

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

PRESENT.

Councillor D Willmot (Chairman).
Councillor B Acott
Councillor D Crompton
Councillor J Cullinane
Councillor Mrs G Phillips
Councillor Mrs S Williams
County Councillor J W Thomas
Councillor Ms A Barnaby
Councillor R Eustace
Councillor Mrs J Lougher
Councillor Mrs F Smith

APOLOGIES.

Councillor S Haines
Councillor Mrs J Lynch-Wilson

1390. DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

Cllr D Crompton agenda item 10 Community Library financial grant.
Cllr D Willmot agenda item 10 Community Library financial grant.
Cllr Mrs S Williams agenda item 10 Community Library financial grant
Cllr Ms A Barnaby agenda item 8 Planning App 2017/00564/FUL Norther Access Road.

1391. MINUTES.

Cllr D Crompton PROPOSED : that the minutes of the general meeting held on Tuesday 6th June 2017 be accepted as a true record of the proceedings
SECONDED : Cllr J Cullinane CARRIED.

1392. MATTERS ARISING.

NIL.

1393. COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICERS REPORT.

PC Jamie Williamson sent his apologies for not attending the meeting, put sent his crime figures report for the month of June. There had been 17 crimes reported including 1 burglary, 3 miscellaneous thefts, 1 Auto crime, 5 Violent crimes, 7 Miscellaneous, there were 10 arrests linked to those crimes. A utility meter was stolen from the Community Centre on Glyndwr Ave, several of the reported crimes linked to domestics at one property in the New Street Gileston.

1394. CORRESPONDENCE.

1. Thank you from the Methodist Church for the Church maintenance grant.
NOTED.
2. E-mail from Llanmaes Community Council regarding meeting with Aston Martin regarding the proposed Northern Access Road, inviting members from St Athan council to attend.
Report given in Reports.
3. One Voice Wales advance notification of the Annual Conference and Annual General meeting. Saturday 30th September 2017.
NOTE.
4. Vale of Glamorgan Council : Agenda for meeting to be held on Wednesday 28th June also minutes of a meeting held on the 26th April 2017.
NOTED.
5. Letter from Llantwit Major Town Council, regarding a proposal to ask Planning Aid Wales to provide a course on “Effectively responding to Planning Applications”, and would St Athan Community Council be interested in attending at a cost of £50 per member attending. It was ascertained that some members would be interested.

1395. CHAIRMAN’S ACTIONS.

Nil.

1396. INVOICES.

Clerks Wages		309 – 20
Inland Revenue	(PAYE)	80 – 80
Caretakers Wages		362 – 32
B.T	(Internet & Telephone)	56 – 71
SWALEC	(Centre Electric Bill)	238 – 43
Mrs Butters	(Flower Baskets)	336 – 00
Mr J Haswell	(Clerk’s Exp’s)	12 – 19

PROPOSED : Cllr Ms A Barnaby

SECONDED ; Cllr R Eustace

CARRIED.

1397. PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

1. Planning Application No 2017/00569/FUL – 2017/ 00607/LBC – Permission for the inclusion of CCTV, external lighting, SAS radio receiver and an audio within the West Aberthaw Barns development.

Cllr Mrs S Williams PROPOSED :

No Objection

SECONDE : Cllr R Eustace

CARRIED.

2. Planning Application No 2017/00574/FUL – 31 Glebeland Place, St Athan – Addition of Porch to front elevation.
Cllr Mrs J Phillips PROPOSED : No Objections.
SECONDED : Cllr R Eustace CARRIED.
3. Planning Application No 2016/01427/OUT – Land of Cowbridge Road, St Athan,- Residential development of up to 300 units and associate work, including the provision of public open space and strategic access points.
Cllr Ms A Barnaby PROPOSED : that the Objections to this application given to the application submitted at the January 2017 meeting be reiterated. (Minute 1311 (1) Annex A Planning Applications January 2017 refers).
SECONDED : Cllr R Eustace CARRIED
County Councillor J W Thomas declared an interest and left the chamber whilst this application was being discussed.
4. Planning Application No 2017/00564/FUL – Land East of B4265 between Boverton and Eglwys Brewis, St Athan. – Proposed construction of a new highway (called the Northern Access Road) with footways and a cycleway, new junctions, lighting, signs, fencing, flood alleviation works, acoustic barriers and other environmental mitigation measures, landscaping, demolition of garage at Rose Cottage, and all associated engineering and building operations.
Cllr R Eustace PROPOSED : that objections to this application be made similar to the comments made on the outline application. See ANNEX A for comments.
SECONDED : Cllr J Cullinane CARRIED.
5. Planning Application No 2017/00593/FUL – Plot 72 Tathianas Court, St Athan, - Alteration of approved dwelling to include rear conservatory extension.
Cllr R Eustace PROPOSED : No Objections
SECONDED : Cllr D Crompton CARRIED.
6. Planning Application No 2017/00598/LBC – West Aberthaw Farm, Lane-junction Bb4265 to West Aberthaw Farm, - Remove loose section of wall following vehicle collision and rebuild as existing.
Cllr Mrs J Lougher PROPOSED : No Objections
SECONDED : Cllr Mrs G Phillips CARRIED.

1398. REPORTS.

1. NORTHERN ACCESS ROAD

Cllr's Derek Willmot, Ann Barnaby & Brian Acott, together with representatives of Llantwit Town Council, attended a meeting organised by Llanmaes C.C. on July 3rd at the old school Llantwit Major.

The purpose of this meeting was to consolidated feelings and ideas, about the purposed northern Access Road (N.A.R.). It was pointed out by the St Athan Councillors, that the route to Llantwit Major from Eglwys Brewis and East Vale area of St Athan, is in urgent need of safety improvements to the existing Eglwys Brewis road, which runs parallel to the N.A.R. Aston Martin submitted a letter with the following statement " Whilst we are aware of the plans for the NAR and it development ,this is not part of our plans and is a Welsh Government lead project".

It was considered that the N.A.R. was an expensive road to nowhere, It is believed the reason for building it, is to support house development on the land adjacent to its route. Which in time would link the settlements of Eglwys Brewis to Boverton, which is contrary to all planning rules.

The proposed junction as a roundabout on to the B4265 close to the Boverton traffic lights would cause traffic congestion slowing down traffic intending to bypass Llantwit Major. It was suggested that public meetings should be held in all the three council areas. Llanwit Major & St Athan decided against this, with Llanaes proposing to hold a public meeting in their ward on 10th July.

Brian Acott

2. EGLWYS BREWIS CHURCH

Cllr's Willmot & Acott attende the Eglwys Brewis Church consultation meeting at the Gathering Place on Friday 30 June.

This committee was formed to look into the future conservation and potential use of this historic 13th century church.

The purpose of this report is a request that the inhabitants of St Athan are made aware of the building that is hidden by trees behind the M.O.D wire along the Eglwys Brewis road.

Proposals for its future use are in the early stages and to some extent governed by the future use of the M.O.D. site , by the Welsh Government schemes and the M.O.D.'s plans to relocate units.

Latest date for this master plan is mid 2018..

For information about the current condition of this building please ask Cllr's Derek Willmot or Brian Acott.

1399. ST ATHAN COMMUNITY HUB AND LIBRARY FINANCIAL GRANT.

Deferred for further investigations into alternative funding.

1400. GILSTON FLOWER BASKETS.

Cllr Mrs S Williams PROPOSED : that six (6) flower baskets (similar to the ones in St Athan village) be purchased for Gileston village at a cost not exceeding £500, money to be funded from monies allocated in the 2017/18 budget.

SECONDED : R Eustace

CARRIED.

1401. DISASTER PLAN.

Cllr B Acott explained to members the role of community councils in the event of a serious incident (Disaster), local councillors would be required to provide support, help, and advise to local residents, and take instructions from the Vale Council who take overall charge.

Cllr R Eustace suggested that the council should adopt a similar document regarding council security, ie, alternative venues, IT security, Important documents, etc. The Chairman said he would give this some consideration.

1402. ST ATHAN “SAINTS” CHARITY – FINANCIAL GRANT.

A letter from Mr David Elston Secretary and Trustee of the “Saints Charity” requesting financial assistance to support improvements to the St Athan Playpark was presented, the matter was discussed at length, Cllr J W Thomas told members that 106 money from the St John View Development was earmarked for improvements to the playpark, and the money was nearing being paid out. It was decided to delay this matter until the amount of the 106 money and the extent of the proposed improvements was determined.

1403. FINANCIAL APPEALS.

Nil.

1404. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

1. Cllr Ms A Barnaby told members that she had had a reply from a Mrs Victoria Robinson VGC Planning Department regarding complaints about the contractors on the St John View Site (burning waste & speeding from the site etc) and that all complaints regarding contractors be directed through her, Cllr Barnaby suggested complaints be passed to her and she would direct them to the VGC.
2. Cllr D Crompton said that the old red telephone box in Flemingston needed repainting, was there a procedure. Cllr J Thomas said he would make enquiries and get back to him.
3. Cllr R Eustace told Cllr Thomas that the hedges and undergrowth in the “Lanes” needed cutting as the roads were getting narrower and dangerous. Cllr Thomas said he would look into the matter.
4. Cllr Mrs K Smith complained that the road junction at Castleton was dangerous and suggested that a “Mirror” be erected to assist motorists. Cllr J Thomas advised that the VGC were opposed to erecting mirrors.
5. Cllr B Acott asked Cllr Thomas if the roads at the St John View development had been adopted by the Vale Council yet, as there was a litter problem developing. Cllr Thomas said he didn’t think so but he would check.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 9-20pm, there were No member of the public present.

ANNEX A

Planning Application 2017/00564/FUL : Objection from St Athan Community Council.

Following the recent meeting of St Athan Community Council we wish to make the following observations and objections to the above application.

Our original objections to this proposal date back to the defunct scheme to build the Defence Training College (DTC) and Aerospace Business Park (ABP) in 2008 where we commented that we believed the Northern Access Road (NAR) was an ‘unnecessary, over engineered and extravagant inclusion’ in the plan. Although this proposal has been somewhat downgraded in light of the projected number of users, the substitution of a roundabout on the B4265 will necessitate an extensive amount of civil engineering with a requirement to excavate the embankment to get achievable ground levels. The costings of this will be considerable yet alternative routes have been previously suggested which would obviate the need for utilising greenfield resources.

Upgrading the existing Eglwys Brewis road, or at least straightening out the worst corners would have an immediate beneficial effect, and although we understand that the railway bridge at the Boverton end has some limitations, it is no more than can be seen throughout the UK on many structures of this size. A simple solution: i.e. a ‘give way to oncoming traffic’ sign.

The anticipated expenditure on this road could be put to better use to improve the access through Llyswornny, which would open up a better link to the M4 for the North and West, and serve the wider communities of the Vale and the Llandow employment area, whilst still serving the perceived needs of the ABP.

The preferred route from the East along the B4265 will inevitably mean traffic trying to access the ABP through St Athan village as people have a slavish reliance on sat navs, and although the applicant has tried to mitigate this through restricted road junctions it is hard to see how this will be achieved. Of particular concern is the network of minor roads to the North of the development which will become rat runs as a result of the restrictions in accessing the ABP. With further planning applications coming to fruition as a result of the Vale of Glamorgan Councils adoption of the LDP this is only likely to be exacerbated. The NAR was originally put forward as part of the defunct DTC with a considerable number of anticipated users. The aspirational ABP has a figure of 3500 employees anticipated by the end period of the now adopted LDP. The current largest projected employer (Aston Martin with 750 employees projected) has publicly stated that they do not require the NAR and it does not feature in their plans. As the Welsh Government has not produced any business plan in support of their claims for the need of this development it is difficult to see where these additional jobs are coming from, and furthermore, any likely development of the site is likely to be light industrial which should not necessitate such a large and intrusive road.

The NAR appears to depend upon the construction of further housing on the land between it and the current Eglwys Brewis Road. This will also put additional strain on the facilities in Llantwit Major, and some of the original development areas identified were considered to be in areas liable to flood. The new NAR scheme seems to consider that it will become part of the flood defences for Llanmaes and Boverton.

This council is of the opinion that the NAR is an unnecessary expenditure of public monies and is not in the public interest.