

St Nicholas with Bonvilston Community Council

Minutes of the EGM of the St Nicholas with Bonvilston Community Council, called by Cllr Perry, held remotely via video conferencing on Thursday 20th August 2020 at 19:30.

PRESENT:

Cllr I Perry (Chair)

Cllr S Cockrell

Cllr A Brown

ALSO PRESENT:

N. McGarrigle (Clerk)

Residents G. Howell, M. O'Hagan, E. O'Hagan, T. Knowles, J. Beadsworth, R. Evans, P. Williams, S. Carnall, B. Davies, R. Strong, J. Strong, B. Jones, M. Clarke, F. Jones, W. Carnall.

[1] APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr G Rawson, Cllr K Ward, Cllr C Jones, Cllr J Griffiths & Cllr E del Torto

[2] DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

[3] TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 6TH JULY 2020 & OF THE EGM HELD ON WEDNESDAY 29TH JULY 2020

As the Council is not quorate, this part of the meeting will be deferred to the September Full Council Meeting.

[4] PUBLIC SESSION

Resident Bryan Davies confirmed receipt of letter from the Vale on 14.08.20 informing residents of the planning application for St. Nicholas school although it was noted that notification of the application had not been placed on the notice board outside of the school. BD confirmed that notice is now there, although the letter is dated 20.08.20 so is currently seeking clarification on this.

Resident Tim Knowles raised concerns over the replies to the Transport Assessment in the PAC report. It is clear that the proposed solution of a two-way system will not work, in particular during the afternoon when children are collected from school. It is proposed that cars enter via School Lane and exit onto the A48. TK feels that Highways have not responded to the pre-planning consultation. The Vale need to assess and research this further if feasible. It is envisaged that there will be a build up of traffic on the A48. Pressure needs to be put on the Vale to investigate. TK further added that there is no reference in the Parking Assessment to parking in the village.

Resident Sally Carnall raised concerns over drop off/pick up for nursery, this will add to the challenge. School events are also concern as residents may experience difficulty in accessing their properties due to vehicles blocking residents from parking in the village. Residents may become housebound in fear of losing space. The proposed plan is not the right site to funnel children into school.

BD confirmed that he plans to meet with Alun Cairns MP who will assist by providing names of Councillors who residents can approach. Cllr S Cockrell advised he would contact AC to follow up as the contact BD has for AC is currently on annual leave. SC confirmed she would contact Jane Hutt AM and ask her to visit the village.

Cllr Perry confirmed he has written to the Vale Council to complain due to the lack of engagement with the Community Council.

BD asked for clarification on the Community Council's position on the application. Cllr Perry advised residents that as the Council is not quorate at this meeting, discussion of the Council's response will be deferred to the full council meeting in September. Cllr Perry confirmed that he has begun the process of drafting a response on behalf of the Community Council following the PAC report.

Cllr Perry further commented that he has asked Play Wales for their opinion on the proposed sport field and for advice on the legal requirements as there appears to be a shortage of play space.

Resident Geoffrey Howell raised concerns over the safety of children and residents after reading the PAC report. There appears to be no comment from South Wales Fire & Rescue Service, the Police or Emergency Services. Resident Mike O'Hagan advised of the serious implications if emergency vehicles cannot access properties. This cannot be ignored.

Cllr Perry raised concerns on air and noise pollution and is working on a response from the Community Council in relation to this. Cllr Perry to include concerns on lack of access for emergency and residents' vehicles.

BD highlighted that everyone needs to complain again, following the initial 84 objections, to show that residents are not happy with the PAC report.

Resident Paul Williams agreed with BD that a letter needs to be assembled highlighting main points of concern and delivered throughout the village, encouraging individual objections. This must happen as soon as possible. PW suggested sending a copy of the letter to the Vale Planning Committee. Cllr Perry advised this would not be a good idea as the additional work will overload them and the letter will go unread. Cllr Brown suggested that the St. Nicholas Village Facebook page could be used to circulate objections, although Cllr Perry advised that he would need to have the agreement of the Community Council to submit a letter on behalf of the Community Council.

[5] TO RECEIVE AND UPDATE ON THE MINUTES ON PROGRESS OF ACTIONS AS AGREED AT THE EGM HELD ON 29TH JULY 2020

Deferred until the September meeting.

[6] TO CONSIDER THE PLANNING APPLICATION FOR ST NICHOLAS SCHOOL 2020/00874/RG3

Deferred to the September meeting when the Community Council is quorate.

[7] TO CONSIDER OTHER PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- a) 2020/00840/RG3 The Cwm, Brook Lane, St. Nicholas: Change of use to rural enterprise.

Cllr Perry has sought clarification from the applicant on the use of kennels, who has confirmed that no kennels are planned. The 2nd horse is expected to be used as a companion. The dog field is proposed for private members only. Members will be vetted. A puppy school is proposed for one day a week.

Resident Rebecca Strong commented that this information conflicts with the planning application and queried if it will be re-submitted to reflect the information above.

Concerns raised by residents in relation to the planning application:

- Surrounding area is used for sheep
- Concerns over use of Brook Lane; it is a quiet lane used for cyclists and walkers but busy with tractors and other agricultural vehicles.
- Brook Lane is not suitable for a high volume of traffic
- Resident Frederick Jones commented that The Cwm has only ever been used as a residential home. Now this will change to a commercial/business enterprise.

Cllr Perry confirmed that he would write in a personal capacity and ask for clarification on the detail of the planning application from Highways in relation to the use of the lane.

- b) 2020/00818/FUL Whitton Mawr Solar Farm: Extended time limit of planning application 2014/00798/FUL.

Cllr Perry raised concerns on the environmental impact, assessment has not been considered. Cllr Perry to personally object.

- c) 2020/00755/FUL New dwelling, vacant agricultural land with abandoned rural buildings forming a previous small holding/farmstead.

No objection.

[8] COUNCILLOR REPORTS

- a) Cllr Brown shared that work has started on the phone box library in St Nicholas.
- b) Cllr Cockrell confirmed the new Community Council website will be live by 23rd September 2020.
- c) Cllr Perry raised concerns over the footpaths being ploughed, they need to be reinstated as required by law following harvesting.
- d) Commissioned art declined by residents on Campbell Court due to lack of green space. It has been proposed that the money is to be spent on a pond at the school although this has caused upset due to the money being intended for the community. Cllr Perry confirmed that the Commissioners have been invited to join the Community Council at the September meeting.

This meeting closed at 20:50.

NAOMI MCGARRIGLE.

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Chairman

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Date