

Minutes of a general meeting of the St Athan Community Council, held on Tuesday 4th April 2017, in the Old School Hall Community Centre, Church Lane, St Athan, at 7-30pm

**PRESENT.**

Councillor Ms A Barnaby	( Chairman ).
Councillor B Acott	Councillor D Crompton
Councillor D Elston	Councillor R Eustace
Councillor L Haines	Councillor S Haines
Councillor Mrs J Lougher	Councillor Mrs G Phillips
Councillor D Willmot	
County Councillor J W Thomas	

**APOLOGIES.**

Councillor D Street	Councillor Mrs S Williams
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**1344. DECLARATION OF INTEREST.**

Cllr D Crompton declared an interest in agenda item 13 Church grants & 14 Library Financial Grant  
Cllr D Willmot declared an interest in agenda item 14 Library Financial Grant.  
Cllr Mrs J Lougher declared an interest in agenda item 13 Church Grants  
County Cllr J T Thomas declared an interest in agenda item 13 Church Grants.

**1345. MINUTES.**

1. Cllr D Crompton PROPOSED : that the minutes of the general meeting held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2017 be accepted as a true record of the proceedings  
SECONDED : Cllr D Elston CARRIED.

**1346. MATTERS ARISING.**

Cllr Ms A Barnaby requested amendments to minutes 1338 Speeding & Road safety and minute 1343 Any Other Business. Corrections made to Master Copies.

**1347. STANDING ORDERS.**

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

PC Jamie Williamson gave a brief report on the crime figures for March, there had been 11 crimes reported 3 damage to property, 1 damage to vehicle, 2 domestic assaults, 1



## **1351. PLANNING APPLICATIONS.**

1. Pre-submission before applying for planning permission. - Proposed development of the Northern Access Road on land east of the B4165 between Boverton and Eglwys Brewis, St Athan.

The following response was made to this Pre-submission application :-

**Planning Consultation – Northern Access Road**

**20<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

Dear Sir or Madam

Following a our General meeting of the 2<sup>nd</sup> April, I have been asked by the members of the St Athan Community Council to comment on the proposal for the development of a ‘Northern Access Road’ at MOD St Athan. While acknowledging that this application comes under the ward of Llanmaes Community Council, we strongly believe that issues with this development and the siting of the main entrance to the business park will have much wider impacts to the residents of St Athan and the wider Vale of Glamorgan.

The Northern Access road was originally proposed for delivery of both the Defence College and an ABP, in around 2008. At that point and during the LDP process we commented that we believed it was an ‘unnecessary, over engineered and extravagant inclusion’ in the plan. The original proposal was projected to cost in the region of £20m, we cannot see how the current proposal can be delivered at a much lower cost, where although the bridge area may have been downsized the addition of a roundabout at the Boverton junction will require much more ‘blasting’ of the embankment than the previous design.

Of most disappointment is the inability of the Welsh Government to work and negotiate with the MOD to design and deliver a much more suitable and what we believe could be a much more prestigious entrance at West Gate. Detailed alternative plans were submitted during the original planning application process but were discounted due to potential security issues with the DC. However we believe these plans should be re-visited as it is not in the public interest to waste this amount of money on a pointless road, and we do still believe a suitable separate entrance road could be delivered at this site.

The positioning of the main entrance to the Aston Martin plant and the wider aspirations of the Enterprise zone, at Eglwys Brewis to the north of the site will cause issues in the surrounding country lanes as ‘stat navs’ will direct traffic (as it is doing today) via the many totally unsuitable single track lanes from the A48 from Cowbridge, Llantrithyd/Flemingston, and St. Hilary.

Of particular concern in St Athan is that by far the shorter route to the entrance for vehicles coming via the preferred route from the East along the B4265 will be through the village. While we acknowledge and welcome that the engineers have tried to mitigate this in the design – it is difficult to see how this has been achieved by the drawings, without affecting the access to Boverton/Llantwit Major for the residents of Eglwys Brewis. It was interesting to note that the organisers of the recent Aston Martin official ceremony actually identified the route through St Athan as the preferred route!

The consultation documents also show that the preferred route to the site from the west is along the ‘heritage’ coastal roads, rather than the route used by many local residents via B4270. During the original proposal we commented at the lack of attention being given to other infrastructure improvements our comment was that delivery of what is a short expensive road ‘in no way addresses the wider issue of access to the M4 which lies some 12 /14 miles (West /East) from this site much of which is rural roads’. Although some work is

now been delivered to the East on the Gileston Old Mill road, the main link to Cardiff and Eastern M4 is a daily issue of over capacity as many commute to Cardiff. To the west however, no specific proposal is made, there is mention of a new link to the A48 via a development at Darren Farm, but no detail to ensure that this would alleviate this major issue of traffic coming through the single track road at Llysworney, a direct link to the M4 via the North and West'. We strongly feel that the funds required for this one short road, could deliver much wider improvements along the B4270 (Llantwit Major - Cowbridge) and from Pentre Meyrick to the M4 Jnt 35 Pencoed. This would not only serve the Enterprise Zone but the wider communities of the Vale and significant employment area at Llandow. In addition no attention has been made to the North from the site via in part single track lanes to Cowbridge, which has previously during the former RAF days been a significant route for employees coming from the Llantrisant area.

We are however pleased to see that following the consultation meetings held last year, that it appears the cycle/footpath has now been extended along the existing Eglwys Brewis Rd, to link with Eglwys Brewis itself.

It was interesting to note that in the consultation introduction statement, comment is made that the NAR would serve 'new housing sites proposed by the Vale of Glamorgan Council' – with no mention that it is 'essential' for delivery of a large proportion of this housing and would allow the Welsh Government to capitalise on the agricultural land that it purchased under a cloud of potential compulsory purchase, originally for then scrapped Defence College proposal.

In conclusion after much discussion with the consultation teams we are still of the opinion that this proposal for the NAR would be not in the public interest.

St Athan Community Council

### **1352. REPORTS.**

1. Cllr D Willmot gave a brief report on the Library "Open Day", it had been a tremendous success. The Chairman added her congratulations to the library team for a very successful event that was a credit to the village.
2. Cllr Ms A Barnaby presented a report on the Vale Council Local Liaison Committee which she recently attended. A copy of her reported is attached to these minutes as ANNEX A.
3. Cllr Ms A Barnaby presented a report on a Breakfast meeting hosted by Jane Hutt AM. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes as ANNEX B

### **1353. SPEEDING & ROAD SAFETY.**

The St Athan Speeding & Road Safety Questionnaire was concluded on the 1st March, there were 138 responses to the questionnaire which have been collated into graphs and tables relating to each of the questions asked, a lengthy report has been compiled covering all the aspects of road safety relating to the area. This report will forwarded to the Vale of Glamorgan Council Highways Division, the Road Safety Officer, the Vale MP, and the Vale AM. The report can be viewed on the St Athan Web-site [www.stathancommunitycouncil.org.uk](http://www.stathancommunitycouncil.org.uk)

**1354. DATE & TIMES OF AGM & MAY GENERAL MEETINGS.**

The 2017 Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm , and will be followed by the May General meeting.

**1355. ONE VOICE WALES ANNUAL FEES.**

Membership fees for One Voice Wales are now due, the amount for year 2017/18 is £451-00

Cllr S Haines PROPOSED : that membership of One Voice Wales be continued and fees of £451-00 be paid as allocated in the finance budget.

SECONDED : Cllr R Eustace

CARRIED.

**1356. CHURCH GRANTS.**

Letters from St Athan Parish Church, Gileston Church, Flemingston Church, and the Methodist Church requesting grants for Church Yard Maintenance were presented, the matter was discussed at length, the Church grants have not been reviewed for a number of years, an increase to the grants was discussed at the finance meeting and monies allocated in the 2017/18 budget were increased to £1100-00

Cllr B Acott PROPOSED ; that as unanimously agreed the sum of £400-00 be allocated to St Athan Parish Church, £300-00 to Gileston Church, and £200-00 to Flemingston Church and the Methodist Church.

SECONDED : Cllr R Eustace

CARRIED.

**1357. ST ATHAN COMMUNITY HUB AND LIBRARY FINANCIAL GRANT.**

A request for financial support from St Athan Community Hub and Library ( SACHaL ) was presented. The request in the sum of £2000 was discussed at great length, and whereas support for the grant was agreed in principle, it was generally agreed that a more detailed account of what the money would be spent on would be helpful in making a decision to approve the grant. The matter would be held over to the May meeting to allow the SACHaL to produce the required information.

**1358. FINANCIAL APPEALS.**

1. Letter from Mr Alan Bourne St Athan Christmas Lights Association, requesting financial assistance for the 2017 Xmas lights switching On event was presented, however some detail regarding dates were confusing, therefore the matter was deferred until the May meeting for the matter to be clarified.

**1359. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.**

1. a) Cllr B Acott said he would like to record a “Thank You” to the Library Volunteers.  
  
b) Cllr Acott informed members that the Eglwys Brewis Church Committee had a meeting with Jane Hutt AM and as a result a presentation on the restoration of the church will be made at the Aston Martin Opening Ceremony.
2. b) The Chairman informed members regarding the council Web-site, that the library and the Gathering Place now had access to keep up to date the activities calendar on the “My St Athan” section of the web-site. It was agreed as previously discussed that we would grant access to the library team to update the My St Athan general pages

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 8-55pm, there was one member of the public present.

**ANNEX A**

**Report on Liaison Meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2017**

- 1) Police Matters – Chief Inspector Lisa Gore commented on quite a lot of action points from the last meeting that she had followed up, including our issue of speeding. Speed checks have been carried out in our area by PCSO Gareth Parry. The results indicated that 90% were within, 5% over and 5% excessively over limits. These were carried out on Cowbridge Rd, Gileston Rd, B4265 and Eglwys Brewis Road, which returned the higher excess results. Consequently they are looking at positioning the police speed camera at this point.

Other questions related to parking issues particularly around schools – the chief Inspector pointed out that Police were only looking at dangerous parking, endorse-able offences, and obstruction to moving traffic i.e. yellow boxes. Other parking issues should be policed by the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

The Chief Inspector also listed a number of events that they would be attending during the summer, and mentioned that they were trialling using body cameras.

- 2) Presentation by Cardiff and Vale Community Health Council - Daniel Price presented an enthusiastic and interesting report on the purpose and activities of the Health Council. He emphasised that the purpose of the Council was in effect a ‘Patient Independent Watchdog’ – but there was an issue of making people aware of their existence.

- 3) Vale of Glamorgan Planning team represented by Victoria Robinson and Marcus Godsworthy gave a short presentation, which included a useful ‘whos,who’ in the planning department. The request for the team to be at the Liaison meeting came from Llantwit Major Town Council, who wished to raise a question on the relationship between the Vale planning officers and the Town and Community Councils with regard to planning representations, as they have recently made significant objections but the application was approved by the officers.

Ms Robinson pointed out that they had looked back over their records and that in 98% of cases the outcome was in line with the representation from the local Town or Community.

Other questions, related to 106 monies on the development at Bonvilston which had been reduced due to some additional requirement by Welsh Water for the site – it was pointed out that there was still a considerable amount of funds coming from the development which they were sure other Councils such as Rhondda Cynon Taff could only dream of.

During the discussion it was also mentioned by the planning team that the housing provision of 10,000 dwellings in the LDP was a requirement of the Welsh Government.

On St Athan I mentioned the issues our residents were having with the developers at St John’s View. Ms Robinson said she would look into it for us.

## ANNEX B

### **Report of meeting – Jane Hutt AM Spring Breakfast 2017 – Engineering Change Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2017 8am- 9.30am**

The venue for this meeting was the International Centre for Aerospace Training at Cardiff Airport, with our hosts Cardiff and Vale College.

We were allocated our seating so Cllr Brian Alcott, Cllr Derek Willmot and I were on separate tables. The attendees were a mix of education establishments from primary to University - St Athan Primary represented by Louise Haynes, others included businesses such as RWE Aberthaw, Tarmac, Cardiff Airport, Dow Corning and Aston Martin. There were also the mix of Vale Council, and Welsh Government.

The programme was made up of a welcome from Jane Hutt AM, followed by Julie James AM, Minister for Skills and Science. The main focus was on the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths) subjects and in particular encouraging women, in view of it celebrating International Women’s Day 2017.

It was an interesting event, with many positive points made.

### **Report of Community Mapping Toolkit Launch Event – Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 at The Bear Hotel.**

The Creative Rural Communities team organised an excellent event – with a good attendance from a wide range of people. Both Cllr David Elston and I attended, with Cllr Elston also representing the Saints Group.

A couple of really good presentations were made by Ystradowen and St Athan's Saints Group, who did an excellent job, and were a credit to St Athan.

Following the formalities there were breakout sessions which involved everyone taking part in some of the ideals used to engage the communities, these included wall charts to add our likes and dislikes of an area, ballot boxes using pre-printed items of where we would like a budgeted spend allocated – the restricted choice i.e. cycle path, village hall, play area, library etc., made you think twice!