

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Community Liaison Committee held at the County Borough Council Offices, The Pavilions, Clydach Vale on Monday, 18 March 2013 at 5.30 p.m.

PRESENT

County Borough Councillor M. Webber – in the Chair
County Borough Councillor A. Morgan

Community Councillors

Councillor M. Walters (Chair) Mr M Burke (Clerk)	Hirwaun & Penderyn Community Council
Mrs E. Jones (Clerk)	Gilfach Goch Community Council
Mr P. Davies (Clerk)	Llanaharan Community Council
Councillor D. E. Nicholas Mrs A. Jenkins (Clerk)	Llantrisant Community Council
Councillor J. Hutchinson	Llantwit Fardre Community Council
Councillor M. E. Harvey Mr G. Williams	Pontypridd Town Council
Councillor M. Griffiths (Vice-Chair)	Pontyclun Community Council
Councillor M. Jones Mr D. Allinson (Clerk)	Taffs Well & Nantgarw Community Council
Councillor K. Godfrey	Tonyrefail Community Council

Officers in Attendance

Mr P. Lucas – Director of Legal & Democratic Services
Ms K. May – Democratic Services Manager
Ms J. Nicholls – Senior Democratic Services Officer

1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Members had no interests to declare in matters pertaining to the agenda.

2 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed members of the Community and Town Councils to this the first Community Liaison Committee and requested that introductions be made for the benefit of all present.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

3 TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE

The Director, Legal & Democratic Services presented, for consideration, the proposed terms of reference of the Community Liaison Committee with details of Membership and contact details for the benefit of the Community and Town Councillors. Following a discussion it was agreed to accept the Terms of Reference of the Community Liaison Committee subject to the following amendments:-

The membership of the Community Liaison Group:

- Town and Community Councils:
 - The Chairs of the Town and Community Councils *and one other Member as appointed by the individual Community Councils*
 - *Clerks: The Clerks of the Town and Community Councils will be invited to attend and participate in meetings of the Community Council.*

Agenda Items:

- Members will be given advance notice of the dates and times of the meetings and in terms of openness and transparency will be invited to contribute towards the agenda in respect of *the delivery of functions* (operational matters to be dealt with via the Liaison Officer and the Clerks of the respective Town/Community Councils) and participate proactively to the attendance and discussion. The Chairman has the right to refuse any items to be placed on the agenda, if felt inappropriate.

4 AWARD OF FUNDING IN RELATION TO COMMUNITY COUNCIL WEBSITES

The Director, Legal & Democratic Services outlined the purposes of the grant funding to assist community councils to publish information on and be contactable through the Internet. As an aide to the oral report handouts were distributed to members of the committee in order to clarify the targets and deadlines of the funding (31 March 2014). A discussion ensued in relation to the grant terms and conditions which need to be established in order for the principal council to be able to distribute the appropriate funding of £500 per community council. It was also noted that the IT Division at Rhondda-Cynon-Taf County Borough Council would assist with guidance and support in developing existing websites or the implementation of new websites. Queries were raised in relation to the detail of the grant terms and conditions, which it was confirmed would be clarified and circulated to all the community councils within the next few

weeks. There followed further clarification by the Director, Legal & Democratic Services in respect of the issue of remote attendance.

5 INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES – PAYMENTS TO MEMBERS OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS & TOWN COUNCILS

Members of the committee were reminded that the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales were widening their remit to include payments of allowances to members of community and town councils. The Director of Legal & Democratic Services made reference to item 3.3 and 3.4 of the Independent Remuneration Panel Annual Report 2012, which set out the background to the payments to members of the community and town councils following a consultation period. It was reported that the Remuneration Panel are coming to Rhondda-Cynon-Taff Council on the 18th April 2013 as part of an awareness raising visit. Discussions followed in respect of the payments.

6 CODE OF CONDUCT TRAINING

The Director, Legal & Democratic Services confirmed that following the initial Code of Conduct training received by members of the community and town councils following the elections in May, 2012, further guidance has been issued by the Ombudsman prompting the need to re visit the training in respect of the Code. It was explained that each training session would be organised around the scheduled meetings of the community councils and rolled out over the next twelve months. Following discussions around the training needs a request was made by several Community and Town Councillors to receive development control training and it was agreed that although this could be arranged by Rhondda-Cynon-Taf officers consideration would need to be given to guidance already provided to those members of One Voice Wales so as to avoid any duplication of training sessions.

7 BOUNDARY COMMISSION

Members of the Committee were informed that the provisions of the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Bill are intended to reform the functions of the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales and within the legislation there will be a requirement to undertake a community boundary review. It was added that if the Bill is passed it will also amend the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011.

It was suggested that this year, being a fallow year for elections would be the most convenient time to commence the ground work for the review. Members were reminded that the last review was undertaken in 2008 with the support of the Boundary Commission and it is likely that such support

and assistance will again be forthcoming. The Director, Legal & Democratic Services confirmed that the Council's Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee will also be assisting with this preparatory work and requested that the Community & Town Councillors inform him of any known boundary anomalies within their individual wards as soon as possible so as to identify these issues in advance. He added that formal letters reiterating this information would be circulated to all Community & Town Councils in due course.

8 OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and requested that any pre agenda items for the subsequent Community Liaison Committee should be discussed with Ms Karyl May in advance of the meeting.

**M. WEBBER
CHAIRMAN**

The meeting terminated at 6.25 p.m.