

Minutes of a general meeting of the St Athan Community Council, held on Tuesday 1st March 2016, in the Old School Hall Community Centre, Church Lane, St Athan, at 7-30pm

PRESENT.

Councillor D Crompton (Chairman)	
Councillor B Acott	Councillor D Elston
Councillor R Eustace	Councillor S Haines
Councillor Mrs J Lougher	Councillor D Street
Councillor D Willmot	Councillor Mrs S Williams
County Councillor J W Thomas	

APOLOGIES.

Councillor Ms A Barnaby	Councillor Mrs G Phillips
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1172. DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

Cllrs D Crompton and D Willmot declared an interest in Agenda item 1182 Library Services.

1173. MINUTES.

Cllr D Willmot PROPOSED : that the minutes of the general meeting held on the 2nd February 2016 be accepted as a true record of the proceedings.
SECONDED : Cllr R Eustace. CARRIED.

1174. MATTERS ARISING.

NIL.

1175. STANDING ORDERS.

Cllr S Haines PROPOSED : that STANDING ORDERS be suspended to permit the Community Police Officer to address the meeting,
SECONDED : Cllr Mrs S Williams CARRIED.

PC Jamie Williamson gave a brief report on the crime figures for February, 10 crimes had been reported, 2 damage to vehicles, 1 damage to a house, 1 shop incident, 1 camper van stolen, 1 dangerous driving, 1 domestic violence, 3 Miscellaneous. He said that crime in the Vale was low. A number of local incidents were discussed including the complaints regarding the "Gileston X Roads".

The Chairman thanked PC Williamson for attending the meeting.

STANDING ORDERS REINSTATED.

1176. CORRESPONDENCE.

1. Letter from Aberthaw Power Station Manager, updating on some of the developments at the Station. Enclosing a copy of the news letter "Power in the Community".
NOTED.

1177. CHAIRMAN'S ACTIONS.

NIL.

1178. INVOICES.

Clerks Wages		305 – 76
Inland Revenue	(PAYE)	78 – 00
Caretakers Wages		338 – 40
St Athan Comm/Assoc	(Hire of Hall)	20 – 00
Clerk's Expenses		38 – 59

PROPOSED : Cllr R Eustace

SECONDED ; Cllr S Haines

CARRIED.

1179. PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

NIL.

1180. REPORTS.

1. Cllr D Street gave a brief report on a One Voice Wales area meeting which he recently attended.
2. Cllr B Acott gave a brief update on the Heritage Coast and the date of the AGM.
3. Cllr R Eustace gave a brief report on the LDP Independent Inspectors meeting on Tuesday 1st March dealing with "Housing Allocation" "site MG2 (2) Higher End, MG2 (5) Land East Eglwys Road, MG2 (6) Froglands Farm, and MG2 (7) Eglwys Brewis Road.

1181. VERBAL RESPONSE TO IND – PLANNING CONSULTANT.

See ANNEX B for report.

1182. LIBRARY SERVICES.

A community library volunteers meeting was held on Tuesday 23rd February which the Chairman and Cllr D Willmot attended. The Chairman briefed members on the discussions that took place at that meeting. His report is attached to these minutes as ANNEX A.

1183. VACANCY – CO OPTION.

Following an interview which took place prior to this meeting, Mr David Elston was co-opted onto the St Athan Community Council.

1184. FINANCIAL APPEALS

1. Letter from “Teenage Cancer Trust” requesting financial assistance, merits of this appeal were discussed.

Cllr S Haines PROPOSED : No Action.

SECONDED : Cllr Mrs J Lougher

CARRIED.

2. Letter from “Tenovus” Cancer Care requesting financial assistance, merits of this appeal were discussed.

Cllr B Acott PROPOSED : No Action,

SECONDED : Cllr Mrs J Lougher

CARRIED.

1185. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

1. Actions for County Cllr J W Thomas : Cllr R Eustace pot-holes and road surfaces on road from Flemingston to Gigman. Cllr Mrs S Williams road from Four X into Gileston getting worse with large pot-holes. Cllr Thomas said he would report these matters to Highways Department.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 8-25pm, there was no members of the public present.

ANNEX A.

ST ATHAN COMMUNITY LIBRARY.

Now that the outcome of the Judicial Review on the consultation process for the creation of community libraries is known the Vale Council are keen to establish 5 community libraries of which St Athan is one. The current programme is for the libraries to be operational running with volunteers by 31 May 2016.

Work is now in progress by the group set up to establish the community library and is being led by Alison Haden and Graham Mallaghan. The intention is to establish a "Charitable Incorporated Organisation" (CIO) registered with the charity commissioners.

The constitution of such an organisation has been drafted using a template from the charity commission and is being forwarded to the Charity Commission for approval. The organisation will be run by a board of trustees 6 of whom are already chosen. The maximum number of trustees is 11 and there will be arrangements in place to rotate trustees. Bank accounts are being set up.

The timescale for approval by the Charity Commission is quite short and it is now anticipated that the CIO will be formally in place before 31 May.

The Vale Council are considering options for the transfer of the library building to the CIO. They had originally suggested that the freehold of the building might be transferred but now seem to suggest a 25 year lease. The CIO would prefer the freehold transfer and that will be the subject of discussions with the Vale Council over the coming weeks.

The Vale Council will continue to own the books in the library and will provide new books and rotate stock in accordance with their normal procedures.

The library will be run by volunteers. The Vale Council will train up to 12 volunteers for each library, further volunteers will be trained by those who have been trained by the Council. The training will be predominantly on site training.

The Vale Council will provide an initial start up fund for each library. The amount for St Athan Library is thought to be around £14,000. This money will fund the setting up of the CIO and allow for essential repair work to be done on the library.

ANNEX B.

Report on Local Development Plan – Hearing session 7 Housing Allocations 1st March 2016

The Community Council was represented by Cllr Roger Eustace, and Cllr Ann Barnaby attended as an independent.

The Housing allocation hearings were split into five separate sessions 7, 8,9,10 and 11.

Hearing 7 held at the Dock Offices covered housing allocations:

Mg2 (1)/SP2 (1)/MG3 – Barry Waterfront. There were no representations on this scheme, but the inspector questioned the Vale of Glamorgan representatives on a few planning points.

On all the below sites, we questioned the use of ‘green field’ and the scale of the developments.

MG2(2) – Land at Higher End, St Athan. This site was widely discussed; the validity of the site was questioned, together with the number of constraints outlined in the original candidate site assessment, and during the Community Councils written representation to the LDP.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council response statement was also disputed, as it suggested that the current ‘St John’s Well’ development and this additional allocation were ‘one of the same’ and therefore fully assessed during the planning application.

The inspector questioned the Vale of Glamorgan Council representatives on the disputed items, and on the constraints of this site, in particular the site access situation. The Vale confirmed that they were proposing use of the new access for the current development at St Johns Well, and that Highways had approved this access as part of the planning application – it was pointed out, again, that that application was for 100 dwellings this additional proposal was for a further 120 which Highways would not have considered during the application.

MG2 (3) – Church Farm, St Athan – The St Athan Community Councils position on this site was made, and that while we have no planning objections to this particular site, we do still dispute the total housing allocation to the St Athan area. We also recommended that this site could deliver many benefits to the Village, by way of a new access to the school, improvements to Gileston Road, including wider grass verge, pavement and cycle path. The possibility of extending the school was also discussed. However, the Vale Council conclusion was that although recognising a potential need this could be done within the existing site.

The Inspector also commented that this appeared to be a much more suitable site, than the previous one, and that had the Vale Council considered the possibility of extending this site.

MG2(4) – Former Stadium Site – although the Community Council did not raise any planning objections to this site, we did comment on the potential traffic issues in particular through Flemingston, due to its location. In addition the community of ‘East Vale’ concerns over the adoption issue of pavements and play areas, and the water supply issues. Welsh Water was in attendance and did acknowledge an issue; but that it could be mitigated following further study should a planning application come forward. The proximity of the golf course was also noted.

MG2(5) – Land to East of Eglwys Brewis - The Inspector took the lead on addressing this site, he questioned a number of constraints, ecological concerns that had been raised, and questioned the addition of this site, as it was not an original candidate site. The Vale Council acknowledged this. The inspector further questioned the ownership and inclusion of this site. It was also pointed out that the inclusion of the green space next to the Gathering Place in this allocation would lead to the loss of a community space currently enjoyed by a number of people.

MG2(6) –Froglands Farm, Llanmaes – There was much discussion on this site together with the next allocation which shared many of the same constraints. Flooding issues in particular were reviewed; together with access should the NAR (Northern Access Road) not be delivered. Other concerns regarding ecological, archaeological and the natural springs in the area.

The inspector questioned the Vale Council on these sites, and queried whether they were required to deliver the NAR, or would they be deliverable without the road.

The separation of these sites from the community of Llanmaes was also a concern, and the distance from the services of Llantwit Major.

MG2(7) – Eglwys Brewis Road, Llanmaes - It was felt that the issues with this site had mainly been covered during the previous allocation.

Hearing Session closed at lunch time.