

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of St Nicholas with Bonvilston Community Council,
held on Tuesday 14th of January 2025.**

A hybrid meeting was held with Members and residents able to attend at the Field Study Centre, Amelia Trust Farm or remotely in accordance with the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 and the council Standing Orders.

Members present: Cllr I Perry (Chair), Cllr A Harris, Cllr C Volrath, Cllr M Hinton, Cllr I Forcada, Cllr Ward.

Also present: Three members of the public were in the room and five members of the public joined remotely.

The meeting was opened by the Chair at 19:10.

1. Chair's welcome and introductions

The Chair confirmed quorum and introduced members of the council to the public.

2. To receive apologies for absence

Cllr Griffiths, Cllr M Farkasovska.

3. To receive declarations of interest

None.

4. Police Matters

Cllr Perry ran through the incidents reported in the meeting agenda documentation. There is still debris on Well Lane following the single vehicle collision. A request was made for the lane to be swept.

5. Vale of Glamorgan Council matters

There is an expected start date for work at the end of Maes y Ffynnon of April 1. The cost is estimated at £1.9m. A resident of Maes y Ffynnon raised the issue of exiting Maes y Ffynnon on mornings due to the volume of traffic.

6. To approve Minutes

- a. Meeting of December 10 – approved
Proposed Cllr Forcada, seconded Cllr Volrath
It was noted that the next meeting date was incorrect.

7. Updates from other meetings attended

None.

8. Correspondence from organisations including One Voice Wales

a. Information Commissioners Officer

Information held online by a third party can't be removed. The Information Commissioner Office advice that the Community Council should have taken more care to ensure it maintained the ability to remove information online. The matter is closed.

9. Feedback on Christmas Trees

Comments were made that the overall cost of the Christmas Trees was too high. It was suggested that volunteers might install trees – but this was counted by liability on the public highway.

10. Clerks' activity report and updates on Community Council projects

A Locum Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer has begun work

a. Defibrillator installation

The council is still awaiting the contractor who is installing the cabinets as part of their Community Benefit form contracts awarded by the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

b. Memorial Paving and bench

The kerbs to the front of the Memorial are to be dropped this week, and the new paving will be laid soon afterwards.

c. Warm up with a cuppa

Leaflets delivered and the event will take place on January 15 in the Café at Dyffryn Gardens.

d. Forces Fitness

April 23 has been agreed.

e. Remembrance

Bagpipers have been booked for Sunday November 9 and Tuesday November 11 at 10:30am. There is an agency fee for finding the piper for November 9.

f. Accessible Footpath Gates

A site visit has been conducted. Flooding of part of the Millenium Heritage Trail was noted and a boardwalk may be required due to the depth of water.

g. Training update

Cllrs Volrath and Ward to attend Code of Conduct Training.

h. Clerk recruitment

An advert is live with two credible candidates. The council has opportunity to consider applications on January 28. It was agreed to interview candidates on January 24 in the Field Study Centre at Amelia Trust Farm. The panel will be Cllr Harris, Cllr Hinton and Cllr Volrath.

11. Correspondence from the public

None.



12. Discussion Forum – Matters not on the agenda

A resident raised the precept being much higher than neighbouring villages with more facilities. Every town and community is different. The levy in St Nicholas and Bonvilston is about average for the UK. The only source of income for this Community Council is the precept.

Town, Community and Parish councils are raising precepts as county councils and unitary authorities are devolving services to the minor authorities.

13. Co-option of member

None

14. Finances

a. To add member to bank mandate and online banking

It was resolved to add Cllr Ward to the mandate and online banking.

Proposed Cllr Perry, seconded Cllr Hinton

b. Payments to approve

- PR Accountancy (Gocardless) – Payroll – £20.00 (direct debit) – February
- Acrobat DC subscription – £19.97 (card) – February
- Enwau – Clerks email – £10.26 (card) – February
- Giff Gaff – phone and data – £6 (card) – February
- Scribe 58.80 (direct debit) – February
- Abbey Building – installation of ten Christmas Trees – £3,976 + £795VAT = £4,771.28
- Abbey Building – replacement of lights - £396 + £79.20VAT = £475.20
- Abbey Building – cheque no: 101139 - £5,246.48
- Equals Money – Annual Account Fee - £60

Proposed Cllr I Forcada, seconded Cllr C Volrath

15. Licensing: Bonvilston Reading Rooms

The consultation period has elapsed for the consultation.

16. Planning decisions and updates

Infinis have purchased Oakland Solar Park. Infinis describes itself as a leading low carbon energy generator. No comments.

No comments on planning decisions.



17. To consider planning applications and matters

- a. **Model Farm** – Hybrid application comprising an outline application for the demolition of existing buildings and erection of 44.75ha Class B1/B2/B8 Business Park, car parking, landscaping, drainage infrastructure, ecological mitigation and ancillary works (all matters reserved aside from access) within Area A and a full application for change of use from agricultural land to country park (Use Class D2) within Area B
The Community Council **resolved** to submit an objection to PEDW in relation to need of the development and the resulting traffic and associated pollutions
- b. **2, Dyffryn Close, St Nicholas** – Installation of roof mounted solar panels
No comments
- c. **4, Dyffryn Close, St Nicholas** – Installation of roof mounted solar panels
No comments
- d. **10, Dyffryn Close, St Nicholas** – Installation of roof mounted solar panels
No comments
- e. **12, Dyffryn Close, St Nicholas** – Installation of roof mounted solar panels
No comments
- f. **13, Dyffryn Close, St Nicholas** – Installation of roof mounted solar panels
No comments
- g. **Ty Cerrig, Pen Y Waun, Bonvilston** – Single storey infill extension to side
No comments
- h. **Treetops, Duffryn Lane, St Nicholas** – New two-storey dwelling in the grounds of Treetops, with associated double garage and landscape work. Existing outbuilding to be demolished and replaced with double garage to serve existing house. Amended plans.
No comments

18. To consider

- a. **Warm Up with a Cuppa – Baffle Haus**
It was agreed to hold the next coffee morning on Wednesday, February 12 at Baffle Haus. There was also a brief discussion on digital exclusion and the possibility of linking future coffee mornings to an activity/talk/event.
Cllr Hinton left the meeting.
Bonvilston Memorial repairs grant
It was resolved to seek a grant for a professional survey of the Memorial so that the necessary repairs can be carried out.
Proposed Cllr Harris, seconded Cllr Volrath
- b. **Ongoing cleaning and maintenance of St Nicholas Memorial**
There was a discussion as part of the budgeting process.
- c. **Pedestrian gates at Tyn y Coed Farm**
A decision was deferred until members had made site visits.
- d. **Winter planning of planters**
It was agreed to wait for the daffodils to appear before planting.



- e. **Community Hub proposal**
It was agreed that the Community Hub is much needed. The council will continue to explore opportunities to deliver a community hub and associated services.
- f. **Business/Corporate Plan**
The document included in the agenda documentation was discussed. More emphasis on community development might be made and objectives tightened.
- g. **Brass and tea on the Green, Bonvilston – following walk led by Valeways**
Barry Brass have been approached and will notify their availability shortly.
- h. **Afternoon Tea and Music on the Village Green, St Nicholas – following Valeways walk**
It was agreed to proceed with this event.
- i. **VJ80 – August 17**
VJ80 falls on a Sunday. It was agreed to commemorate the occasion.

19. To discuss

- a. **Improvement and expansion of footpath network**
- b. **Funding of Active Travel detailed design**
Contributing to the cost of widening the narrow footway along the A48 between Cae Newydd and the rest of St Nicholas was discussed.
- c. **Projects for 2025-26**
The Community Council expressed a willingness to pay a shortfall on school minibus funding. The lack of utilisation of the minibus was noted and the potential use of a minibus by the community (individuals, groups and by the council for events) and Greenlinks (Community on-demand transport) as well as the school.

20. Next meeting

The second January meeting will be held on January 28.

The meeting ended at 21:10.

