

Minutes of the Grovesend & Waungron Community Council Special Meeting held on

Thursday, 21st July, 2011

Present:

Mr. L. Jones, Chairman

Mr. M. Jones

Mrs. T. Rees

Mr. B. Williams

Mr. D. True

Mr. J. John

Mrs. C. Knox

Mrs. T. Morgan

Mrs. S. Morgan

Mr. J.I. Burge (Secretary)

Mr. H. Bates (Chairman & Trustee of Miners Club)

Mr. D. Merriman (Trustee)

Mr. J. White (Trustee)

Mr. R. Davies (Secretary to Trustees)

2 x Club Committee Members

Secretary to Miners Club

1498. Mr. J.I. Burge explaining to all present that the purpose of the meeting had been suggested following the attendance by Mr. Merriman and Mr. White at the July monthly meeting of the Community Council where the issue of the re-location of the Community Council was discussed. The Secretary outlined several issues that had caused Members to re-assess where future meetings would take place; including: the receipt of a letter of response from Mr. H. Bates to the Community Council representations regarding the NFU Farmers Wives; role of the Trustees and role Club Committee; committee room repairs, heating and funding provided from the Community Council.

Mr. D. Merriman explained that in 1974 as a result of the Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation (CISWO) charitable trust, Trustees were created who took responsibility for the building and land surrounding the Miners Club. Currently there are six Trustees who take responsibility for the club on behalf of CISWO. The Trustees are a non-profitable organisation. In 1981 there was a requirement that the welfare hall and club were split apart from each other. Since then the Trustees rent the club area to the Committee. An agreement between the two parties means that the management and responsibility of both parts of the building (hall and club) would be undertaken by the Committee of the Club on behalf of the Trustees. Both the Trustees and Club though operate as entirely

separate organisations with both have their own financial accounts and balance sheets.

Mr. H. Bates explained that grants and financial assistance from CISWO had all but dried up in the past few years. The Club had been trying hard over the past few years to keep afloat.

It was explained that CISWO Officials had visited the Club recently and recommended that the current rate for hiring out the welfare hall should be increased to £30 per hour. The recommendation was considered by the Club Committee and it was accepted that increases to charges were needed but not to the full extent suggested by CISWO.

During the discussion regarding the NFU Farmers Wives, it was suggested that the issues between the Farmers Wives and Club had nothing to do with the Community Council. The Secretary explained that a formal letter requesting the assistance of the Community Councils had been received from the Farmers Wives. Given that this was a community group using a community facility Members of the Community Council felt they had a role in acting as a bridge between the two groups to resolve a dispute. All present agreed that the whole issue surrounding the NFU Farmers Wives could have been dealt with better in hindsight and that lessons had been learnt.

Mr. Bates explained that the issues and delays relating to the committee room repairs had occurred as a result of the original contractor letting them down and the requirement to engage a new suitable contractor took sometime to resolve. Additionally, following the repair of one leak in the roof another two appeared. It was confirmed that all leaks had now been repaired and the plastering would be completed shortly.

Mr. L. Jones thanked both the Trustees and Club Committee for meeting Members of the Community Council. He explained that he felt the meeting had been worthwhile and the air cleared.

Mr. J. Burge suggested that such a tri-party meeting should be held at least once a year or sooner if there were any difficulties occurring rather than leave matters fester. All agreed.

The remaining part of the meeting was held in private with only Members of the Community Council in attendance.

1499. Future Meetings of the Community Council.

A discussion took place regarding the positive and negative points of remaining at the Miners Club or relocating future meetings to the Brynlliw Club.

The main issues of concern were: the village hall was a community facility and as such the village would not forgive the Community Council if the Council turned its back on it and it should close for good. The impression to outside agencies such as the Police, Swansea Council Officers etc when visiting to make presentations or representations that meetings are held in a public house, however, it was pointed out that meetings would take place in the back room away from the main part of the pub and public meetings have taken place at the Brynlliw in the past. The meeting room of the Club was not disabled friendly and concern was expressed that this may prevent members of the public from attending meetings. It was also noted that a commitment had already been given to the owner of the Brynlliw Club that future meetings would be taking place there. In turn the owner had reserved the hall for Community Council use.

Members weighed up all comments and concerns and recommended that an offer by made to the Committee of the Miners Club that the future meetings would remain at there. However, in order to comply with disability legislation and to encourage greater public attendance, meetings would move to the Welfare Hall and to the first Tuesday of

each month instead of the second Wednesday of the month. An offer of £20 per month would be made to cover the cost of the heating and lighting of the hall during the winter period.

Rather than delay matters further the Secretary left the meeting to put the proposal to the Club Committee immediate who were holding their own private meeting elsewhere in the Club. Upon return the Secretary announced that the Committee had agreed to the recommendation fully. The Secretary would follow this up in writing to both the Club Committee and Trustees.

It was recommended that the Secretary sends a letter of thanks to Mrs. Carol Hodgson of the Brynlliw Club for her kind offer to host the Community Council.

1500. LDP Public Meeting.

It was agreed that there was a need to hold a public meeting to ensure as many residents as possible were aware of the development of the LDP and current Candidate Site application process being undertaken.

It was also agreed that the most suitable date over the next month to hold such a meeting would be week commencing 15th August in the village hall. The Secretary would confirm the actual date with the Club Committee and arrange some flyers for distribution around the village via the usual channels.