



**Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of St Nicholas with Bonvilston
Community Council, on Monday 15th August 2022 at 19.00**
**The meeting was held remotely in accordance with the Local Authorities
(Coronavirus) (Meetings) (Wales) Regulations 2020.**

PRESENT: Cllrs I Perry, A Harris, J Griffiths, M Sexton.

Members of the Public: 0

Minutes: Mrs C L Cotterell (Locum Clerk)

Meeting started at 19.02

1. Chair's welcome and introductions

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

2. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies received from Cllrs Rackley, Clarke and Halsey. Cllrs Driscoll and Glasson were absent.

3. To receive declarations of interest

None.

4. Annual Governance & Accountability Return 2021-22

- a) To consider the Internal Auditor's Report and associated action plan – **Resolved** to accept the Internal Audit report and approve the internal audit action plan – Proposed Cllr Harris, seconded Cllr Sexton.
- b) To approve the Accounting Statements for 2021-22 – **Resolved** to approve the Accounting Statements for 2021-22 – Proposed Cllr Sexton, Cllr Griffiths.
- c) To approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2021-22 – **Resolved** to approve the Annual Governance Statement and the responses with explanations for the "No" responses to statements 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 8. (see Appendix) – Proposed Cllr Sexton, seconded Cllr Harris.
- d) To agree the publication of electors rights for 2021-22 – Agreed dates for the electors rights to be 16th August to 14th September 2022 – **Resolved** - Proposed Cllr Perry, seconded Cllr Griffiths.

5. Finance

- a) To approve the following schedule of payments – **Resolved** - Proposed Cllr Perry, seconded Cllr Griffiths.

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Cheque</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Netistrar (IT)	Debit	£10.26
One Voice Wales – Cllr Training		£65.00
Damian McKenna – Watering (08.08.2022)		£132.00
Damien McKenna -		£114.00



Mossfords

CYNGOR CYMUNEDOL
**ST NICHOLAS
BONVILSTON**
COMMUNITY COUNCIL

(war memorial cleaning)

£2217.00

Cllrs agreed to look at purchasing a hedge cutter for the probation service to use for Community Council projects, up to £500, and look to apply for a grant for a further hedge cutter later. Cllr Sexton to circulate options.

6. Conservation Areas

To consider the integrity of Conservation Areas and preservation and enhancement of Locally Listed buildings.

A discussion was held around the retrospective planning application for change of roof tiles in Dyffryn Close which do not match existing. Proposal is to challenge the Vale Council over the conservation area rules. Chairman has spoken with Planning Aid Wales, there is the potential to go to the ombudsman. The other option is to obtain legal advice and potentially to go for a judicial review – it appears there could be a strong case as the conservation area rules are very clear. Cost expected to be below £3000 for legal advice with Harrison Grant which is within budget for 2022-23. **Resolved** for Cllr Perry to initially approach Harrison Grant – Proposed Cllr Griffiths, seconded Cllr Sexton.

7. Announcements and Next meeting

Solar farm update – the Working Group have met and plan to write to Cenin Renewables to arrange a meeting to obtain further information.

Active travel consultation – confirmed best to respond as individuals for now. There is a second consultation expected later.

Community Engagement – working group to arrange a meeting soon.

Next Ordinary Meeting – 12th September 2022 at 7pm

Meeting closed at 20.03



Appendix

Reasons for “No” Responses

1. We have put in place arrangements for:

- effective financial management during the year; and
- the preparation and approval of the accounting statements.

Financial management has been varied, partly due to lack of consistent staffing. Measures to address will be put in place for 2022/23.

2. We have maintained an adequate system of internal control, including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption, and reviewed its effectiveness.

Internal controls not always adequately exercised. Measures have been put in place to ensure future compliance.

3. We have taken all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and codes of practice that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of the Council to conduct its business or on its finances.

Codes of practice not always properly followed. Measures now in place to correct in future.

4. We have provided proper opportunity for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014.

Accounts and Governance Statement not completed in time to allow for exercise of electors rights within required dates.

5. We have carried out an assessment of the risks facing the Council and taken appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.

Risk register now in place but financial controls not always properly adhered to during the year.

8. We have taken appropriate action on all matters raised in previous reports from internal and external audit.

Matters previously highlighted by Internal Audit not all rectified. Action plan now in place to deal with recommendations.