

Minutes of a general meeting of the St Athan Community Council, held on Tuesday 7th February 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 D Willmot	Councillor Mrs S Williams
County Councillor J W Thomas	

APOLOGIES.

Councillor Mrs J Lougher	Councillor D Street
Councillor Mrs G Phillips	

1317. DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

NIL.

1318. MINUTES.

1. Cllr R Eustace PROPOSED : that the minutes of the general meeting held on Tuesday 10th January 2017 be accepted as a true record of the proceedings
SECONDED : Cllr L Haines CARRIED.

1319. MATTERS ARISING.

NIL.

1320. STANDING ORDERS.

Cllr D Crompton PROPOSED : that STANDING ORDERS be suspended to permit Mr Mark Davies & Mr David George Welsh Government Representatives, and Bridget Palmer “Age Connects Good Neighbours Coordinator”, to address the meeting.
SECONDED : Cllr D Elston CARRIED.

Mr Davies and Mr George were asked to update members on the current situation and future projects regarding the “Aerospace Business Park” MOD St Athan. Mr Davies made it plain that he was not involved in the Aston Martin Programme, or the Northern Access road. As for the business park a number of small businesses are operating on the site, however until the MOD confirm it’s intentions regarding additional military units moving to St Athan,

a Master Plan for the site is in progress which will depend on MOD commitments, he estimated that the plan should be completed within the forthcoming year, on completion will arrange to come back with the information.

A number of questions were asked by members ie, control of the “Runway”, Compulsory purchased properties. The runway will covert from MOD control to Welsh Government control March 2019, properties compulsory purchased will firstly be offered to their original owners then go to Housing Associations. The Chairman thanked Mr Davies and Mr George for attending the meeting, and looked forward to future meetings on completion of the “Master Plan”.

Ms Bridget Palmer, “Age Connects Good Neighbours” Coordinator gave a presentation on behalf of Age Connects Cardiff & the Vale. Age Connects is a Charity which has been providing services in the Cowbridge area for many years, they support a Friendship Group run and managed by volunteers, they provide befrienders transport, phone link information and support to older people, including Advocacy Services, Loneliness and Isolation support, Hospital Discharge service, Welfare Rights. A number of leaflets were left for distribution and are available in the library and Community centre. The Chairman thanked Bridget for attending the meeting and giving a very interesting presentation.

STANDING ORDERS REINSTATED.

1321. CORRESPONDENCE.

1. Letter from “Walk for Life” asking for volunteers to organise a walk in the local area, on the 23rd April 2017. NOTED.
2. Glamorgan Heritage Coast, “Newsletter”. Circulated.

1322. CHAIRMAN’S ACTIONS.

Nil

1323. INVOICES.

Clerks Wages		309 – 40
Inland Revenue	(PAYE)	79 – 20
Caretakers Wages		355 – 50
B.T	(Internet & Telephone)	56 – 32
Viking	(Stationary)	94 – 61
Community Association	(Xmas Party)	30 – 00
Clerk’s Expenses		35 – 59

PROPOSED : Cllr R Eustace
SECONDED ; Cllr. S Haines

CARRIED

1324. PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

NIL.

1325. REPORTS.

1. Cllr B Acott gave a brief update on the controversial “Routes to School” Eglwys Brewis road to Llantwit Major School.
2. Cllr D Elston informed members that the “Saints” charity had now reached over £5000.
3. Cllr D Willmot reported on a meeting with members of the Welsh Government Chaired by Jane Hutt AM regarding the future conservation and potential use of Eglwys Brewis Church held on Friday 13th January 2017, at the Gathering Place, Cllr B Acott was also in attendance. A great deal of interest was expressed in conservation of this old church, a representative from “Aston Martin” was also present and expressed interest. A further meeting will be held at the end of March.

Cllr Willmot informed members that the Official Opening of the Community Library will take place on Saturday 1st April.

4. Cllr Ms A Barnaby presented a report on the VGC Community Liaison Committee meeting which she recently attended. A copy of her report is attached to these minutes as Annex A.

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 apologised for his late arrival due to duty commitments, he gave a brief report on the January crime figures, there had been 18 crimes reported, 2 violent assaults, 3 damages to cars, 1 drug offence, 2 burglaries, 1 take off from petrol station, 1 theft of a “Digger”. 8 miscellaneous. He said there had been some involvement with Protesters at the Aberthaw Power Station, and asked if any one sees anything suspicious to inform the police. The Chairman thanked PC Williamson for attending the meeting.

STANDING ORDERS REINSTATED.

1326. SPEEDING & ROAD SAFETY.

The St Athan Speeding & Road Safety Questionnaire has had a reasonable response with over a hundred responses, the closing date is 1st March. The results will be published on the council web-site along with the results of the ATC’s that were deployed during early January on Gileston road at 2 sites, one south of Llantwit road (near Londis) and one south of Rock road (The Forge). Talks with the VGC Highways, and Road Safety Officer are on going.

1327. FINANCIAL APPEALS.

1. Letter from the “Samaritans” requesting financial assistance, merits of the appeal were discussed.

Cllr R Eustace PROPOSED : that £50 be donate

SECONDED : Cllr D Crompton

CARRIED.

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

Cllr S Haines PROPOSED : No Action.

SECONDED : Cllr R Eustace.

CARRIED.

1328. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

1. Actions for County Cllr J W Thomas :
 - a) Cllr R Eustace pot holes and verges on road from Flemingston to Gigman.
 - b) Cllr B Acott Mud and grit on footpath in front of BT depot Rectory Road.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 9-10pm, there were no members of the public present.

ANNEX A.

**Report from Community Liaison Committee Meeting
Wednesday 1st February 2017**

This meeting included the following presentations:-

- 1) Police Matters – The new Chief Inspector Lisa Gore was introduced to the meeting. I raised the issue of speeding in St Athan, and that we had written to the Chief Constable but had been passed from ‘pillar to post’. We were asked to send our letters to the Chief Inspector at Barry. The Chair Cllr Gwyn John endorsed our concerns, and stated he had witnessed it himself while travelling through the area.
- 2) Presentation on forthcoming Town & Community Council Elections (Circulated 2.2.17)
Key Dates:-
 - Nominations commence – Tuesday 21st March
 - Close of nomination – Tues 4th April
 - Publication of statement of persons nominated – Wed 5th April
 - Deadline to register to Vote – Thurs 13th April
- 3) Rob Thomas - Managing Director presented:

a) **Reshaping Services – Town and Community Councils Update** – a brief presentation was made – nothing new. Questions after covered the usual concerns raised at previous meetings, including: many CC too small to take on services, double taxation, lack of communication by the Vale. It was also commented that although The Vale seemed in the beginning, to be pushing this on the Town & Community Councils, where some of the larger Town Councils were keen to move forward the Vale seem to have lost some interest since they were awarded more funds than originally expected from the Welsh Government allocations!

b) **Draft Wellbeing Assessment (Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015)** – The act basically requires all public bodies listed (Public Service Boards PSB) in the Act to think more about the long term improvement in the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of the communities in Wales.

A very short presentation was made. The criteria for carrying out assessment includes Town & Community Councils with a gross income or its gross expenditure of at least £200k (not too many in the Vale). The assessment must identify geographic community areas; the Vale's draft assessment is split into West, East and Barry. The PSB has identified a range of broad themes to consider in more detail as part of the next phase of undertaking the well-being assessment.

- Ensure young children have a good start in life and prevent Adverse Childhood Experiences
- Tackle inequalities linked to deprivation, focusing on a range of issues which are more acute in some of our more deprived communities. This provides an opportunity for a place based approach and builds on some of the PSB's existing work.
- Protect, enhance and value the environment as one of our greatest assets to ensure the natural resources of Wales are sustainably maintained, enhanced and used now and into the future.
- Improve our engagement with our communities, utilising existing networks and being more innovative including the promotion of volunteering

The Draft assessment itself a 95+ page document, makes interesting reading for St Athan, it comments (Appendix B page 13) *'Throughout the assessment the St. Athan area can be identified as having very different characteristics to most other parts of the Western Vale and could be attributed to the MOD base that is found in the area resulting in a transient population. In St Athan 2 only 6% of the population are aged 65+ which is the lowest in the Vale of Glamorgan.*

In 2015 the Local Government Data Unit were commissioned to produce an analysis report on poverty within the Vale of Glamorgan¹ and St. Athan was identified as somewhat of an anomaly. The Vale's Creative Rural Communities partnership undertook a detailed community asset mapping project in this area in order to better understand this community

My question at the meeting was along the lines that the draft assessment made interesting reading (and must have cost a lot of money to produce!) but what will

come from it? In particular noting that St Athan being identified as a 'deprived' area. The only answer was that it is a requirement to carry out the assessment that the PSB had done. I also commented that St Athan had been affected by the release of over 600 former MOD homes into the private ownership with no planning requirement to insure that infrastructure and services were in place – where previously these would have been well serviced by facilities on the MOD site, and which had a significant affect.

- 4) Other items included Police matters – in which we were told there was a 6% drop in the Vale, and Fire Service Statistics.

Cllr Ann Barnaby
3.2.2