



**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Glynneath Town Council  
In the Council Chamber, Bethania Community Centre, High Street, Glynneath  
at 7.00pm on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

Councillors Present: Cllr S Knogle (Mayor)

Cllr G Reynolds	Cllr J Collins
Cllr C Edwards	Cllr J Roberts
Cllr H Morgan	Cllr S McMenamin
Cllr J Gregory	Cllr S Evans
Cllr M Powell	Cllr R Simons
Cllr D Morgan	Cllr J Evans
Cllr R Knogle.	

Clerk: Mrs A Thomas

**1. Presiding**

The Mayor, Cllr S Knogle.

**2. Mayor's Announcements**

The Mayor informed Members that there was a Charity Concert taking place on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March and any proceeds raised would be distributed to the Mayor's charities.

**3. To receive item apologies for absence**

None.

**4. To receive members declarations of interest in respect of the business to be transacted**

Cllr C Edwards	NPTCBC Member
Cllr S Knogle	NPTCBC Member
Cllr D Morgan	NPTCBC Member
	One Voice Wales – Potential Work
	Item 10(a) – Personal, prejudicial
	Item 9(c) – Personal, Non-Prejudicial

**5. To receive item Clerk's Report on Public Questions**

None received.

6. **Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

a. **Consider amendments to the Minutes**

No amendments were made.

b. **Confirm as a true and accurate record**

**Resolved: To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020 as a true and accurate record.**

c. **Consider matters arising from the minutes**

No matters arising.

7. **Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Council held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020**

a. **To consider amendments to the Minutes**

No amendments were made.

b. **Confirm as a true and accurate record**

**Resolved: To confirm the Minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020 as a true and accurate record.**

c. **Consider matters arising from the minutes**

No matters arising.

8. **To receive item Presentation – Friends of Bethania ‘Bethania Chapel and Community Centre’**

The Mayor welcome representatives from Friends of Bethania (*“the friends”*) to the meeting, Ms D Evans and Ms B Harrett.

The friends provided a presentation to Councillors setting out various elements of their vision for Bethania Community Centre and future potential options for the venue.

Members discussed the potential to revitalise the High Street in Glynneath. Including reference to research they had carried out on footfall by visiting local shops.

The friends advised they had conducted surveys with various other local organisations with similar venues. They set out the results of the surveys, however recognised that Glynneath would offer a scaled down various of many

of the venues. It was noted that each venue had different models with regards to how they were run/managed.

The friends informed that the venues who had completed the surveys advised that the community café element was an integral part of the venues.

With regards to ongoing maintenance, the friends advised that there would likely be little cost associated with this as the building would effectively be new. However, they did recognise that there may be some costs to the Town Council if they retained the building to manage.

With regards to the long-term owner of the building, the friends set out various options that the Council may wish to consider in the future. These included 3<sup>rd</sup> sector not for profit organisations, a transfer of the building to a Charity to be run by a board of trustees, a community cooperative venture or the council to retain ownership and manage directly.

The friends advised that the regeneration of the building would fall in line with the aims of the local development plan.

The Mayor thanked the friends for the presentation and went through several questions that had been put forward by Councillors in advance of the meeting. Members queried the potential ongoing maintenance of the building. It will require regular general maintenance to ensure that it does not deteriorate.

It was generally accepted that revenue costs associated with the building would be met by whomever has responsibility for running the building. However, it was recognised that there was an inherent risk that no one would wish to undertake the management of the building.

Members queried who would cover any unforeseen costs? Costs that were not covered through grant funding. The friends suggested that these costs would be met through fundraising.

The friends were asked about the extent of the feasibility study. Also, if they had considered the negative impact on any other facilities?

*(Cllr J Evans left the room).*

Members suggested that the Council has an input into the parameters of the feasibility study.

*(Cllr J Evans returned to the room).*

Members were reminded that the funds proposed to be applied for to fund the feasibility study, was not Town Council money but would be from a local community benefit fund.

Following discussion

A recorded vote was requested

**Resolved:** Glynneath Town Council grant permission for the Friends of Bethania to arrange for a feasibility study to be carried out on Bethania Community Centre, with Members of Glynneath Town Council to have input into the Terms of Reference for the study.

**For:** Cllrs C Edwards, S Evans, D Morgan, J Gregory, S Knoyle, G Reynolds, R Knoyle, R Simons

**Against:** Cllrs S McMenamin, J Collins, M Powell, H Morgan, J Roberts

**Abstain:** Cllrs J Evans

*The Mayor adjourned the meeting for a five-minute recess at 8.45pm.*

*The meeting continued at 8.50pm.*

**9. To consider item Finance & Administration**

**a. To approve item Monthly Accounting Records – statement of monthly transactions and performance of expenditure against budget January 2020**

**Resolved:** To approve the monthly accounting records for January 2020

**b. To consider and approve authorisation of payments to be made (to follow)**

**Resolved:** To approve authorisation of payments as presented.

**c. To confirm item waiver of Hall Hire Fee – Ysgol Cwm Nedd, School Eisteddfod, Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

*(Cllr H Morgan declared in an interest in this item and did not vote)*

**Resolved:** To agree to waiver the hall hire fee for Ysgol Cwm Nedd on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020

**d. To confirm item Town Hall Hire Fee – Glynneath Street Market February 2020**

Members were pleased to see that the market did take place during February 2020, even though the weather was not good. The use of the Town Hall allowed for stalls to be set up indoors.

Following discussion

**Resolved:** To confirm the Town Hall Hire Fee or Glynneath Street Market at 50% of the daily rate, for February 2020

10. **To consider item correspondence received:**

- a) **One Voice Wales – Renewal of Membership 2020/21 at a cost of £675.00**

*(Cllr D Morgan left the room)*

Members were in agreement that the Membership was a very useful tool for Council to access.

**Resolved: To approve renewal of Membership at a cost of £675.00 for 2020/21**

*(Cllr D Morgan returned to the room)*

- b) **Glynneath Community Events – request for use of Welfare Park and Town Council**

**Resolved: To allow Community Events to use the Welfare Park and Town Hall on the dates requested. The Hall Hire fee to be waived in full.**

- c) **Network Connections UK – replacement NVR at a cost of £1225.00 + VAT**

Members queried if there was grant funding to support the upgrade of the equipment, if there was a community benefit. Members asked the Clerk to see if there was any available funding and also to try and negotiate a further reduced rate.

**Resolved: To approve replacement of NVR at a maximum cost of £1225.00**

- d) **Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales – draft Annual Report 2020/21 (relevant sections applicable to Town and Community Councils attached).**

**Resolved: To note for information**

11. **To approve item s.6 Bio-Diversity Report 2020**

Cllr J Collins went through the contents of the report. Members thanked Cllr Collins for drafting the report and were happy to continue to try and achieve the aims outlined within the report with regular updates to Council.

**Resolved: To approve the s.6 Bio-Diversity Report 2020**

12. **To consider item removal of tree at Glynneath Cemetery at a cost of £120.00**

Members were informed that the recommended work from last year's tree report had been carried out. However, a resident had raised concerns about one of the trees, in light of the fact that another tree had fallen down in recent storms.

Members agreed to fund the removal of the tree if the tree surveyor approved its removal.

**Resolved: To approve the removal of the tree at a cost of £120, subject to agreement of the tree surveyor**

13. **To consider item deep clean of Community Café at a cost of £1034.88**

The Clerk informed that some elements of the clean quoted for had already been undertaken, therefore this full quote was no longer applicable. The Clerk advised that she would report back on this item to the next appropriate meeting.

14. **To consider item purchase of new equipment for Town Council maintenance**

The Clerk advised that the groundsmen had asked for several new pieces of equipment, which should assist with working more efficiently and effectively. Members were informed that there could be an opportunity to access grant funding for some of the equipment, therefore this item would be further investigated and a report would be presented at the next appropriate meeting for consideration.

15. **To consider item planning applications as presented:**

a) **App. No. P2020/0017**

102 High Street, Glynneath  
Proposed conversion of former doctors surgery to 4 flats

**Resolved: No Objections**

b) **App. No. P2020/0075**

Aberpergwm Colliery B4242 from Rheola to Glynneath  
Discharge of condition 8 (Hauls Road management and maintenance) and Condition 79 (monitoring of ground water and mine water discharge flows).

**Resolved: No Objections**

c) **App. No. P2020/0105**

42 Heathfield Avenue, Glynneath

Single storey rear extension

**Resolved: No Objections**

**16. To receive item Report from Town Councillors**

Members were made aware of people urinating behind the war memorial. The Clerk advised that she had been made aware of this and it would be discussed in full at the next Parks Committee meeting to determine if the Council can assist to prevent this occurring.

**17. To receive item Report from County Councillors**

Members were asked to support a letter to Welsh Government asking for additional funding to provide support in reference to the recent flooding that had occurred in Glynneath. Members agreed to send a letter to Welsh Government to support this request.

**18. To receive item Report from Town Clerk**

Nothing to report.

**19. To confirm date, time, venue for next meeting**

The next ordinary meeting of the Town Council will take place on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April at 6.30pm at the Council Chamber, Bethania Community Centre, High Street, Glynneath.

*The meeting concluded at 9.05pm.*