

Minutes of a general meeting of the St Athan Community Council, held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2015, in the Old School Hall Community Centre, Church Lane, St Athan, at 7-30pm

**PRESENT.**

Councillor Ms A Barnaby (Chairman).  
Councillor B Acott 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 D Crompton Councillor Mrs G Phillips

**991. DECLARATION OF INTEREST.**

NIL.

**992. MINUTES.**

1. Cllr S Haines PROPOSED : that the minutes of the general meeting held on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014 be accepted as a true record of the proceedings  
SECONDED : Cllr B Acott CARRIED.

2. Cllr D Willmot PROPOSED : that the minutes of the finance meeting held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2014 be accepted as a true record of the proceedings  
SECONDED : Cllr S Haines CARRIED.

**993. MATTERS ARISING.**

NIL.

**994. STANDING ORDERS**

Cllr Mrs J Lougher 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 November & December 2014. November : 13 crimes were reported with 6 arrests, 4 acts of violence, 3 Burglaries, 6 miscellaneous. December 15 crimes reported, 6 arrests, 5 criminal damage, 2

burglaries, 2 violent crimes. A number of local incidents were discussed, the Chairman thanked PC Williamson for attending the meeting.

### **STANDING ORDERS REINSTATED**

#### **995. CORRESPONDENCE.**

1. Letter from RWE Aberthaw Power Station containing a cheque for £1000 towards the costs of the Christmas festive Lights. Letter of thanks and invite to “Switch On” sent.
2. Letter from Leader of the Vale Council regarding the Community Action Self Help ( CASH ) Christmas Grant 2014, St Athan Community Council had been awarded the sum of £475 towards Christmas Activities. Noted.
3. Letter from Revenues & Benefits Manager, VGC, regarding tax precepts 2015/16, the precept for St Athan Community Council is £1.00 = £1351 Noted.
4. VGC, Agenda fo Council meeting 17<sup>th</sup> December 2014, Minutes of meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2014. Noted.
5. Letter from Local Government Finance, Welsh Assembly Government, regarding “Section 137 Expenditure Limit for 2015/16”. Noted.

#### **996. CHAIRMAN’S ACTIONS.**

NIL.

#### **997. INVOICES.**

Clerks Wages		292 – 00
Inland Revenue	( PAYE )	75 – 40
Caretakers Wages		329 – 10
B.T.	( Internet Services )	87 – 87
OAP Party	( Caterer )	450 – 00
Viking	( Stationary )	46 – 43
OAP Party	( Presents )	436 – 00
Clerks Expenses		47 – 30

PROPOSED : Cllr R Eustace  
SECONDED ; Cllr Ms A Barnaby

CARRIED.

**998. PLANNING APPLICATIONS.**

1. Planning Application No 2014/01345/FUL - Land next 24 Cedar Road, Eglwys Brewis, St Athan - Proposed Detached 5 bedroom house with associate parking, Variation of Condition One of permission 2009/01135/FUL to extend time period.  
Cllr R Eustace PROPOSED : No Objections.

SECONDED : Cllr B Acott

CARRIED.

**999. REPORTS.**

NIL.

**1000. PRECEPT & BUDGET FOR F/Y 2015-16.**

Minutes of the finance meeting and recommendations for the financial budget for the financial year ending 31 March 2016 were presented and discussed.

Cllr D Street PROPOSED : that All the recommendations of the finance committee be accepted and that the Precept for the F/Y 2015/16 be kept at £19-00 realising an income of £25,669-00

SECONDED : Cllr B Acott

CARRIED.

**1001. CONSULTATION - LIBRARY SERVICES.**

A response to the consultation on library services agreed by all members was submitted. A copy of the response is attached to these minutes as ANNEX A.

**1002. LAND ADJACENT TO THE GOLF CLUB.**

Annington Homes claim that they have approached the MOD regarding the lease on this land ( 200 year lease ) to see if the lease could be terminated, it is assumed that this could take a long time if ever.

Cllr B Acott PROPOSED : that this item be removed from the monthly meeting agenda, and reviewed on a quarterly basis.

SECONDED : Cllr S Haines

CARRIED.

**1003. FINANCIAL APPEALS.**

NIL.

**1004. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.**

1. Actions for County Cllr J W Thomas :
  - a) Cllr D Street asked Cllr Thomas if the damaged road ( Pot Holes ) between Four Cross and the new road works would be repaired by the contractors or the VGC, Cllr Thomas said he would make enquiries and get back.
  - b) Cllr Mrs J Lougher said that the Sea View Lane was in a terrible state of repair. Cllr Thomas said he would report the matter.
  - c) Cllr B Acott asked Cllr Thomas if he would make enquiries regarding Balfour House it appears that someone is in residence there and he had been approached by a number of residents in Rectory Drive as to whether community tax was being paid on the building. Cllr Thomas said he would make enquiries.
2. Cllr S Haines advised that a new bus schedule had been introduced.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 8-05pm, there were no members of the public present.

Chris Edwards,  
Head Librarian,  
Vale of Glamorgan Council,  
Civic Offices  
Holton Road  
BARRY CF63 4RU

28 December 2014

Dear Mr Edwards,

**St Athan Library. Consultation.**

Thank you for attending the St Athan Community Council meeting with your colleagues on 2 December to explain further the issues under consideration regarding St Athan Library. We certainly found the meeting helpful and understand better the issues facing your Council about future library provision in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Rather than respond on your proforma consultation sheet would you please take this letter as the formal response from St Athan Community Council to the consultation.

There are 2 main issues of concern regarding the proposals. Firstly is the question of using voluntary staff to run the library what ever its location. I am sure we will not be able to alter that proposal in view of the need to reduce costs. However we were pleased to understand the proposals being made to train voluntary staff and to provide back up support for those staff in the future. We were also pleased to see that the Council will continue to stock the library. It will be a matter for the community to come forward with suitable volunteers ( perhaps including the present excellent librarian) to ensure the service can be retained in the village.

Of greater concern is the proposed relocation of the library. Here I hope we may be able to sway your decision.

The library in the centre of the village is an excellent location. We do not know which alternative location may be your preferred option but it is worrying that neither option we have seen proposed ( the Gathering Place and the Higher End Community Centre) can be considered as firm options. Both locations are well away from the centre of the village and we are unsure as to whether sufficient space in either could be made available to run both the lending service and, importantly, the on-line facilities.

May I remind you of the benefits of having the library in the centre of the village:

- Readily accessible to the local primary school who have frequent library session.
- Short distance from all the community facilities in the village, ie Post Office, 2 Doctor's Surgeries, Pharmacy, 2 Village Stores. Hairdressers, Church, Old School Community centre etc.
- Accessible to school children who need to use the computer facilities on Thursdays and Saturday morning.
- Parking is available albeit limited but during the day people can park outside the library.
- An integral part of the village centre
- Accessible to the residents of Milsom House care home
- Quiet road away from the traffic.
- Ideally situated if the proposed development of housing and expansion of the village in the draft LDP come to fruition. This is an important point in "Joined up Planning"

There are considerable advantages to the community in retaining the library in its current location and I am sure people from the village will make that point in response to the consultation.

Paula mentioned that if the library was to be retained in its current location your Council would wish to transfer the building to the Community Council. It would be very helpful to see the structural report you have prepared for the building. However in principle, if retention of the library was dependant on the Community Council taking responsibility for maintenance and service costs of the building then the Community Council would be prepared to accept that responsibility for the benefit of the community subject to seeing the structural report and understanding the maintenance and service costs for the building.

I am sure we will have further discussions but hopefully we can reach an understanding of what provides the best available library service and work to achieving that to everyone's benefit.

Yours sincerely

David Crompton  
Chairman, St Athan Community Council.