



GARW VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE & RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD AT
BLAENGARW WORKMEN'S HALL 5TH SEPTEMBER 2017 AT 1.00 PM

Present: Councillor J Davies (Finance Committee Chair)

Councillors: C G Andrews
H Griffiths (Council Chair)
R Stirman

Also Present: Mrs A C Harris, Clerk & RFO

Apologies: None

FR41/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED:

There were no declarations of personal or prejudicial interest.

FR42/17 TO READ, CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 4TH JULY 2017

RESOLVED:

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4th July 2017 were accepted as a true and accurate record; with this, the Chairman duly signed the Minute Book.

FR43/17 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE JULY 2016 MEETING

Parc Calon Lan - Footpath Work:

As agreed at the last meeting, the Clerk had contacted the Building Training College in Maesteg and they have expressed an interest in looking at this job as part of a training programme with the hope of achieving a reduced cost to the Community Council. The Clerk had arrange to meet with a representative on site on 7th September to look at the work. The Clerk had also asked them about the repair to the stone pillars in Bettws and they'd agreed to consider this work too.

Debit Card:

Further forms have been received for signature and the process is on-going.

Resolved: Both updates were noted. The action of the Clerk regarding the stone pillars was noted too.

FR44/17 TO REVIEW THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET AND ANY POTENTIAL RISKS TO THE BUDGET

Risks to date:

The training budget, elections and Christmas costs were noted as per the last meeting. In addition further risk was highlighted as a by-election in Bettws had now been called for the 28th September and with the passing of Councillor Hillier in Pontycymmer there is now also the likelihood of a by election in Pontycymmer too this autumn.

The Clerk pointed out that £8,000 of the Contingency fund had been spent on Flood Lights for the new Bettws schools and although not a threat at the moment, it has taken up a substantial amount of the fund as they were not included in the budget for

2017/18. In addition one of the new life rings at Pontycymmer Lake has disappeared and as it is a condition of the Community Council's lease to provide these items there will be an additional cost of £150 for the purchase of a replacement.

Members suggested that there is a need for a tree cam at one of the bird nesting sites and it was agreed to recommend the purchase to the full council.

Resolved: The potential risks, further expenditure and the purchase recommendation were noted.

FR45/17 TO REVIEW THE COUNCIL'S CHRISTMAS BUDGET FOR 2017

The budget for Christmas 2017 decorations for the valley is £5,000, £1,250 per ward. The costs of decorations and trees were discussed.

Resolved: To recommend to full council that anything spent over and above £1,250 in 2017 in a ward would be paid out of individual ward funds and to look at possibly increasing the budget in the precept for 2018/19.

FR46/17 UPDATE ON ITEMS TO BE ADDED TO THE INSURANCE POLICY

The policy renewal date is 1st October. The Clerk had received a quote of £23.21 to add the following items to the policy: 4 life rings, 4 dog waste bag dispensers, 2 storage containers, 1 log splitter and 1 noticeboard and as the renewal date is so close the insurance company agreed to increase the cover but not add the cost until the policy renews. The life rings and dog waste bag dispensers are only insured if all 4 are damaged or stolen as the value of individual items is below the policy excess of £250.

The need for the log splitter was questioned. The Clerk asked if there was a need to keep the coffee machine installed at the Visitor's Centre or considered whether it could be sold as it is no longer in use.

Resolved: To recommend to full council to add these items to the policy at the small additional cost in October. It was agreed that the Clerk would talk to the Community Warden about the need for the log splitter and to consider whether to sell it. It was agreed to look at the coffee machine to check if it's in working order or if it could be repaired to sell.

FR47/17 TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL FUND 2017/2018

This had been included as an agenda item due to its financial nature. The Clerk wanted to remind Members that the turnaround for applications for this grant is very tight given that the deadline is 30th September and the full council meeting does not take place until the 18th.

Resolved: The deadline was noted and Members would consider the application for discussion at the full council meeting on 18th September 2017.

FR48/17 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT FINANCE & RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING

Resolved: There were no items suggested for the agenda of the next meeting as it would be primarily to discuss the draft precept budget for 2018/2019, therefore it was agreed to keep this open to include anything that may arise in the time between meetings, with the Chair's agreement.

FR49/17 TO AGREE THE DATE AND LOCATION FOR THE NEXT FINANCE & RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING

Resolved: The Committee will next meet on Tuesday 7th November 2017 at 1.00 pm venue tbc.

Additional Notes for Information:

The Clerk reported that an unqualified audit with no matters raised had been received and would be presented to full council in September. An invoice for £177.30 had also been received which is £372.70 less than the audit figure in the Budget.

She also reported that a VAT reclaim of £720.25 has been received for the period the Interim Clerk was in place in 2015/16 and that a claim for £4,202.63 has been made for 2016/2017. In addition £114.13 and £158.54 have been received from St Brides Minor and Coity Higher Community Councils in payment for their portion of the Code of Conduct training held in June.

With there being no further matters to discuss the Chairman thanked Members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 1.50 pm