictions are lifted.

2 Work from home arrangements are in place following the adoption of flexible working arrangements in June 2021 and will meet the requirements of “work from home where you can”.

3 Event planning to commence on the assumption that by the start of the new financial year there will be no impediment to the Town Council’s normal programme of events. (See minute 80.4).

It was noted that Welsh Government on 14 January 2022 had announced a phased return to alert level zero.

2 The Community Council Clerk Qualifications Regulations

The Eligible Community Councils (General Power of Competence) (Qualifications of Clerks) (Wales) Regulations 2021 come into force on 5 May 2022. The regulations are unchanged from the consultation draft reported to the Town council in July 2021. The clerk to the council must hold one or more of the specified qualifications as one of a number of pre conditions to be eligible to resolve “a general power of competence”.

Pursuing the general power is discretionary. The lack of the general power does not affect any of the activities currently undertaken by the Town Council. Reliance can continue to be placed on specific legal powers which already cover a wide range of discretionary activities. The general power under section 137 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 has been retained for those councils that do not pursue the general power.

Members noted the report and decided not to take any action in respect of the general power at this time.

3 Consultation on the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021: Community and Town Councils Statutory Guidance

The statutory guidance supports the provisions of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 (LGE 21). The guidance provides information to help town and community councils discharge their duties in relation to the following:

* Accessing meetings from multiple locations
* Providing opportunity for public participation at public council meetings
* Preparing and publishing an annual report
* Preparing and publishing a training plan to support training for councillors and

council staff

* Other provisions which impact on town and community councils

The Town Council had already addressed the technical requirements for multi location meetings.

The statutory guidance was expected to be published in final form in advance of the local government elections in May 2022.

Members noted the new duties imposed by the legislation and recognised there will be additional time commitments and costs that will affect both the Town Clerk and all town councillors.

4 Events Programme 2022

The coronavirus pandemic has resulted in the Town Council’s events programme being cancelled for 2020 and 2021. In addition all the events where the Town Council provides financial support have also been cancelled with the exception of the Caerphilly Arts Competition which did take place in 2021. The report assumed that the measures introduced to control the spread of the omicron variant will have a short duration and there will be a return to alert level 0 before the start of the new financial year enabling all events / activities to resume in 2022. It was noted that Welsh Government had announced plans on 14 January 2022 to move back to alert level zero on a phased basis.

It was resolved:

1 To confirm the events programme for 2022 and refer the detailed operational planning to the Events Working Group.

2 To endorse the budget allocations to the sponsored events as outlined in the report with the exception of the allocation to Cadw for the December ice rink as this was not expected to take place in 2022 due to works at Caerphilly Castle.

**81 PLANNING MATTERS**

The following planning applications were considered, and comments made as follows:

21/1184/FULL – no objections

21/1216/LBC – no objections

21/1210/FULL - no objections

21/1221/ADV – no objections

21/1232/NMA – no objections

21/1228/LA – no objections

21/1214/RET – no objections

Councillor J Fussell declared an interest and took no part in the discussion or decision making on any of the applications.

Councillor C Elsbury declared an interest and took no part in the discussion or decision making on any of the applications.

**82 PAYMENTS AND FINANCIAL MATTERS**

1 List of payments were noted and approved.

2 Bank account balances were noted.

**83 CORRESPONDENCE**

A Freedom of Information request had been received concerning the emissions from the fireworks display in 2019. The Town Council does not hold this information and a response to this effect has been issued. Information request was pursued outside the scope of the Freedom of Information Act.

**84 MEMBER REQUESTS FOR FUTURE REPORTS**

There were no requests for future reports.

The meeting closed at 7.40pm

**Agenda Item 8.1**

**Report to Town Council 21st February 2022**

**Q3 Budget Monitoring 2021/22 Financial Year**

Comparison of actual expenditure to revised annual estimate (approved September 2021) for the period to 1st April 2021 to 31st December 2021.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Main Budget Heads** | **Q3 Actual £** | **Revised****Annual Estimate £** |
| Mayor’s Allowance | 675.00 | 900.00 |
| Members Allowances | 600.00 | 600.00 |
| Staff Costs | 15174.99 | 20850.00 |
| Travelling Expenses | 149.59 | 500.00 |
| Audit Fee | 200.00 | 500.00 |
| Insurance | 1766.53 | 1766.53 |
| Office Costs | 9122.67 | 15700.00 |
| Sponsored Events | 1050.00 | 10550.00 |
| Concessionary Hires | 0 | 0 |
| Fireworks Display | 0 | 0 |
| Fireworks Charity Donation | 5000.00 | 5000.00 |
| Floral Decorations | 12398.00 | 16000.00 |
| Christmas Lights | 6220.49 | 14000.00 |
| Lantern Parade | 0 | 0 |
| Financial Assistance  | 650.00 | 6000.00 |
| Autumn Sports Scheme | 3480.00 | 3480.00 |
| Newsletter | 679.00 | 900.00 |
| Elections | 0 | 0 |
| Miscellaneous | 2358.00 | 800.00 |
| VAT | 6487.56 | 0 |
| CIL Projects | 6120.00 |  |
| **TOTAL** | 72131.83 | 97546.53 |

 £

Revised Budget 2021/22 97,546

Actual expenditure to 31.12.21 72,132

(74% of budget)

Members are invited to note the report

**Agenda Item 8.2**

**Report to Town Council 21st February 2022**

**Risk Management**

Risk is the threat that an event or action will adversely affect an organisation’s ability to achieve its objectives and to successfully execute its strategies. Risk management is the process by which risks are identified, evaluated, and controlled.

The Town Council is under an obligation to identify and manage risks to public money arising from all activities. Risk management is an essential part of good governance and applies to all aspects of the Council’s work.

The risk assessment is undertaken on an annual basis and was last reviewed in January 2021. Given the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the Town Council’s activities during 2020 Covid 19 was included as an operational risk in the updated risk assessment. The mitigating measures reflected Welsh Government regulations and guidance at that time. It was anticipated that business as usual would be restored from April 2021. In the event this did not happen as the pandemic continued throughout 2021 and into the start of 2022. Welsh Government has announced a return to alert level zero by end of January 2022 and again it is anticipated that business as usual will be possible from April 2022. The Covid 19 mitigating measures have been updated to reflect the requirements of alert level zero. Those which are most significant for the Town Council are:

* Working from home where this is practical
* Businesses, employers, and other organisations must undertake a specific coronavirus risk assessment and take reasonable measures to minimise the spread of coronavirus
* Face covering for most public indoor places

There is an expectation that the pandemic will move to endemic and in effect Covid will remain an ongoing risk on a par with other health and safety considerations. Alert level zero restrictions may be removed altogether during the course of 2022.

The risk assessment for 2022 is included as a separate document with the agenda papers. It is not possible to eliminate all risks, but the control environment seeks to minimise the likelihood of the risk arising but also to mitigate the impact if the risk does materialise. Event planning has been a high risk and will be particularly the case for 2022 given the two year absence of the fireworks display and Christmas lights switch on event.

The Town Clerk, as the Proper Officer and Responsible Financial Officer, is responsible for the effective implementation of the control environment to manage risks on a daily basis. However, it is the Town Council’s responsibility to ensure there is a strategy for risk management, to monitor and review the risk assessment on annual basis, and consider, and if appropriate endorse the Annual Governance Statement.

Recommendation

Members are invited to review the likelihood and impact of risks occurring and approve the annual review of the risk assessment.

Phil Davy

Town Clerk

**Agenda Item 8.3**

**Report to Town Council 21st February 2022**

**Events Working Group**

A meeting of the Events Working Group was convened on 7th February 2022 to commence planning for 2022 and consider operational issues. The notes of the Working Group are appended. Reference is made to the response from Cadw that it will not be possible to hold the fireworks display at Caerphilly Castle in 2022 due to the extensive works taking place that will extend beyond November. A meeting is arranged for 11 February 2022 to explore a possible compromise if the fireworks launch site is restricted entirely to the horn work. A verbal update will be provided on the outcome of this meeting.

Since the Working Group met CCBC has advised that it will not be pursuing an alternative event to the Big Cheese in 2022 and instead will be concentrating on the Caerphilly Food Festival. The Town Council has committed £500 towards the Food Festival. CCBC has made a request for the Town Council to transfer the £1750 of sponsorship agreed for the Big Cheese to the Food Festival to help cover increased costs for the event.

Members are invited:

1 To endorse the view of the Working Group that if it is not possible to hold the fireworks display at Caerphilly Castle an alternative site should not be pursued.

2 To determine whether to transfer the funding of £1750 approved for the Big Cheese to the Food Festival for 2022 (taking the total sponsorship for the Food Festival to £2250).

Phil Davy

Town Clerk

**Notes of Events Working Group held on 7 February 2022 by remote access**

**Present:**

Councillors P J Bevan, C Elsbury, J Fussell, S Kent

**In Attendance:**

P G Davy, Town Clerk

1 Fireworks Display 5th November 2022

Cadw had advised that it would not be possible to hold the fireworks at Caerphilly Castle this year due to the extensive works programme that would go on beyond November. Members discussed whether a compromise might be possible if the launch area was restricted to the horn work with access only from Nant Garw Road. Further discussion on the event was deferred pending a meeting with Cadw arranged for 11 February 2022.

There are limited alternative site options within the town which would be closer to housing and result in unfamiliar operational and site management issues. It was agreed that if Caerphilly Castle is ruled out, relocating to an alternative site should not be pursued.

2 Christmas Lights Switch On 18th November 2022

Members felt the format should be kept the same as in previous years. The primary schools should be approached at the start of the autumn term in September. Covid 19 risk assessments may still be required which may affect whether schools can mix at the Twyn Community Centre, but this can only be addressed much closer to the date of the event. New suppliers will need to be obtained for the PA system and weather protection for performers.

3 Christmas Lantern Parade

The Lantern Parade is fully funded by the Town Council but is organised and managed by staff at Caerphilly CBC. CCBC has proposed that the Christmas Market and Lantern Parade will be on the same date of 3 December 2022.

4 Town Council Sponsored Events

The Caerphilly Food Festival has been confirmed for the 7 May 2022.

The Town Clerk had contacted the churches and other organisations to establish interest in the Flower Festival in June. Replies had been requested by the end of February but there had been positive interest so far.

CCBC had confirmed that there will be no Big Cheese due to works at Caerphilly Castle but an alternative event is under consideration.

Budget provision had been made for financial sponsorship of Megaday (£4000) and Caerphilly Arts Competition (£1050). The organisers of these events will need to make a formal request to the Town Council.

At this stage there is no reason why events cannot proceed more or less as normal subject to any alert level zero requirements. However, circumstances can change and this may result in a review of planned events. For those directly organised and funded events July 2022 is the critical point of commitment. Cancellation thereafter may result in abortive costs.

Phil Davy

Town Clerk

**Agenda Item 9**

**Report to Town Council 21st February 2022**

**Planning Matters**

The following planning applications have been received:

21/1215/FULL Caerphilly Castle, Castle Street, Caerphilly CF83 1JD

Refurbish the Great Hall, convert the existing visitor centre to a shop and erect a new Welcome Centre and associated site wide access improvements

22/0024/FULL 14 Cae Llwyd, Caerphilly CF83 3HB

Erect rear and side single storey extension and associated work

22/0033/FULL 6 St Clears Close, Caerphilly CF83 1DU

Erect single storey rear extension and detached outbuilding to rear amenity area

22/0038/FULL 69 Meadowland Close, Caerphilly CF83 3SB

Erect single storey rear extension

22/0042/RET Soul Soothing Complimentary Therapies, Unit 12 Poplar Road, Caerphilly CF83 1LF

Retain boundary fencing and installation of 7 storage units

21/1227/FULL 161 Pontygwindy Road, Caerphilly CF83 3HQ

Demolish existing single storey and erect two storey extension side and rear with dormer attic conversion

21/1235/FULL Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg, Caerffili, Pontygwindy Road CF83 3HG

Erect single storey standalone Eco classroom building

**Agenda Item 10.1**

**Report to Town Council 21st February 2022**

**List of Payments**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Cheque No** | **Payee** | **In Respect of** | **Amount £** |
| Internet | EE Limited | Mobile Phone | 21.20 |
| Direct Debit | Sage Global Services Ltd | Payroll Software | 8.40 |
| Internet | BT Broadband  | Broadband Service | 111.60 |
| Internet | HMRC | Income Tax & NI | 562.21 |
| Internet | Admin Assistant | Salary January | 383.31 |
| Internet | Town Clerk | Salary January | 740.59 |
| Direct Debit | NEST | Pension January | 27.95 |
| Direct Debit | SLCC | Subscription Renewal | 171.00 |
| 304141 | St Martin’s Church | Electricity re Floodlights | 64.46 |
| Internet | Elsbury Access Platforms | Erection, dismantling & Storage Christmas Lights | 5709.84 |
| Internet | Digital Systems UK | Printing | 38.87 |
| Direct Debit | Collins Debden | Cash Analysis Book | 43.98 |

It is recommended that Members note and approve the payments

**Agenda Item 10.2**

**Report to Town Council 21st February 2022**

**Bank Account Balances**

Bank Account Balances as at 1st February 2022

 **£**

Community Direct Plus Account 91240.81

Business Select Account 10639.83

Business Select Account 16852.09

(Restricted Reserves)

Members to note the information

**Agenda Item 10.3**

**Report to Town Council 21st February 2022**

**Applications for Financial Assistance**

 Budget 6000

 Commitment 650

 Available 5350

1 C2Cycling

C2Cycling is a group of amateur cyclists from across South Wales who have come together every 2 years since 2015 to complete long distance rides for charity. C2Cycling has raised in excess of £44000 for Wales based charity Velindre. Their website lists a number of private company sponsors.

In 2022 they propose to ride from Cardiff to Edinburgh a distance of 636km to raise funds for Velindre Cancer Centre and Latch Children’s Cancer Charity. The fundraising target is £50000. The purpose of the request is to fund the cost of the support crew but an amount is not specified.

The Town Council grant scheme is intended to provide financial support to assist community organisations active within the town that work for the benefit of the residents. Grants cannot be made to individuals. Although the purpose behind the request is to raise funds for two Welsh based charities, technically the funding, if approved, would be to a group of individuals. Numerous individuals and groups undertake fund raising for charities every year but the grant scheme is not designed for this purpose. Furthermore, in the opinion of the Town Clerk this would not be a lawful use of public money as any benefit to the residents of the Town Council would be indirect.

**Financial Assistance Application Form**

**Name of Organisation**

C2Cycling.co.uk Please refer to website for more information

**Purpose or Activities of Organisation**

Charity fundraising. Please access website link above for more information. 26 cyclists riding from Cardiff Castle to Edinburgh Castle over 5 days in April 2022. This will be a personal challenge for all whilst raising funds to support local charities.

**Membership of Organisation / or Beneficiaries of Activities**

Number of members resident in town 10

**Present Financial Position**

Ongoing fundraising target of £50000. Total raised to date £20000. Three previous rides have in recent years raised a combined total of £40000.

**Purpose for which assistance is required and estimate of costs**

As a group C2Cycling is aiming to raise £50000 for our two designated charities Velindre and Latch, which are both Welsh charities. Each rider has self funded the trip. The fees that we asking for will go towards the cost of the support crew.

**Agenda Item 10.4**

**Report to Town Council**

**External Audit Report 2020-21 – Annual Return**

The external audit for the year ending 31 March 2021 was completed on 25 January 2022. The Annual Return and audit opinion are included with the agenda papers. The Auditor General for Wales has issued an unqualified audit opinion.

“On the basis of my review, in my opinion no matters have come to my attention giving cause for concern that in any material respect, the information reported in this 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.”

No other matters were raised for the Council to consider.

Recommendation

The Town Council approves and accepts the certified Annual Return.

Phil Davy

Town Clerk

**Agenda Item 11**

**Report to Town Council 21 February 2022**

**Correspondence**

11.1 Letter from Virginia Park Community Group / Caerphilly Castle Ladies and Girls FC

To: Hefin David AM, Ross Whiting, Cabinet Member

CC: CCBC Councilors, Community Councilors, Caerphilly Sports Development

Dear Minster,

As a local football club that is situated in the County Borough and the constituency and wards that you represent, I would be most grateful if you would review our current situation and help us to make long-term plans for our club and community.

**Our History**

Caerphilly Castle Ladies & Girls FC was established in 1999 by a breakaway group from an existing Caerphilly football team. Initially the club had two junior teams both competing in the South Wales Girls League. In 2007 the club put in place the foundations and structure to enable the club to both grow and prosper.

Since then the club has grown both in terms of stature but also size with the club in the past having teams at Under 8, Under 10, Under 12, Under 14 and Under 16 competing in the South Wales Girls League and a Ladies team competing both in the South Wales Women’s League. Whilst maintaining growth and consistency through all age groups year on year, the club was one of the largest all girls clubs in Wales. We have however had recent challenges on and off the pitch but this has made us that much stronger.

This season we are committing our efforts to 3 age groups: Under 10s , under 12s and Ladies but as ever are optimistic that with the right foundation we can build a great club with a junior section in the next few years. We have a very strong commitment to Female football and have not only provided a place for local girls to show their talents on Caerphilly's playing field but have reached out and played away at tournaments in England to keep girls football alive. The club are also in discussions with FAW to complete the tier-2 prerequisites to move the Ladies and our club, up and onwards.

The club is community based and is run on a day to day basis by volunteers both in terms of provision of coaching / team management but also in respect of the various sub committees and the main governing committee. The club relies upon the support of the Welsh Football Trust and Football Association of Wales to ensure all volunteers have the required levels of disclosure and CRB certification to work with children and more importantly that all those in team management roles have the required training. As a minimum this means ensuring that each groups has a Manager, Head Coach (qualified as a minimum with the FAW Level 1 Football Leaders), Finance Controller, Welfare Officer (qualified as a minimum with the FAW Welfare & Child Protection certification), First Aider (qualified with either FAW Football First Aid or First Aide qualification of the same or increased level), Assistant Coach’s (qualified as per the Head Coach). The club has in place a training regime both to maintain the above standards but to also support coach development where individuals want to further gain formal qualifications in coaching whilst assisting the club in its continued growth and strategy to gain the highest accolades available from the Welsh Football Trust around Club accreditation.

**Current Position**

We have played out of Owain Glyndwr fields for over a decade and benefited from the Glyndwr fields covenant in promoting community sports in the centre of the town.

The Parks department have been very accommodating to our club over the years and have not only provided an excellent service during the past 23 seasons but have pulled all the stops out in assisting us during our annual tournament, the only independent female football tournament in South Wales.

The Owain Glyndwr fields however are being used predominantly by other football teams in the area and usually by the Sunday, the pitch is unplayable or cut up which affects the quality of games. We are then nomadic and end up playing games out of several other pitches dotted around the borough. This is not the fault of Parks but we are now not only desperate to put down roots on a site we can call our home ground, but somewhere that will enable us to grow and meet the future needs: grounds that can meet the standards of the Wales Ladies Premiership that we're aspiring to.

In recent years our club has had its ups and downs but the players, coaches, committee and numerous volunteers have stuck together to ensure the girls and ladies of this borough played football every Sunday.

We were very grateful a few years ago to be included in the plans with the Centre of Sporting Excellence in Ystrad Mynach. However, after the unavoidable demotion from the Welsh Premiership, we found it difficult to cover the costs and use those extraordinary facilities.

Off pitch, we are collaborating with Sports bodies across Wales, our Councils Sports Development and Parks Departments as well as leading community bodies like GAVO and Sported to help us with our Aims.

**Club’s Aims and Objectives**

We are always positive. The good news is that we have not only had members of our Youth teams be awarded with Welsh caps but our committed Ladies are now aiming to return to the Premiership within the next two seasons. This is where we need your help...

We believe there are some green spaces in and around the Caerphilly town centre which are either under-utilised or completely unused. One such play space is Virginia Park which was used enormously as a football ground for many years many years ago. The ground is in fair condition and has many benefits including its central location as well as being close to other sports facilities such as Caerphilly RFC and the towns leisure centre. We are now in discusssion with Caerphilly Athletic FC to share this community asset to make the most of the park via the Community Asset Transfer process.

The club is fully aware of the financial constraints of the Authority and would look to expand facilities of the basic pitch with sports and community grants available to clubs who have a permanent ground. We would look to:-

* Take ‘ownership’ and maintenance of the pitch through the CAT scheme
* Provide changing facilities.
* Collaborate with other community sports clubs wherever possible to make full use of the sports ground.
* Integrate with local schools and CCBC’s Leisure dept for work experience.
* Collaborate with other community groups Eg. GAVO, to benefit from the business knowledge and facilities.
* Look to provide outdoor gym equipment for club and community use.
* Further phases of work to expand the clubs potential with help from the Council.

We understand you too have similar aspirations which are laid out in the Councils Improvement Objectives:-

* A Healthy Caerphilly strategy
* A Greener Caerphilly, making use of the greenspace.
* “*Promote the benefits of an active and healthy lifestyle*”
* Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 - Wellbeing Objectives

We also agree with the above Act, “A healthier Wales” and principal 5: “Working with others in a collaborative way to find shared sustainable solutions”. We want to look into the sharing of green spaces or re-use of playing fields that are under-used. We also welcome the opportunity to help you meet your objective in expanding accessibility of sport to females in Caerphilly town and surrounding area.

We are also aware of the potential to manage or share community buildings and resources: leasing community buildings or sites to community groups to save the Authority money. If we can be made aware of these sites being offered to community groups, some may be close to the green spaces we are hoping to use. Bearing in mind the cost we would like to explore this option to run the club from such places.

We would therefore be most grateful if you will support us and work together, to achieve a CAT and our goals for the good of the town, community and the residents health and wellbeing.

Yours Sincerely,

Julie Boyce,
Club Chairperson,
Virginia Park Community Group / Caerphilly Castle Ladies & Girls FC

11.2 Letter from Wayne David MP re Parliamentary Boundary Review – Caerphilly Constituency.

The Parliamentary Boundary Commission has proposed that the current constituency of Caerphilly be split four ways. It is proposed that the southern part of the current Caerphilly constituency (Caerphilly town, the Aber Valley, Llanbradach, Bedwas, Trethomas and Machen, Rudry, Waterloo, and Draethen) are joined to western Newport to form a new constituency known as Newport West and Caerphilly. Wayne David is seeking the support of the Town Council to oppose this proposal.

A copy of the letter and attachments are included with the agenda papers as a separate document.