



# Minutes

**Minutes of the Meeting of the St Nicholas with Bonvilston Community Council, called by Cllr Ian Perry, via video and telephone conference on Wednesday 27th January 2021 at 19:30.**

**The meeting was held remotely in accordance with the Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Meetings) (Wales) Regulations 2020.**

**PRESENT:**

Cllr I Perry (Chair), Cllr S Cockrell, Cllr S Curien, Cllr P Moss, Cllr J Griffiths.

**ALSO, PRESENT:**

S. Hillman (Clerk), G Howell (item 7)

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**1. Chairs welcome and introductions**

Cllr I Perry welcomed everyone.

Made apologies for Cllr Brown due to family bereavement. Everyone sent their condolences.

**2. To receive apologies for absence**

Cllr K Ward, Cllr G Rawson, Cllr C Jones, Cllr Brown.

**3. To receive declarations of interest**

None.

**4. To approve the Minutes of the**

**(a) Meeting of September**

Signed off with a note from Chair. Agreed by all.

Proposer- Cllr S Cockrell

Second: Cllr J Griffiths

**5. Matters arising from the Minutes**

None

**6. To receive update on St Nicholas CIW School development**

Cllr I Perry – The Planning Committee has refused planning permission for a new school build on the present site on the basis of highways issues.

**7. To elect a MAR Governor**

Cllr I Perry proposed Geoff Howell to be co-opted as MAR Governor.

He has a lot of experience within this field including as Chair of governors at Patchway Community College, becoming a director and trust member of Fusion Schools Trust. He was on the board of Stoke Lodge Primary School. Has also been Chair of Governors at Barley Close Community Primary School and Callicroft Primary School. He was also a Member of South Gloucestershire Governor Executive Committee. Mr Howells has an exceptional background in this field.

Cllr P Moss asked if he would be on the council as well



Cllr I Perry clarified that he would only be MAR Governor and not a Member of the Council, and explained his position as MAR governor and how he would represent the Community Council.

Cllr S Cockrell – did put it forward that he wanted to step down as MAR governor candidate, and allow this continue with Geoff and he would be placed elsewhere.

Cllr S Curien ask for clarification regarding the school application and issues surrounding this.

Cllr I Perry clarified and explained what has been happening over the last 18 months.

Cllr P Moss suggested that Geoff Howells attended next meeting to meet him

Cllr S Cockrell agreed and would be happier to meet him before he steps down as candidate as MAR Governor.

Cllr P Moss asked if the schools plans do not go ahead, would it be considered to us to bid to use the building as a Community Centre/ Facility.

Cllr I Perry mentioned that it could be a potential nursery as it has been suggested.

Members discussed other uses for the building – but this was to be discussed further in future meetings, but also mentioned that the new school would be a Community school and the community would have access to use its facilities.

Cllr P Moss brought up the issue of the school only being available to us during the evenings.

**Cllr S Cockrell Proposed Geoff as MAR Governor.**

**Cllr J Griffiths Second it.**

## **8. Public participation**

No members of public attended this meeting

## **9. To consider matters arising from resident participation**

Cllr I Perry asked if anyone would like to help with the application for listing the former of the Police Station.

Cllr S Cockrell said he would help.

## **10. To receive a Financial update**

Cllr I Perry confirmed that investigations into outsourcing the council's financial management is ongoing.



## 11. To consider Action Plan for 2021-22

Cllr I Perry – said the action plan is a guide for us to work towards over the next few months – we are behind the curve ball and should have by now had a few meetings to get this resolved.

Cllr P Moss – asked if this including parts that had been agreed in previous meetings.

Cllr I Perry clarified that some had been discussed but most of it we needed to discuss and sort out. We also needed a training policy for the clerk and Members of the Council.

Cllr P Moss says he supports a lot of the draft Action Plan but he felt he wanted to discuss some parts of the spending plan. And agreed to the principle of increasing the precept.

**\*\*\*Please see Draft Action plan for reference\*\*\***

Mr Geoffrey Howells entered meeting at 20:09 and introduced himself.

Cllr S Cockrell asked Geoffrey Howell some questions on what he what be doing as MAR Governor.

Geoffrey Howells explained first of all he said he wanted to build bridges.

Cllr P Moss asked Geoffrey Howells did he feel that there might be a conflict as a diplomatic view and the view of the council.

Geoffrey Howell replied said it's a balancing act and understanding where each party was coming from to create harmony and possibly unity.

Cllr P Moss suggested having frequent reports to the ~Council.

Geoffrey Howell said there is a limit as to how much and which elements were relayed back to council due to confidentiality, but would have to be verbally and not in such as a report.

Mr Howells was co-opted/elected as MAR Governor and left the meeting.



In order meet a set of minimum standards to deliver effectively for the community, the Community Council must publish the following online:

- Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.
- Code of Conduct & link to Councillors' Register of Interests.
- Publication scheme.
- Minutes for all council and committee minutes for a full year.
- Current agendas.
- Evidence of participating in town and country planning.
- Contracts for all members of staff
- Disciplinary and Grievance Procedures

Cllr I Perry stated that the council is working towards this at the moment

Deadline for amendments to Draft Action Plan will be Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021, please contact Sofia Hillman or Cllr I Perry.

## **12. To consider projects and likely associated costs**

**Transfer of public assets and services to the Community Council. The Community Council has resolved to:**

- Maes y Ffynon Green and open space – Community Asset Transfer of land owned by Vale Council Housing Department at Bonvilston to the Community Council
- Village Gateway Signs – logos, clean, maintain, replace

### **Additional proposals:**

- Clean, upgrade and maintain bus shelters (if new shelters not provided by advertising company) – see Good Councillors Guide.
- Housing Department land at St Nicholas – Community Asset Transfer
- Open space around the Church: Owned by the Community Council, but maintained by the Vale Council – bring back under Community Council control
- Maintain all other open space/verges within St Nicholas (away from the A48) and at Pen yr Heol, Bonvilston that are currently maintained by the Vale Council. Possibilities for planting, benches, art and activity.
- Quality street name signs – including Community Council logo
- Edwardian garden – biodiversity
- Fitness stations – street gyms
- Village Green enhancements
- Art on Duffryn Lane - Cllr J Griffith was not too keen on this. Cllr I Perry suggested possibility of grants, but they are just ideas at the moment and nothing set in stone.



- New bench at Duffryn Lane
- Planting/orchard at Pen Yr Heol
- Orchard trees at Button Ride
- Additional Christmas Trees – Maes y Ffynon, Cottrel Gardens, Duffryn Lane
- Mark toll house
- Information sign for water pumps

### 13. To consider draft budget

**\*\*\* Please see attached Draft Budget for reference \*\*\***

Cllr P Moss – what about the precept? He suggested that the Place Plan should be increased realistically.

Cllr I Perry – these figures are just draft but £4000 is a starting figure for a Place Plan.

Cllr I Perry – explained the different precepts in Wales and that most councils are influenced by neighbouring councils

Cllr I Perry – we need to justify why we want a certain precept, via paper work, ideas and justifiability.

Cllr I Perry the deadline for setting the precept is February 3<sup>rd</sup>, Sofia and Ian will need to look at the agenda for that meeting after this meeting.

Cllr P Moss – we need to be aware of people affordability and for good reasons why we are increasing the precept and set a strategy to go to the public and explain why we want to increase our precept and what we want to do it, and he would support this under those guide lines.

Cllr S Cockrell – about action plan – power of competency – would the boundary review have any effect on this?

Cllr I Perry – No it comes into effect in 2022.

Cllr I Perry – if anyone has thoughts about the budget please let us know.

### 14. Next meeting

3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021 at 19:30.

### 15. Closing remarks

None.



These Minutes were approved at the meeting of February 3, 2021



Cllr Ian Perry

Chair

