



**Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Glynneath Town Council  
In the Council Chamber Bethania Community Centre  
At 7pm on Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> September 2018.**

**Councillors present.**

The Mayor, Councillor Dr Del Morgan  
The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Janet Gregory  
Councillor Carolyn Edwards  
Councillor Lowri Francis  
Councillor Richard Knoyle  
Councillor Simon Knoyle  
Councillor Shane McMenamin  
Councillor Haulwen Morgan  
Councillor Marion Morgan  
Councillor Tony Pritchard  
Councillor Gerry Reynolds  
Councillor Jenifer Roberts  
Councillor Helen Williams

**Council employees present.**

Clerk to the Council Michael Pugh

1. Presiding.

The Mayor, Councillor Del Morgan.

2. Mayor's announcements.

The Mayor announced he will be opening the Proms in the Park on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

3. Apologies for absence.

Councillor John Evans, letter dated 28<sup>th</sup> August 2018. Members noted that Councillor Evans wished to be excused from council duties for a period of a few months.

4. Declarations of interest.

Councillor Del Morgan - County Borough Member and potential work with One Voice Wales.

Councillor Simon Knoyle - County Borough Member and Secretary to Glynneath RFC.

Councillor Lowri Francis - Vice President of Glynneath RFC and Chair of Glynneath Community Events Panel.

Councillor Carolyn Edwards - County Borough Member.

Councillor Shane McMenamin - Glynneath Mini Football.

5. Report on crime/policing.

No report had been received.

6. Clerk's report on public questions.

What procedures are in place to deal with disciplinary complaints levelled at councillors, do councillors decide on their own fate and how much of the process is public? Local resident Nick Thomas wishes to read the question himself.

The Clerk answered the question.

If it is a question directly regarding Council business the resident writes or emails the Clerk who then discusses the matter with the Chairperson; they then decide on how to proceed and advise the complainant. If the complainant is not satisfied with the course of action they are to escalate the complaint to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales. If the complaint is not directly Council business, the Council cannot investigate and the complainant must complain directly to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales.

In many previous meetings, there has often been discussion about the need for a significant number of Councillors to be consulted and in agreement, before certain actions can be taken. Given the significant experience of the Mayor, the previous temporary Clerk and the majority of Town Councillors, can you please explain how one member of the Council was able to solely make a decision without consultation or agreement of the other elected members? Has this been investigated by the Town Council as a whole, and what has been agreed to prevent this type of thing happening again? Lack of transparency and clear communication seem to be the issues that many residents of Glynneath are commenting on. Local resident Janet Collins wishes to read the question herself. The Mayor explained that in extreme circumstances the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and the Clerk can make decisions without full Council. However, normally a minimum of five Council Members, being a quorum, will be convened to vote on Council matters.

Can you please confirm what methods of communication the Town Council are adopting in relation to the minutes and agendas? Again, there seems to be a lack of clear communication. Local resident Janet Collins wishes to read the question herself.

The Clerk answered the question.

Minutes, agendas and all other public correspondence will be published on the Council website and where practicable on the Council Facebook page. Furthermore, minutes and agendas will also be available as hard copies in the library. The Clerk went on to apologise for the lack of information on the website, but assured the public this was being addressed.

7. Amendments to minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2018.

No amendments tabled.

8. Confirm minutes of Ordinary Meeting on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2018 as a true record.

Minutes confirmed.

9. Matters arising from minutes of the Ordinary Meeting on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2018.

Trem y Glyn Action Group: The initial Swansea University research projects relating to the Care Service should be completed in June/July 2018, with the report following soon after. Professor Verity from the University stated that she would be meeting with NPT Care Services to discuss the findings. Ongoing.

Request from the Peniel Silver Lining, charity No 1050636, asking for a grant of £200; however, if this is not possible any amount would be appreciated. The charity has asked for an answer at the earliest opportunity.

Councillors Richard Knoyle and Gerry Reynolds abstained, all other Councillors voted in favour.

Discuss whether one or two tennis courts could be reused as a MUGA.

This will be discussed at the next Projects Action Group meeting.

Review the Community Café takings. All members were given a breakdown of the Community Café takings in the last meeting.

Ongoing.

10. Other reports.

Councillor Gerry Reynolds stated that Cwmnedd Primary School had recently received a positive inspection report and suggested the Council acknowledge the efforts of the head teacher and staff. It was decided that the Clerk will write a congratulatory letter.

11. Clerk's report on planning applications.

**Application No: P2018/0712** Officer: Matthew Fury Type: Householder  
Ward: Glynneath Date Valid 22/08/2018 Parish: Glynneath Town Council  
Proposal: Conversion of existing Barn and Garage to provide ancillary accommodation and replacement single-storey Garage  
Location: 9 HEOL Y GLYN GLYNNEATH NEATH.  
Applicant's Name and Address: MR IAN WATKINS 9 HEOL Y GLYN GLYNNEATH NEATH SA11 5AU. Grid 288368 206886  
Conservation Area: N/A Listed Building: N/A  
No observations.

**Application No: P2018/0621** Officer: Andrea Davies  
Proposal: rear ground & 1<sup>st</sup> floor extensions Location: 6 Addoldy Rd, Glynneath.  
No Observations.

**Application No: P2018/0676** Officer Russell Borthwick Type: Householder  
Ward: Glynneath Date Valid: 10/08/2018 Parish: Glynneath Town Council Proposal: Single storey side/rear extension plus front porch  
Location: 15 YNYSLAS CRESCENT GLYNNEATH NEATH.  
Applicant's Name and Address: Mr Carl Challenger 15 YNYSLAS CRESCENT GLYNNEATH SA11 5LB.  
Grid 288845 206846 Conservation Area: N/A Listed Building: N/A  
No observations.

**Application Number: P2018/0710**  
Proposal: Front porch and canopy  
Site Location: 7 RIVERSIDE GARDENS, GLYNNEATH, NEATH, SA11 5LA  
Applicants Name /Address: Mr Ken Davies, 7 RIVERSIDE GARDENS, GLYNNEATH, NEATH, SA11 5LA  
Grid: 288827 206737  
No observations.

12. Clerk's report on correspondence received.

The Council received a complaint from a local resident regarding damage to the concrete plinth on which the gravestone sits. Stating that in their view, their father's grave was damaged by groundskeepers whilst moving and treating ant hills. The plot has been in use for 35 years or so. The Clerk has looked at the supplied images and feels the damage is natural deterioration, the Clerk also confirmed with groundskeepers that no strimmer's or electrical tools etc were used that close to the gravestone. Both groundskeepers stated that the concrete plinth was not damaged by them. The upkeep of burial plots is the responsibility of the deceased's next of kin, however, Glynneath Town Council has historically maintained the cemetery including all burial plots. The Council needs to discuss whether to continue the upkeep of burial plots, or to leave the upkeep for the deceased's next of kin. The Clerk to investigate with Mr Nick Thomas of Vale Memorials, an expert in the matter, to ascertain whether such deterioration is natural and expected.

A letter was received from Mr Steven Phillips, the Chief Executive for NPTCBC, stating his disappointment with a number of issues in relation to the recent West Ward By-Election. Firstly, the representations complaining about the lack of poll cards. Secondly, the conduct of candidates, election agents and their supporters.

The Clerk wishes the Council to consider inviting Mr Phillips to meet with the Council, and maybe selected residents, either in private or at a public meeting, to offer impartial advice.

Councillor Del Morgan stated that he had spoken with Mr Phillips who will attend the next Ordinary Meeting, but will not discuss historic matters. Rather, he wishes to explore developments in the future for the community.

Letter from Chief Executive for Local Democracy and Boundary Commission Wales. The consultation period for the review of the electoral arrangements for the County Borough of Neath Port Talbot will close on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2018. The Commission would welcome any comments which members may wish to make and any representations should be sent via letter.

Noted.

The Clerk received a telephone call from Mr William Shulver (authorised name being read out), offering the Council the use of his Battle of Britain flag if the Council wishes to celebrate Battle of Britain Memorial Day.

The Mayor confirmed that this request would be in keeping with the Council's flag policy and, as Mayor, that he would be happy to sanction the flying of this flag if logistics permitted. However, some members advised that the date for this celebration had passed. The Council thanked Mr Shulver for his kind offer; the Clerk will confirm the date of the Battle of Britain Memorial Day and if time permits erect the flag.

13. Report from Cemetery Committee.

No report.

14. Report from Human Resources Committee.

No report.

15. Report from Parks and Open Spaces Committee.

No report.

16. Report from Town Hall/Community Centre Committee.

No report.

17. Report from Projects Action Group Committee.

The last meeting was disrupted by residents and therefore did not convene as planned.

Councillor Simon Knoyle presented three quotes for relocating the Community Café kitchen; it was suggested that the relocation could be completed with the Bethania Chapel area upgrades.

18. Report from Finance & Audit Committee.

Councillors resolved that £2500.00 can be used from the reserve account to fund extra Christmas lights. Council also decided to hold a special meeting with Mr Clive Baker who is currently sub-contracted as a finance officer.

19. Reports from Town Councillors.

Request that Councillor Simon Knoyle act as Lead Councillor on the redevelopment scheme of the Glynneath Welfare Park. Submitted by Councillor Gerry Reynolds, seconded by Councillor John Evans.

Carried.

To consider seeking a potential grant bid to fund a survey on the Bethania building in order to ascertain what could be or needs to be done to the building in the future (with no implicit obligations to proceed with any developments at this stage). Submitted by Councillor Del Morgan, seconded by Councillor Lowri Francis.

Carried.

Litter pick & nature walk on 18th Sep. Submitted by Councillor Lowri Francis, seconded by Councillor Helen Williams. The litter pick will be carried out with Keep Wales Tidy and Working with Nature NPT.

Ward meetings with residents. Submitted by Councillor Lowri Francis, seconded by Councillor Helen Williams. All members agreed this is a positive step and agreed for Ward Councillors to work together.

Events Panel proms. Submitted by Councillor Lowri Francis, seconded by Councillor Helen Williams.  
All members encouraged to support the event on 15<sup>th</sup> September.

Councillor Haulwen Morgan stated NPTCBC had been clearing rubbish and tackling ongoing fly tipping issues within her Ward.

20. Reports from County Councillors.

Councillor Carolyn Edwards asked for members and the public to sign an online petition regarding the Business Park review on LDP, which is not due to be reconsidered until 2020.

21. Date, time, venue and agenda for next meeting.

Councillors resolved that the next Ordinary meeting will be at 7.00pm on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2018 at the Council Chamber in the Bethania Community Centre.

22. Personnel issues and closed session items.

Members of the public are entitled to attend this meeting but can only address the meeting (subject to Standing Orders 1d, 1e & 1f of the Town Councils Standing Orders, which can be viewed on the Council's Official Website) if they have confirmed the specific topic, in writing, to the Clerk (Note: all requests of this nature must be received at least seven days before the date of the meeting.)

Councillors resolved to enter closed session to discuss strategic review and personnel matters in accordance with Town Council Standing Order number 1c and Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972. (The Act states that the public may be excluded from the meeting for the following business because it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information and the public interest not to disclose the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it).

The public were thanked for attending the meeting and for their interest in the proceedings of Council.

The meeting with the public closed at 8.45pm and Council resolved to enter closed session to discuss personnel issues and other closed session items.